

# Jesus Is The Way

## Lesson 5: Jesus Is The Way To God



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

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Learn what it means to be separated from God and how Jesus provides reconciliation to God and access to every spiritual blessing

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### Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW199

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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# Jesus Is The Way

## Lesson 5: Jesus Is The Way To God

Jesus is the way to everything that is important and worthwhile. As we have already seen, Jesus is the way to truth and the way to victory over sin and death. Now, we need to recognize that Jesus is the way to God. In John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Again, there are severe consequences for choosing not to follow Jesus and deciding to go your own way. As we touched on in the previous lesson, whenever you sin against God, you separate yourself from Him. But, you need to really appreciate what this separation from God means for you.

Although it is true that there are eternal consequences for sinning against God and being separated from Him (which we’ll discuss in the next lesson), you need to also recognize that there are consequences for you while you live on this earth. For, your life on this earth is *far* different whenever you are separated from God than it is when you are living in His fellowship. The simple fact is that those who are separated from God in their sins are separated from some truly wonderful things that all work to make life worth living!

But, as the problem always is with sin, once you have sinned a single time, you cannot undo the separation you have caused between you and God by yourself. So, as you think about the separation you have caused between yourself and God, there is no

path to being reunited with God except through Jesus Christ! He is the only one who was capable of providing a bridge back to God!

In this fifth lesson, we want to consider the fact that Jesus is the way to God. We will consider what sin does to your relationship with God. We will consider how reconciliation is only possible through Jesus. And, we will consider the spiritual blessings that are available for you to enjoy through Jesus Christ. So, no matter where you are right now, you must recognize that Jesus is the way to God!

### What Sin Does To Your Relationship With God

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In Genesis 1:26-27, God created Adam and Eve in His image. This means that they both had a spiritual existence (a soul). The Bible clearly teaches that this continues to be true about every person who lives on this earth. This spiritual existence means far more, though, than just that you have a continued existence after your physical death (though this is also true and extremely important). It also means that you have the ability to worship, serve, and be in fellowship with the God who has created all things! But, since you have this ability, you also must recognize that sinning against God carries consequences beyond the eternal consequences. Consider two things that happen to your relationship with God whenever you sin.

#### ***Causes a spiritual separation***

First, sin causes a spiritual separation between you and God. We touched on this previously. But, I now want to really dive in to this point deeper. Whenever you choose to please yourself rather than God, something drastically changes between you and God.

In the previous lesson, we considered three passages. Whenever God gave His law to Adam, commanding him not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in Genesis 2:16-17, He told Adam, “for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.” But, as we noted in the previous study,

this was not physical death. Although Adam and Eve did eventually experience physical death, the death that occurred the day they ate from the tree was spiritual death – as their relationship with God was changed.

Furthermore, we considered that Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Then, after explaining how temptation and sin work, James 1:15 says that “when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.” Again, both of these passages have reference to spiritual “death.”

Now, as you consider this fact, you should recognize that the word “death” simply refers to a separation. Physical death occurs whenever the physical body and the spirit (soul) separate. James 2:26 says, “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” Then, spiritual death occurs whenever a person is separated from God.

As we saw from Romans 6:23 and James 1:15, sin is the culprit behind this separation. Isaiah 59:1-2 says, “Indeed, the Lord’s arm is not too weak to save, and his ear is not too deaf to hear. But your iniquities are separating you from your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not listen.”

But, now that we have observed that this does happen (just as it happened with Adam and Eve in Genesis 3), we should consider *why* it happens. Clearly, the passages we have observed indicate that this separation is earned by your sin. But, what is it about sin that causes a separation between you and God? Why is it so bad to choose to please yourself rather than please God?

1 John 1:5-7 explains. “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him. If we say, ‘We have fellowship with him,’ and yet we walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth. If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

The Bible is clear in teaching that God is holy. To be “holy” is to be separated from everything

that is evil and devoted to everything that is good. It is explained in this text as God being light and having absolutely no darkness in Him at all! So, there is no hint of anything that is evil in God. He really is completely good.

