

Our Relationship With GOD

Initial Stage

(the relationship begins)

Why do we initially consider coming to Jesus? (consider Ephesians 2:12)

EXAMPLES:

- Life is not going my way
 - I have no sense of purpose
 - I have no sense of hope or a future
 - I don't feel like I belong
 - What I am doing is not working
 - I am scared
 - I am tired and empty
 - I feel alone and don't feel loved
 - I feel helpless
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- What were your reasons you first came to Jesus?
 - Did you mind giving up some of the things in this world that were leaving you empty? What were they?
 - What things (or relationships) are you still holding onto that may be keeping you from a deeper relationship with Christ that you need to give up?

Growing Stage

(the relationship grows)

God's love, benefits and blessings sustain us and draw us closer to Him.

EXAMPLES:

- Peace (John 14:27)
 - Purpose (Romans 8:28)
 - Power (2 Tim. 1:7)
 - Protection (John 17:15)
 - Passion / Desire (Psalm 37:4)
 - Provisions (1 Tim. 6:17)
 - Promises of God (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - Propitiation (1 John 4:10)
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- What benefits have you not yet claimed or feel that you have not received?
 - What things in your life may be blocking the full benefits of God? (same as the last question of the initial stage)
 - What are you doing to receive more of the blessings and promises of God (Hint: see James 1:22).

Mature Stage

(the relationship is intimate)

The desire to love and please God is now the main drive to do His will.

EXAMPLES:

- I don't worry about the cost (Job 13:15)
 - I no longer focus on the circumstances (Romans 8:28; James 1:2)
 - My trust is in Christ now (John 14:1)
 - I love Him with my whole heart, mind, soul, and strength (Mark 12:30)
 - I am crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me (Galatians 2:20)
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- How close are you to a deep abiding love for Jesus? (See John 15:1-27)
 - How have you been spending, or might you spend quality time with the Savior to deepen your love for Him?
 - How does your love for Jesus spill over to all those around as you bear the fruit of His Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)?