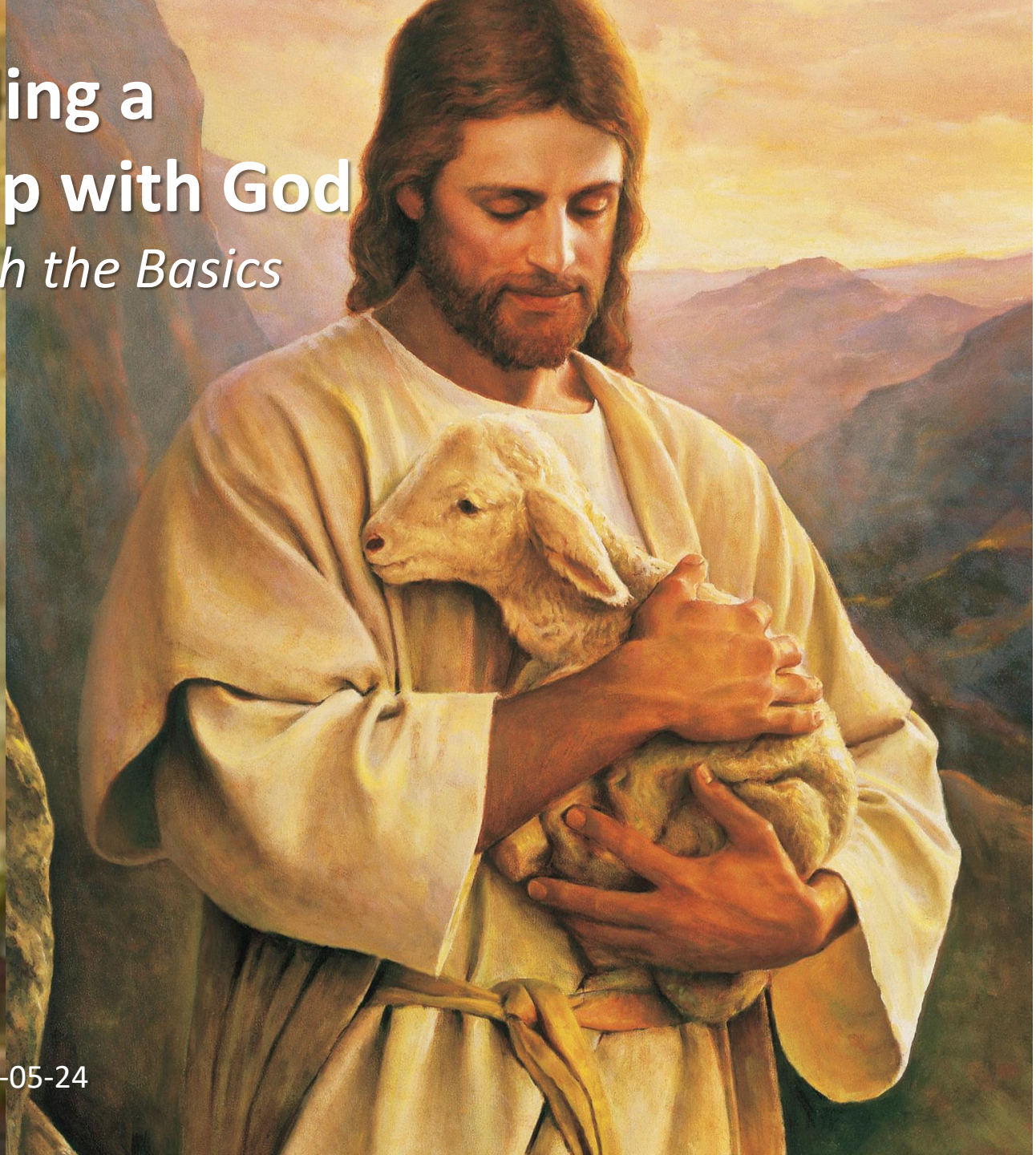


# Building a Relationship with God

*Starting with the Basics*



2019-05-24



# Reference



**“Why Jesus”**

by **Nicky Gumbel**

ISBN 978-933114-99-6

Published by Alpha North America

# Relationships are Important and Exciting



Parents

Brothers & Sisters

Extended Family

Husband or Wife

Friends

Christian Brethren

Neighbours

Children

Grandchildren



Relationships are a very important aspect of our lives.

