

It means recognizing and accepting that Jesus Christ can achieve this forgiveness and reconciliation because he alone is God in a human person. Tell him you want him to give you this new friendship with God.

THIRD, communicate directly to Jesus that you want him to forgive you, change you and give you a new life in close relationship with God.

Speaking to God

Even if you have never spoken to God before, you are welcome to do so. You may wish to read aloud or say in your own words something like this:

Jesus Christ, I admit that I cannot become God's friend on my own. I want you to forgive me for everything that interferes with my relationship with God (name your specific concerns). I believe that your death on the cross has paid for this forgiveness and that your resurrection to eternal life is the power to transform me to share life with you. I recognize you as God in a human person and trust myself to you. I want to be on speaking terms with God.

If you have sincerely said these words (or others like them) to Jesus Christ, you may wish to sign and date this brochure and keep it as a tangible reminder of the transaction that has taken place between God and you today.

Name: _____

Date: _____

You're Not Alone

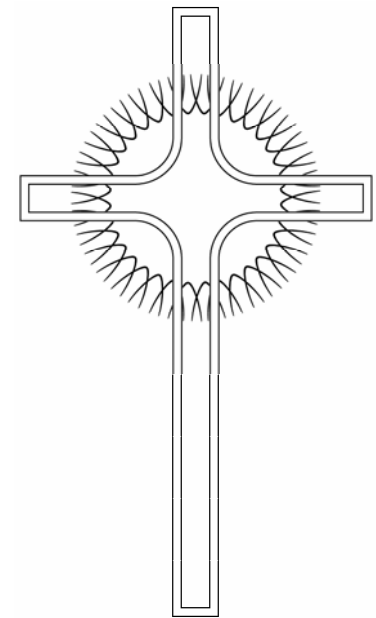
A brief brochure such as this cannot explain thoroughly something as profound as having a close friendship with God by trusting Jesus Christ. Finding some other people who trust and love Jesus is helpful, even essential, to discovering what is involved in learning how to live as God's friend.

Since God wants a close relationship with people, God wants close relationships between people. God is building a new society of love, justice and peace. Those who trust Jesus can begin to experience something of the new life in their relationships with each other. They also work together as God's partners in building that new society that Jesus has promised.

Listening To God

Not only does God want to listen to you, God wants to speak to you as well. God's message, especially the message of love expressed through Jesus Christ, is communicated in the Bible. Reading the Bible will enable you to have a complete, two-way friendship with God. Start by looking up the sections referred to in this brochure. To get to know Jesus better, start by reading Mark's record of his life. If you do not have a Bible of your own, ask in the church's office for a free copy.

On Speaking Terms With God



Central Christian Church
4711 Westside Drive
Dallas, TX 75209
214-526-7291
www.cccdt.org

Most people eventually come to some point in their lives where they want to tell God something. They may want to express pain and anger surging up from their emotional depths. They may want to ask imponderable questions. They may overflow with delight and satisfaction that just has to be shared. Even people who have never thought of themselves as particularly religious have things they want to tell God.

Perhaps this urge to speak to God is stirring in you. What are the issues you want to speak to God about? Career opportunity, impending marriage, birth of a child, turning seasons of the year or one's life. Diagnosis of a frightening disease, grief for the death of a loved one, loss of a cherished dream, financial setback. Making a decision, embarking on a new life course, facing unfamiliar challenges.

Whatever is prompting you to want to talk to God, you can be sure that God is even more interested in establishing a friendship with you. While you may be wondering whether God is listening, God has already established the channel for communication.

God Wants a Friendship with You

The Bible assures us that God wants a relationship with everyone (1 Timothy 2:4, 1 Peter 3:9), which was exactly Jesus' purpose. In fact, Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus himself said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life! Without me, no one can go to the Father." (John 14:6). Jesus promised that when we speak to God in his name, God hears (John 15:16) So the key to being on speaking terms with God is having a relationship with Jesus.

Barriers Between Us and God

Unfortunately, we all erect barriers that prevent us from having an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ. Sometimes we convince ourselves we can manage just fine without God. Sometimes we rebel against God's expectations for us, and we choose to live for our own pleasure or satisfaction. Sometimes hostility in our relationships with people distances us from God as well. Sometimes we let life's pain prompt us to anger that cuts us off from God. The Bible calls anything that separates us from God "sin." Everyone of us has been damaged by our own sin (Romans 3:23). Everyone of us is isolated from God because of sin.

Try as we might, none of us can work hard enough, be moral enough, be religious enough, or do enough good to establish a friendship with God. In our most honest moments, we know we don't achieve our own expectations, much less those of God. We all need God's forgiveness for the sin that keeps us separated from God.

God Reaches Out Through Jesus

Thankfully, God chose not to ignore us in our isolation. Instead, God's son, Jesus Christ, came to make a way for us to have a relationship with God, to be on speaking terms with God. Jesus is unique in all of human history. He is at once both fully human and fully God (Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 1:2; 1 John 4:2-3). When Jesus Christ lived his life live with people about 2,000 years ago, he revealed God and demonstrated how to have a friendship with God. But people preferred their isolation and killed him by nailing him to a cross. God's love for us is so great, that while we were still God's enemies, Jesus Christ died to reconcile us to God (Romans 5:8-10. By the death for Christ we who

were once far way have been brought near to God (Ephesians 2:13).

The amazing reality is that Jesus was raised from death to everlasting life (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 20). Jesus' resurrection validates the effectiveness of his death in providing a way for us to become friends with God.

Since we are unable to earn the relationship with God we crave, we accept it as God's gift. We trust that Jesus' death and resurrection is the basis of being on speaking terms with God. The Bible calls this "faith." By faith in Jesus Christ we can have peace with God (Romans 5:1). Jesus himself promised that those who believe in him would have eternal life (John 6:47). Jesus even defines this eternal life in terms of knowing God in a close friendship (John 17:3).

Therefore, the way to get to be on speaking terms with God is to have a close friendship with Jesus Christ by trusting him for forgiveness and eternal life.

Getting on Speaking Terms with God

FIRST, acknowledge that you are isolated from God. In fact, you have erected barriers that prevent you from enjoying a relationship with God. Recognize that you do not have the power to overcome the hostility that separates you from God. Admit that you need Jesus Christ to establish a friendship in which you can be on speaking terms with God. Ask for his forgiveness and friendship.

SECOND, switch from trying to manage your life on your own to letting Jesus Christ give you a new life in relationship with God. This means trusting that his death and resurrection have dealt effectively with your guilt and isolation.