BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

How Can I Find God?

John 14:1-6

1 Here's a popular question. 2 Can anyone who is searching for God and sincere enough about wanting to please God find salvation?

In the movie "Oh God" several years ago, George Burns makes the statement, "Sure Jesus is my Son. So is Mohammed and Buddha!" That movie would have included the founders of all the great religions!

I would like to believe that salvation was guaranteed for all the sincerely religious people of the world, regardless of the source of. 3 But Lord Jesus said in the Gospel of John, chapter 14, verse 6, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 4

What, then, is the real way to find God and His salvation? 5

The Gospel of John, chapter 14, verses 1-6, makes this claim, Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am

going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 6

The first step to finding God through the Lord Jesus is

I. Through Faith - v1

Through faith. 7 Verse 1, Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 8

Start with a faith in God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. ¹ ₉

Notice some of the giants of the faith.

¹ Hebrews 11:6.

There was Abraham. On his way to sacrifice his son Issac on Mount Moriah, Abraham said, God will provide for Himself a lamb 2 10

There was David. Before he fought Goliath, David said, The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. ³ 11

The Three Hebrews. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, before they were thrown into the fiery furnace stated, If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. ⁴ Wow! What examples of faith we have here! ₁₂

But they did have evidence, even then, for their belief in God. 13

God was revealed in His creation! Romans, chapter 1, verses 19 and 20 says, . . . since what may be known

² Genesis 22:8.

³ I Samuel 17:37.

⁴ Daniel 3:17.

about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. 14

God revealed Himself repeatedly in the Old Testament! 15

Then - proceed to have faith in His Son - Jesus! 16

This is because <u>Jesus is God revealed in human terms!</u> In John, chapter 1, verse 1, it says, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Then, in verse 14, it continues, 17 <u>The Word became flesh</u> and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 18

The next reason to trust Jesus is because <u>He is God</u> revealed as supreme. One day when Jesus was

teaching in a house four men carried their paralyzed friend on a stretcher hoping the Lord would heal him. There was no room inside, so they climbed the roof and dug a hole in it. After lowering their friend onto the floor, Jesus approached him and said, Friend, your sins are forgiven. The religious leaders thought, "Who does this guy think he is? Who can forgive sins but God alone? Lord Jesus responded to them saying, Which is easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Get up and walk"? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . ." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take up your mat and go home." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 5 Lord Jesus, as God in flesh, was able to do that! 19

Another evidence for trusting Jesus is that <u>He is God</u> revealed as love and forgiveness. The Lord was teaching a crowd in the temple courtyard when a

⁵ Luke 5:17-26.

group of religious leaders dragged in a woman and threw her at the Lord's feet. They had caught her in the very act of adultery! They had rocks in their hands ready to stone her to death. ⁶ The Lord's answer to them was, If any one of you is without sin (likely this particular one), let him be the first to throw a stone at her. At that, they dropped their rocks and slowly disappeared. Lord Jesus looked at the woman and told her that He didn't condemn her either. Then told her to Go now and leave your life of sin! ⁷ 20

Of Lord Jesus, John, chapter 3, verse 15 would say, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

The second step toward finding God through the Lord Jesus is . . . ₂₁

⁶ Deuteronomy 22:22 - If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die.

⁷ John 8:1-11.

II. Though Foresight - v2

Through foresight. 22 Verse 2 says, In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 23

How did the Lord prepare a place for us? 24 He died on a cross so you would be able to go to heaven. 25 Then, He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to take possession of it for you! 26

So, the question becomes, how do you prepare yourself? 27

First, by <u>surrendering yourself</u> to the lordship of Jesus. If He calls the shots in your life instead of you, you get superior direction. That leads to a more victorious life. 28

Second, by <u>laying hold of the basics</u> of your relationship with Him. Therefore let us leave <u>the elementary teachings about Christ</u> and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of <u>repentance</u> from acts that lead to death, and of <u>faith</u> in

God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ⁸ This passage says to leave the basics to proceed on to more mature thinking. But before you leave it, you have to have it! 29

Finally, by maturing in Christ. Philippians, chapter 3, verses 14 and 14, Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

The third step toward finding God through the Lord Jesus is ...

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⁸ Hebrews 6:1-2.

III. Through Fellowship - v3

Through fellowship. ₃₁ Verse 3 says, And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ₃₂

This begins with fellowship with the Lord. 33

You do this by <u>trusting</u> Him to save you like He said He would. I am the resurrection and the life. He who <u>believes in me will live</u>, even though he dies; and <u>whoever lives and believes in me will never die</u>. Do you really believe this? 34

Next is <u>praying</u> to Him continually. 35

Then, worshipping and praising Him regularly. 36

You continue by fellowship with one another. Hebrews, chapter 10, verses 24 and 25, encourage us, And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. 37

We do this when we assemble for praise and worship on Sundays. 38

We do this when we assemble during the week for prayer and Bible study. 39

We do this when we assemble for service opportunities for the Lord. 40

We will be spending eternity in heaven with one another. We are eternal companions! Our fellowship will never end! 41 This may help you think of one another in a different way!

You can successfully find God!

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