**Most importantly ... we need a relationship with God!**



Jesus is knocking ... *He wants to build a relationship with you*

*Why are you knocking, Lord?*

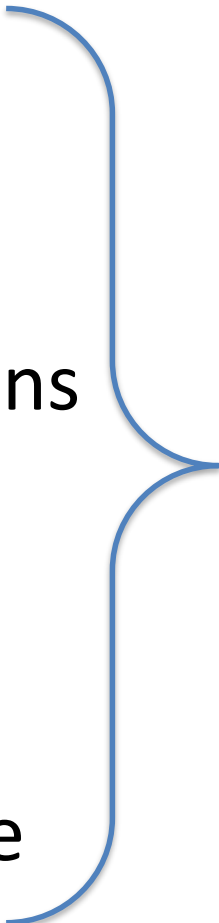
*In Saint Gregory's Liturgy, we say to the Lord:  
"You are not in need of my servitude;  
Rather, it is I who am in need of Your Lordship"*

*We are in need; yet He is knocking.*

*I ought to willingly let Him in.  
He will not force His way into my heart.  
I have to open to Him willingly to enter my heart,  
to **build & strengthen our relationship.***

# Recipe for **Successful** Relationship

- Love
- Trust
- Honesty
- Communications
- Sacrifice
- Patience
- Forgiveness
- God's Presence



All of these are important in our:

- Relationships with one another
- Relationships with God



# Jesus loves you ... He has all the recipes for a successful relationship

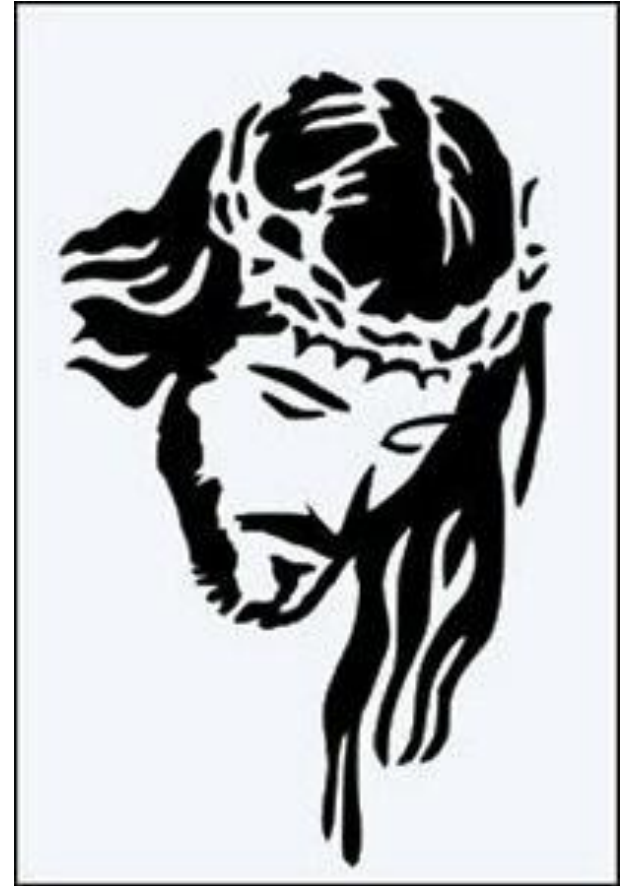


- Jesus **loves** you
- You can **trust** Him
- He is **honest** and the source of truth
- He **communicates** His Word to you;  
He loves to hear from you
- He **sacrificed** Himself for you
- He is **patient** & **longsuffering**
- He is the source of **forgiveness**