In fact, not only is God holy, but He is the standard for what is holy. Since He is perfect and possesses limitless power, He is the only one who has both the power and the right (i.e. the authority) to say what is holy and what is not, what is right and what is wrong! Thankfully, He has not developed this standard and then kept it to Himself. Instead, He has revealed His perfect standard of truth in the pages of the Bible (as we discussed in lesson 3). Today, we can know what is holy and what is not by studying and applying the words of truth given in the pages of the New Testament. And, if we will live according to His instructions, we will know that we please Him in everything (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Therefore, whenever you commit sin (which occurs whenever you violate God’s instructions), you cannot remain in fellowship with this holy God. For, God cannot have any participation with evil/darkness. But, it is important to notice that whenever you commit sin, it is not God who leaves you, but you who leave God!

The seriousness of this separation between yourself and God while you live on this earth is that you are separated from all the spiritual blessings He makes available. Although God still blesses people with physical things, even though they are in sin (see Matthew 5:45 and Romans 2:4), He does so to demonstrate His goodness so they will come to their senses and repent. Yet, such a person is separated from the spiritual blessings He provides. For instance, 1 Peter 3:12 says that “the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do what is evil.”

All the spiritual blessings God has made available (as we’ll consider later in this lesson) are hidden from those who are in sin. In fact, the opposite of those blessings is true. For instance, rather than having a peace that is beyond understanding, sinners should be very anxious about everything. Rather than having a hope for something far better after their

lives are over, sinners have fear and dread. Rather than having true joy, sinners have misery. Rather than being children of God, sinners are children of the devil. Rather than having the comfort of knowing God hears their prayers, God is against those who do evil. All of these things make a big difference in the quality of life on this earth!

### ***Makes you His enemy***

Second, sin makes you God's enemy. Now, of all the people you may make enemies with during your earthly life, God is not the one you should choose! Just remember that this is the same God who is so powerful that He created everything around you. And, not only is His power on display throughout nature, but also through many examples in the Bible.

Just think about a few examples of what God has done to His enemies. In Genesis 6, when the entire population on this earth (with the exception of eight people) did what is evil in God's sight, God destroyed them all by flooding the earth. In Genesis 18-19, when the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were practicing homosexuality and much wickedness, God destroyed the cities by raining burning sulfur on them so that all the people died and the land became uninhabitable. In Exodus 7-14, when the king of Egypt would not obey God, God brought ten terrible plagues on the Egyptians, followed by destroying the entire army in the Red Sea. In Numbers 16, when Korah incited a rebellion against the leadership God had put in place, God caused the ground to split open and swallow those who rebelled. In Acts 12, when King Herod was being hailed as a god and did not give glory to the true God, God struck him, he was eaten by worms, and died.

Certainly, these are just a few of the many Biblical examples of what happens to the enemies of God. Now, I want you to recognize that it is not just those who are guilty of some extreme wickedness (from a human perspective – such as murder or rape) who are identified as God's enemies today. Instead, anyone who is in sin and refuses to repent is the enemy of God!

Listen to James 4:4. "You adulterous people! Don't you know that friendship with the world is

hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God."

Anyone who is a friend of this world is God's enemy. 1 John 2:15-17 explains. "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions – is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever."

Most people in this world are living for themselves – their own lusts and pride. So, they are not focused on living to please God. They are focused on the temporary pleasures and treasures of this life rather than being focused on the eternal joys and treasures of living for God. Clearly, then, if someone loves the world, they do not really love God.

Philippians 3:18-19 says, "For I have often told you, and now say again with tears, that many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame. They are focused on earthly things."

Enemies of God have always put their focus on themselves and earthly things rather than on Him. So, whenever you sin against God, you make yourself the friend of the world and the enemy of God. And, you should recognize that this should only cause you great fear!

Although God is a loving God who is patiently giving people the opportunity to repent of their sins (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9), His patience will run out. And, when His patience runs out, He will bring a punishment on His enemies that is far worse than any punishment He has ever given before! This will be eternal punishment in Hell (as we'll discuss in the next lesson).

