

BOAZMAG

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If you have suggestions for future newsletters, we would love to hear from you. If you want to submit artwork for the magazines, contact us.

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BOAZ MAG Monthly



Can I Talk to God?

Think of the most important person you have ever heard of in this world. If you went up to that person and asked, "Can I talk to you?", what would they say?

Do you know that the Emperor of the Universe is always willing to listen to you, any time night or day? He wants to hear from you!

How can that be?

God loves His creation. He didn't create this world and mankind and then go on to something else. He has a plan for everyone who ever lived and He is always willing to listen to those who come to Him.

John 3:16, 17 (Will): For God loved the world so much that He gave His Only Son, so that anyone who trusts in him may never perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to pass sentence on it, but that the world through him might be saved.

Romans 5:10, 11(ERV) I mean that while we were God's enemies, He made friends with us through His Son's death. And the fact that we are now God's friends makes it even more certain that He will save us through His Son's life. And not only will we be saved, but we also rejoice right now in what God has done for us through our Lord Jesus Christ. It is because of Jesus that we are now God's friends.



God wasn't just upset that the relationship with mankind was ruined by Father Adam's sin, He set out a plan to fix the problem (actually He did this even before He created Adam because He knew what would happen). He didn't want there to always be a separation from His love. He allowed mankind to go through some things, but always planned to restore the relationship. He made the way back to Him, by giving something He held dearly. He gave his son to heal what was broken, and His Son, Jesus was glad to be the means to help mankind back to his Father.

Now that we know that God does love us and wants us to have fellowship with Him, we need to know how to do that. You can't call Him up on the phone or send Him and email, so how do we communicate with God?

It is called "prayer". How do we do that?

In the beginning, Adam had direct access to God, but because he disobeyed God, the relationship was disrupted. He no longer had direct access. Since then, God dealt with different individuals to communicate with His disobedient children and then through a priesthood with the nation of Israel.

About two thousand years ago, He sent His son, Jesus, to repair the broken relationship, so that those who come through Jesus, can as before, have direct access to God, the Creator of the Universe.

God is always accessible, but there were ways to access Him. Before Jesus there was the priesthood that He set up through the family of Moses. Once Jesus came and repaired what Father Adam messed up in the Garden of Eden, when he disobeyed God, anyone who wants to can now come to God the Father, through Jesus.

That is a big change since the beginning of mankind.

But how do we come to God, our Father through Jesus? We first have to believe that he

was sent of God to fix the big mess and that he is also the son of God.

Maybe we are too young to understand that, and that is OK, God still hears us, even when we don't understand things. But as there are others who claim to be god, there is only one Creator of the Universe and He is the only one we want to talk to.

When we talk to God, we don't talk to Him like He is our brother or something, we must show Him respect. Respect like we do to adults, by calling them Mister or Miss, or Yes Ma'am or No Sir, or even Mom or Dad. "Yo Dude", isn't acceptable when addressing God, you would never say such a thing to a king or president, who is only another human.When talking to the Emperor and Creator of the Universe, so Jesus teaches us to address Him as Our heavenly Father. There is no wrong or right way to respectfully address God, but when we believe into Jesus as the Son of God who saved the world and us as part of that world, God Almighty becomes our Father.

In what we call the Lord's prayer, Jesus gives the disciples an example of how to pray to his Father.

You may be familiar with the Lord's Prayer or the "Our Father" from an older version of scripture, but we will use an easier version to discuss.

Mat 6:9 "In this manner therefore pray: 'Our Father who art in Heaven, may Thy name be kept holy;

It's important to remember who God is, and respect His name and His position as Emperor of the Universe.

Mat 6:10 let Thy kingdom come; let Thy will be done, as in Heaven so on earth;

This is something most of us don't think about. God has a kingdom that He has promised when His will shall rule on the earth, just like it does in the heaven. This is a promise from God.

Mat 6:11 give us to-day our bread for the day;

We can look at this in two different ways, Our bread as our natural food. God doesn't promise us a giant juicy steak each day, but that we will not starve to death. It also refers to God's Word. We have His promises to help us through the day and other goodies in His word to strengthen us and give us courage.

Mat 6:12 Forgive our sins, just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.

This is a big one. God expects us to attempt to heal relationship with our friends, families, neighbors and schoolmates, really anyone we have a problem with. We forgive them with the forgiveness we want from God. Just as God took the first step in forgiving mankind for rejecting Him, He expects us to do the same. Not everyone will accept your apologies or want to be friends again, but that is OK, we can't help what they do, we can only help what we do. We need to make the effort, and then God will forgive us when we mess up.

Mat 6:13 and bring us not into temptation, but rescue us from the Evil one.'

God doesn't tempt anyone, and we walk ourselves into problems and we need God's help and rescue from the "Evil one", that is the Devil, Satan. He is too strong for us, and we need God's help to stay away from his tricks and if we are tricked, so get out of that mess.

Mat 6:14 "For if you forgive others their offences, your Heavenly Father will forgive you also;

Mat 6:15 but if you do not forgive others their offences, neither will your Father forgive yours.

This goes back to verse 12, if we want forgiveness from God, we need to show that same forgiveness to those who disappoint us or do things against us that we don't like. It is not always easy, but if we go and talk to someone who has hurt us, most of the time, we find that they really didn't mean to, or we understood what they said differently than how they meant it. Sometimes they do mean to hurt us, so what do we do?

Jesus tells us to love our enemies. So, the best thing we can do is pray for them pray that the Lord will help them to be a better person. Pray that the Lord will help us to love them like He loved us (see Matt. 5:44).