**J**ESUS is genuinely **LOVING & CARING.**  
**J**ESUS is **POWERFUL & ABLE** to **SAVE.**

# Christianity is about Relationships

- **Christianity is about Relationships**
  - *Not so much about rules.*
- **Christianity is about a Person (Our Lord Jesus)**
  - *More than a philosophy.*
- **Christianity is about our Relationships**
  - *Relationships with God (1<sup>st</sup>) & each other*
  - *The greatest commandment is to **love God***
  - *The second greatest is to **love our neighbour***



# *How does **God** fit in?*

**We were created to live in a relationship with God.**

**Until we find that relationship,  
there will always be something MISSING in our lives.**

We are often aware of a **GAP**, a **VOID**, an **EMPTINESS**

– **People try to fill this emptiness in different ways**

- Money, Drugs, Alcohol, Improper relationships
- Over-working, Music, Sports, Success (not “bad” per se)

– **None of these satisfy the hunger deep inside of us.**

– Even the closest human relationships, wonderful as they are, do not satisfy this emptiness deep inside

– **Nothing will fill the gap except relationship with God**



*Why (when) do we feel **empty**?*

*As a human race, we feel empty **because**  
we turned our back on God.*

Jesus said, “**I am the bread of life**” (John 6:35)

**Jesus is the only One who can  
satisfy our deepest hunger.**

He is the One who makes it possible for our  
**relationship with God** to be restored.

*Individually, we feel empty **when**  
we still turn our back on God.*

# How does *Jesus* fill our emptiness?

## *Jesus is the Bread of Life:*

- *Jesus satisfies our hunger for Meaning & Purpose in Life*
- *Jesus satisfies our hunger for Forgiveness*
- *Jesus satisfies our hunger for Life beyond Death*

DO I MATTER?  
DOES MY LIFE  
HAVE PURPOSE?  
DOES GOD KNOW WHO I AM?  
WHY AM I HERE?



# Jesus gives Meaning & Purpose in Life

DO I MATTER?  
DOES MY LIFE  
HAVE PURPOSE?  
DOES GOD KNOW WHO I AM?  
WHY AM I HERE?

*"What am I doing on earth?"*

*"What is the point of life?"*

*"Is there any purpose to life?"*

- We cannot answer such deep questions until we live in a **relationship with God**
- We can only find the true (*and ever-lasting*) meaning and purpose of life, through a **relationship with God**
- We may find passing (*temporary*) satisfaction elsewhere, but it will not last



# Jesus gives Forgiveness

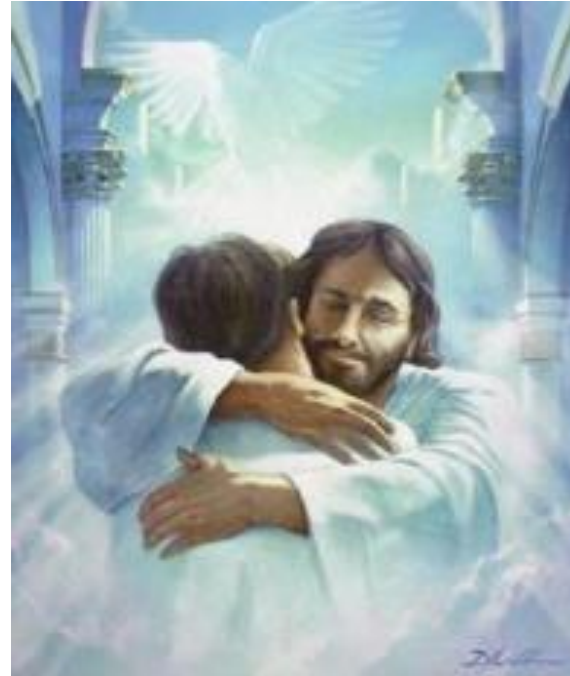
- We have all done things we know are wrong
- We all have a great need to be forgiven
- Whether we recognize it or not, we all need forgiveness
- Jesus made it possible for us to be forgiven, bringing us back into a **relationship with God**

# Jesus gives Life beyond Death

- Without Christ, death is scary, an unknown
- We long to survive beyond death
- Through Christ, death from this world is only a departure to eternal life
- Our **relationship with God** starts here & now, and continues beyond death, unto eternity!