Certainly, such a fearful expectation of being an enemy of God should impact you every day. Rather than being able to call God your friend and look forward to meeting Him face-to-face one Day, you can only be afraid of this meeting. Hebrews 10:30-31 says (in the context of those who are God's enemies), "For we know the one who has said,

‘Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay,’ and again, ‘The Lord will judge his people.’ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

## Reconciliation Is Only Possible Through Jesus

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As we discussed in the previous lesson, sin is the greatest problem that any person has ever faced or will ever face because it cannot be overcome by yourself. So, whenever Romans 6:23 says that the “wages of sin is death,” this means that you have earned your separation from God. And, since you have earned your separation from God and deserve to be His enemy, there is nothing you can do by yourself to bridge that separation. Instead, only Jesus Christ could do this. Thankfully, that is exactly what He has done.

### ***Reconciled by Jesus’ blood***

You need to be reconciled to God. To be “reconciled” is to go from a state of hostility to being in harmony with another. For example, think about two nations that have hostility between them. They need to come to the negotiating table and work out their differences in a way that is agreeable for them and end the dispute.

However, in the case with the hostility between you and God, it is all one-sided. While God has only ever acted in your best interest, you were selfish and hurtful to Him, separating yourself from Him. And, there is nothing you could ever offer God that could restore yourself to a condition of holiness so as to be in fellowship with Him. Yet, because God loves you and wants you to be in fellowship with Him, He has provided the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile you to Himself. Listen to Colossians 1:15-23.

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and

by him all things hold together. He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have

first place in everything. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

“Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds expressed in your evil actions. But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him – if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.”

You could not offer the sacrifice that was necessary to get back into a right relationship with God! You could have never committed another sin. You could have taught every person on this earth the gospel of Christ. You could have given your life on the cross. But, nothing you had to offer could suffice in appeasing the wrath of God and bring yourself back into His favor. It was only the sinless sacrifice of Jesus Christ that could accomplish this! He, through His sacrifice, has provided you with the bridge that leads back to a right relationship with God. Through Jesus, you can have your sins forgiven and be presented “holy, faultless, and blameless” before God, thereby coming back into fellowship with the holy God!

However, God does require that you believe and obey Him in order to be reconciled to Him. Remember the steps God requires you to take, as we discussed in lesson 2 (hear, believe, repent, confess Christ, and be baptized). Then, as Colossians 1:23 states, those who have done these things to be made right with God must “remain grounded and steadfast in the faith” and not be “shifted away from the hope of the gospel”!

### ***The resulting relationship with God***

When you comply to the conditions God has placed on your reconciliation, there is a wonderful

relationship that results. While you were previously separated from God and counted as one of His enemies, He will now view you favorably. Consider just two ways God will view you if you are reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ.

First, you will be counted as His friend. James 2:21-23 uses Abraham as an example of how faith and works go hand-in-hand and are both necessary to pleasing God. “Wasn’t Abraham our father justified by works in offering Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was active together with his works, and by works, faith was made complete, and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend.”

If you will have the same kind of obedient faith Abraham had, you also will be counted as one of God’s friends (through Jesus Christ). So, you can go from having the terrible expectations involved with being the enemy of God to having the wonderful expectations involved with being the friend of God. For, just as the Bible is full of examples of God’s vengeance being poured out on His enemies, the Bible is full of examples of God’s kindness being poured out on His friends.

Second, you will be counted as a child of God. Whenever you lived in your sins, you were not only an enemy of God, but you were a child of the devil. 1 John 3:10 says, “This is how God’s children and the devil’s children become obvious. Whoever does not do what is right is not of God, especially the one who does not love his brother or sister.”

But, if you will believe and obey God, He will adopt you as one of His sons or daughters through Jesus Christ. Romans 8:14-17 says, “For all those led by God’s Spirit are God’s sons. You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’ The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God’s children, and if children, also heirs – heirs of God and coheirs with Christ – if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.”

## ***All spiritual blessings are in Christ***

These changes in relationship with God should dramatically impact your earthly life in every way! Rather than trying to live your life fighting a losing battle against the God you could never possibly overpower, you are living in submission to Him. As a result, you experience wonderful spiritual blessings!

