

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

- 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)

- 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)

- 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)?