# Jesus also gives Freedom

- *Freedom **from** what?*
  - Fear
  - Guilt
  - Addiction (Slavery)
- *Freedom **for** what?*
  - To know Him, love Him
  - To **build a relationship with Him**
  - To change for the better through God's Holy Spirit





# God's **gifts** to us ...

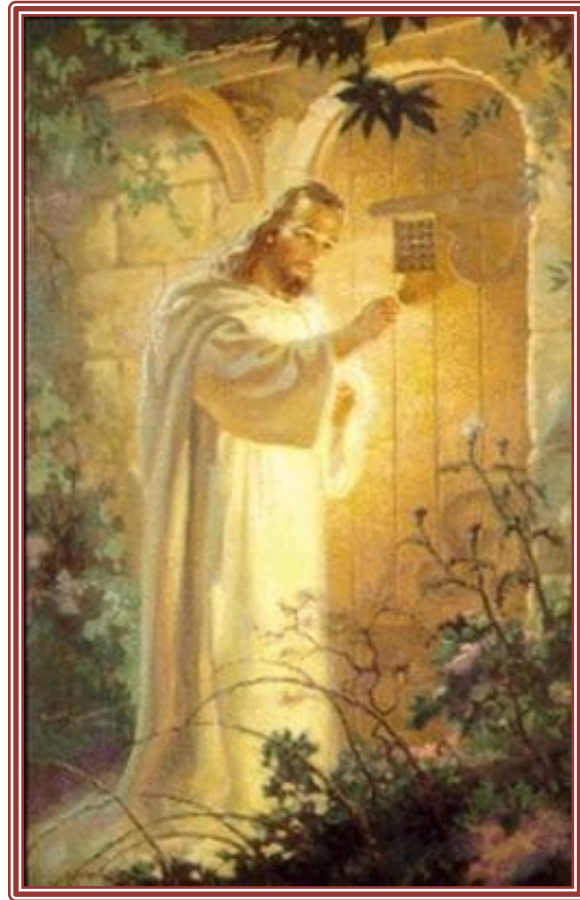
Through Jesus Christ, God offer us these gifts:

- His Holy Spirit to live within us & transform us
- **Meaning & Purpose**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Eternal Life**
- **Freedom**