Listen to Ephesians 1:3. “Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ.” Although God blesses people with earthly/physical blessings (i.e. food, clothing, etc.) even when they do not live for Him (again, see Matthew 5:45 and Romans 2:4), God only blesses certain people with spiritual blessings. Look closely at the text to see who gets blessed in these ways. When Paul was writing to Christians, he said God has “blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ.” That is, only those who have believed and obeyed God’s saving message and are “in Christ” have access to these spiritual blessings!

These spiritual blessings are far superior to all the physical blessings God provides. Physical things come and go. However, the spiritual blessings provided to those who are in Christ Jesus are based in eternal things and provide true meaning and satisfaction for your earthly life.

Listen to Galatians 3:27 about how you gain access to these spiritual blessings, recognizing that all spiritual blessings are located “in Christ.” Paul wrote, “For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.” Baptism, as the final of God’s steps to becoming a Christian, is the point at which you go from being outside of Jesus Christ and excluded from God’s spiritual blessings to coming into Christ and accessing all these blessings.

Still, you must recognize that all these spiritual blessings are only available to you in and through Jesus Christ! Without Christ, you would still be separated from God and be God’s enemy. But, being reconciled to God by the blood of Jesus Christ, you can now access all the spiritual blessings God has made available through Christ!

# The Spiritual Blessings In Christ

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Now that I hope you appreciate the opportunity God has given you to share in spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, I want you to understand what they are. For, while there are eternal blessings waiting for you in Heaven when your earthly life is over (as we'll discuss in the next lesson), there are real blessings for you to enjoy right now through Christ! And, these spiritual blessings really do make your earthly life worth living and the earthly hardships worth bearing! Consider some of these wonderful blessings.

## ***Forgiveness of sins***

Forgiveness of sin is available to those in Christ Jesus. "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7). Though God has made His grace and His mercy available to all mankind (Titus 2:11), only those who are Christians actually receive the forgiveness of sins.

When God forgives sin, He forgives it completely – with no trace remaining to be counted against the Christian. Isaiah 1:18 pictures the forgiveness of sins by saying, "Though your sins are scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are crimson red, they will be like wool." Furthermore, Hebrews 8:12 (quoting from Jeremiah 31:31-34) references God's promise to forgive sins under the new covenant. He said, "For I will forgive their wrongdoing, and I will never again remember their sins."

Also consider the language of Acts 3:19. "Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out." Pay particular attention to the phrase "wiped out." It is my understanding that the original meaning of this expression had reference to the practice of creditors charging their debtors. The debts would be recorded on tables covered with wax. Then, when those debts were paid, an instrument would be used to smooth the wax so that no trace of

the debt would remain. This is the way God forgives the sins of the one who becomes a Christian – there is no trace of it that remains (see also Matthew 18:21-35)!

Therefore, all the past sins you have committed whenever you chose to live for yourself rather than for God are no longer remembered or held against you by God! Although there may still be physical consequences of your sins (i.e. broken relationships, regret, etc.), you can know that God no longer views you as being guilty of those sins! Instead, God sees you as someone who is in a right relationship with Him! Surely, having God's forgiveness will enable you to push forward in serving Him throughout your life, not being shackled to your past mistakes!

## ***Hope for an eternal inheritance***

Those who are in Christ Jesus have been given the hope of an incorruptible inheritance. Ephesians 1:11-12 says, "In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory."

Just prior to identifying the inheritance that is obtained by those who are in Christ (Ephesians 1:11-12), Paul said that those who are in Christ have been adopted (Ephesians 1:5-6)! Certainly this adoption is essential to being heirs of the Almighty Father, as we read in Romans 8:14-17.

Now, as an adopted child of God (who is now determined to live according to God's ways of holiness), you have gained access into the inheritance of your Heavenly Father. The Creator of all the universe. The one from whom all blessings flow. The one who dwells in the Heavenly city that is beautiful beyond human comprehension (as we'll discuss in the next lesson).

Therefore, through Jesus Christ, you can live and endure whatever you experience on this earth with the knowledge that something much better is waiting for you when your earthly life is over! Listen to 1 Peter 1:3-4. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he



has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.” Now, this living hope for an eternal inheritance in Heaven as one of God’s children can serve as an anchor to help you live faithfully for God through all the temptations, trials, and hardships of this life (see Hebrews 6:19)!