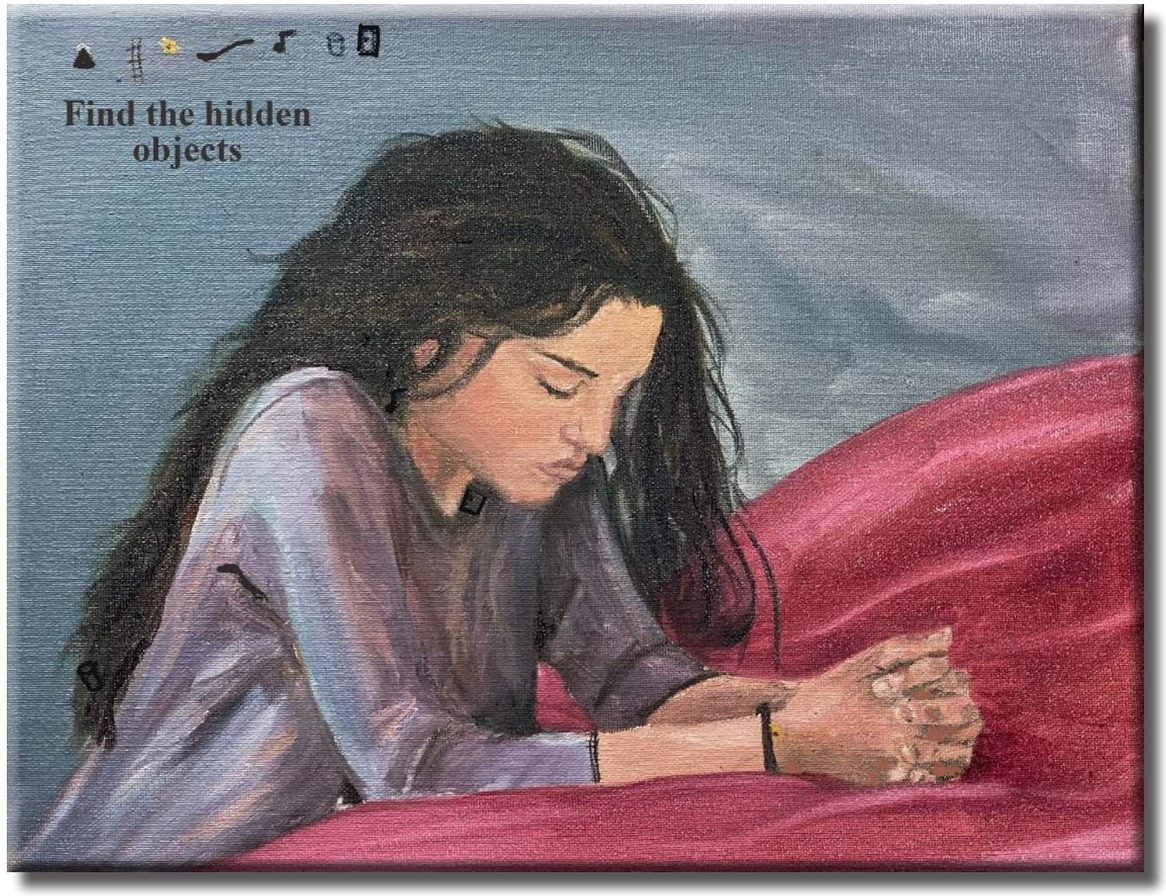
Jesus also tells us that when we ask things in his name, God will answer our prayers. So, we close our prayer with, "We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen" (see John 14:13, 14; 15:16; 16:23-26).

We see in this simple prayer, that we ask God to do things for us, but we also see that God expects us to do things for Him as well. We are to live our prayer.

Being a Christian is a lot of work and training. It isn't easy and we fail many times and each time we need to go to God in prayer and ask for forgiveness, ask for strength, because He doesn't ask us to do the impossible. He gives us what we need to complete the task.

Each one of these verses is a study in itself, but for now we will just stay with the example of prayer that Jesus gives us. When you pray, put things into your own words and what comes from your heart. Learn how to forgive each other by praying for those that we are mad at or don't like as much as we pray for those we do like and our families.

May the Lord bless and keep you and guide you along the way.



A Lesson from King Solomon

"Knowledge begins with fear and respect for the LORD, but stubborn fools hate wisdom and refuse to learn."—Proverbs 1:7 ERV

Everyone likes to be smart. Not everyone can know a lot of facts or know how to build things and make things work, or know how to play a musical instrument, but everyone can reverence or respect God and that is the first step to real knowledge.

Not all people learn the same. Some people learn by hearing, some by reading, some by watching others. We are never too old to learn something. God will teach us lessons in a way that we will understand—He knows the way we learn best.

Sometimes it may look like someone doesn't want to learn, but maybe they can't read well, or maybe they can't see well and don't want to tell anyone. Sometimes we might feel like we have ants in our pants because we just can't sit still. Or sometimes we might be sad or angry because we can't understand why bad things are happening to us and this anger or sadness comes out in stubbornness or misbehaving.

Knowledge doesn't happen overnight. When we trust in our Father and open up our feelings to those close to us about our problems and ask for help, then we can overcome them and get back on track to learning.

Grown-ups don't like to ask for help either and sometimes our problems are bigger than we are, but God will always listen and always be there to help.

Are there things you need to ask God to help you with?

Let's pray: Dear Heavenly Father, your Son Jesus says the Kingdom of God is like little children. Moses says You defend the widows and orphans. You love children! I need help! Please help me through this problem. In Jesus' name Amen.