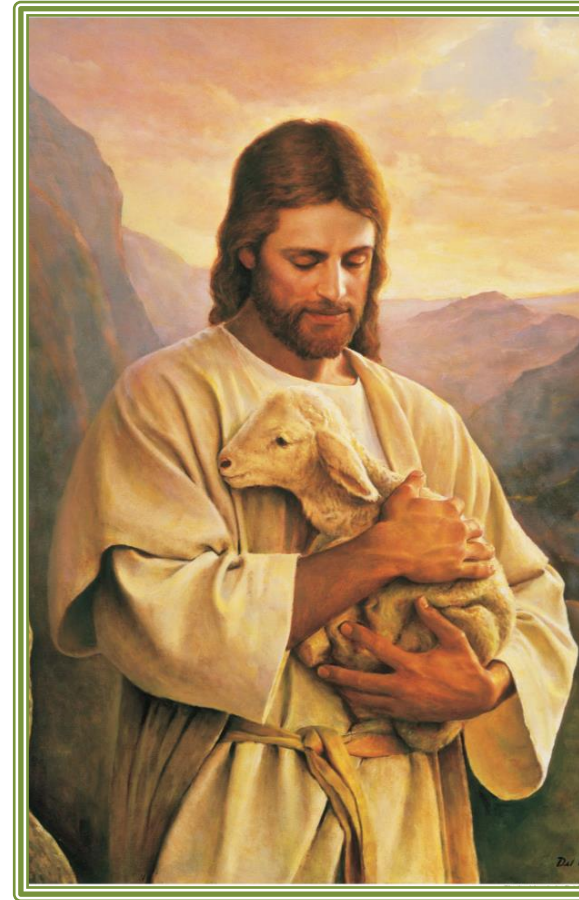
**Our choice:**

*Do I **reject** or **accept** God's gifts?*

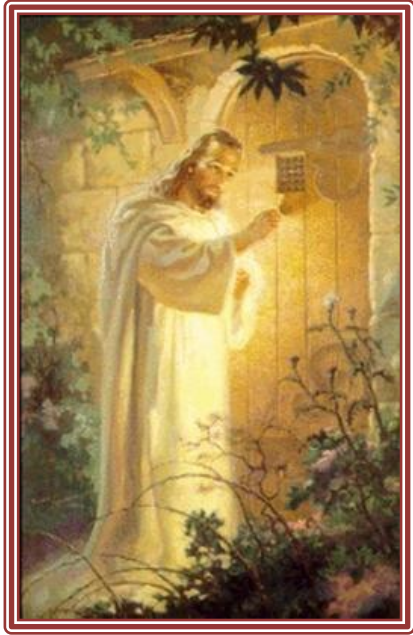
*Do I **reject** or **accept** God's gifts?*



**I love you.**  
**I am still knocking.**  
**Please let me in!**



**I love you.**  
**Do you love me?**  
**Come closer to me!**



# Sometimes we **reject** God's gifts

## Common Excuses

- I have no need of God ...  
***Really?!***
- There is too much to give up ...  
***There is actually more to gain!***
- There must be a trap ...  
***There is no trap, His gifts are free!***
- I'm not good enough ...  
***Nobody is good enough, but His love is great enough!***
- I could never keep it up ...  
***Come to Him, and He will help!***
- I'll come to Him later ...  
***Delaying is very dangerous!***

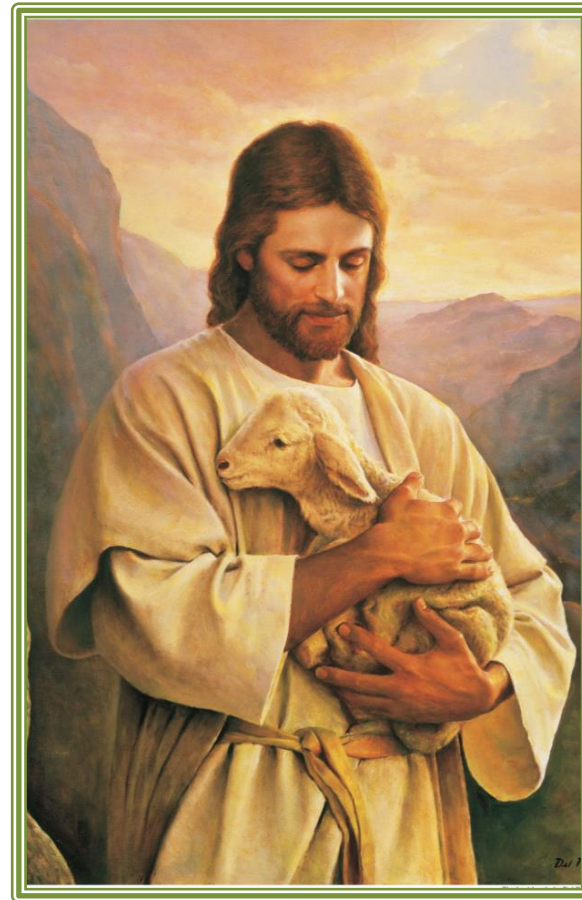


# We are called to **accept** God's gifts

## Accept to **build a relationship** with God.

Start with the Basics

- ① *Saying "Sorry"*
- ② *Saying "Thank You"*
- ③ *Saying "Please"*



# ***SORRY ...***

- Have Mercy (3x)  
***Have Mercy Upon Us***  
***O God, the Father, the Pantocrator!***
- Have Mercy (3x)  
***Have Mercy Upon Us***  
***O God, Our Saviour!***
- Have Mercy (3x)  
***Have Mercy Upon Us***  
***And Have Mercy!***