### ***Joy and peace***

There is both joy and peace that results from being in Christ. Romans 5:1-2 says, “Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have also obtained access through him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”

To be able to understand the true joy and peace that you have as a Christian, you must first recognize that it is based upon all of the other spiritual blessings that result from having fellowship with God – and that it is not dependent upon any external earthly factors. You see, any type of “joy” or “peace” that is based on something temporary is not true joy and peace because it can be taken away from you by some external earthly factor!

Instead, the kind of true joy and peace you can have in Jesus Christ is based on the unwavering promises of God! Therefore, since your hope is in the promises of God, you can find joy and peace in any and every circumstance you find yourself in – even when your earthly conditions are not ideal. This is because everything works together for good for the child of God! “We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). This is *not* a promise that everything will turn out for the good *physically* for the Christian. Instead, this is a promise that everything will turn out for the good *spiritually* for the Christian. No matter what you go through during the course of your lifetime, you know that God’s promises are true – and you will receive the everlasting home in Heaven if you are faithful to Him! Then, as you endure difficult situations throughout your lifetime, you simply can know that all of these situations will only make you stronger in your faith and in your service to the Lord – because

there is nothing and no one who is strong enough to separate you from the love of Christ if you are faithful to Him (see Romans 8:31-39)!

Therefore, you can live a truly joyful life on this earth because you are at peace with God and have the hope of eternal life in Heaven! In Philippians 4:4, Paul wrote, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” No matter what happens to you on this earth, you can rejoice in the peace you have with God!

### ***Prayer***

As you go through life on this earth, God has not left you alone as you fight your battles against the devil and his army! Instead, God has promised that the “prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.” (James 5:16). So, unlike those who are enemies of God, God has promised to hear your prayers. Again, 1 Peter 3:12 says, “because the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do what is evil.”

Prayer is the avenue God has provided His people to be able to communicate with Him (note that He communicates with mankind through His written word). Prayer is the way you (as a child of God) can communicate with your Heavenly Father, through your Mediator (Jesus Christ), and with the help of the Holy Spirit! All of these have an essential role in prayer – and demonstrate how much God wants to hear your prayers!

Through prayer, you are taught that you can find help in times of need. Having Jesus Christ as your Mediator and High Priest, you can “approach the throne of grace with boldness” and “receive mercy and find grace to help” in “time of need” (Hebrews 4:14-16)! Regardless what troubles you are experiencing during your life, you can find help by coming to the Almighty God in prayer! He is able to relieve your burdens, provide strength for the weak, help you out of temptations, provide according to and beyond your needs, etc. What a comfort and a blessing to know that help is available to you when you approach the Almighty God in prayer!

Therefore, you can approach the throne of God at any time to praise Him, confess your faults to

Him, give Him thanks, and petition His loving care! Notice how this spiritual blessing is connected with experiencing peace in Philippians 4:6-7. “Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” So, rather than worrying about things you cannot control, you can simply give all your concerns to God in prayer and trust in Him. Then, the peace of God will guard your heart and mind through Jesus Christ!

## Conclusion

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Jesus is the way to God! Sin has caused you to be separated from God and be counted as one of His enemies. As a result, there was nothing you could do to get back into a right relationship with God. But, through Jesus, you can be reconciled to God and access all God’s spiritual blessings through Him if you will believe and obey Him!

## Study Questions

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Why do you need a way back to God?

### 1. What Sin Does To Your Relationship With God

What does it mean to be separated from God and how does sin cause this separation?

What does it mean to be the enemy of God and how does sin cause you to be God’s enemy?

### 2. Reconciliation Is Only Possible Through Jesus

What does it mean to be “reconciled”? What is the significance of Jesus’ blood in being reconciled to God?

What relationship can you now have with God?

What blessings are only available in and through Jesus Christ?

### 3. The Spiritual Blessings In Christ

What is the blessing of being forgiven of your sins?

What is the blessing of having a hope for an eternal inheritance?

What is the blessing of having joy and peace?

What is the blessing of prayer?