We are called to **accept** God's gift

① **Sorry, Lord**

*I go running **back to Him** asking for **forgiveness**.*

② **Thank You, Lord**

*I believe that Jesus died on the cross for me, and  
**thank Him** for His free gifts of Forgiveness,  
Freedom, and the Holy Spirit.*

③ **Please, Lord**

*God will never force His way into my life. I need  
to willingly **accept His gifts**, and **invite Him** to  
come and live within me by His Holy Spirit.*



# ***THANK YOU ...***

- **Thank You, God the Father for giving me:**
  - Your **Son**
  - Your **Kingdom**
  - **Everything you have**
- **Thank You, Our Lord Jesus Christ for giving me:**
  - Your **Life**
  - Your **Blood**
  - **Everything you have**
- **Thank You, O Holy Spirit for giving me:**
  - Your **Self**
  - Your **Help & Comfort ... the Holy Sacraments**
  - **Everything I need**

# Building a Relationship with God

## ① *Sorry*

*Lord, forgive me and have mercy on me (Psalm 50)*

## ② *Thank You*

*We thank You in everything, for everything,  
concerning everything!*

## ③ *Please*

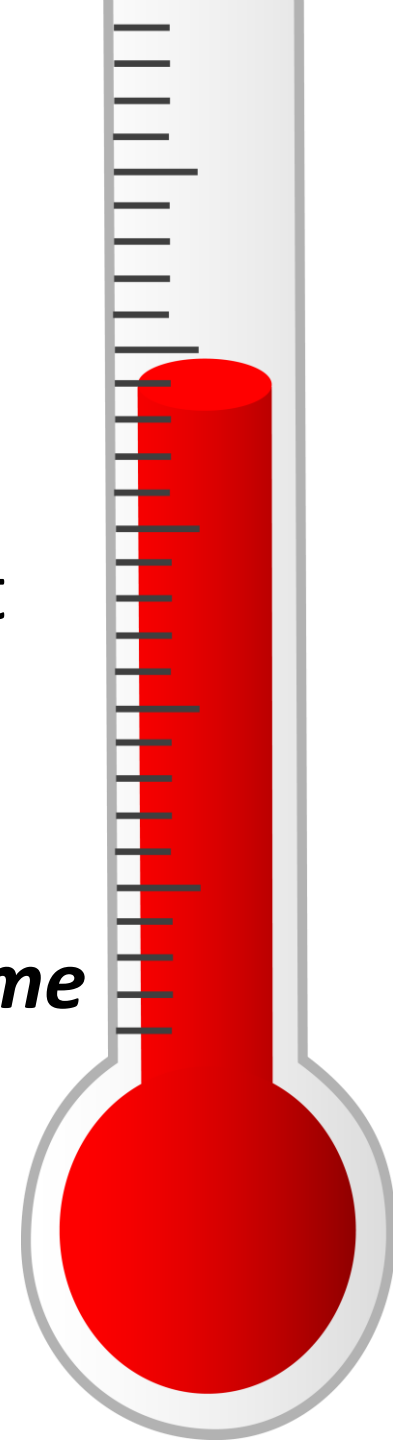
*Stay with me, bless me, save me, fill me,  
Enlighten me, lead me, guide me, carry me!*

# The Lord asks, “*Do you love Me?*”

- *Yes, Lord, you know I love you*
- *Do you really love me?*
  - You **ignore** Me
  - You **block** Me out
  - You **don't read about** Me
  - You **don't seek to understand** Me
  - You **don't talk** to Me; yet you talk to others
  - You **don't run to see** Me; yet you run to others
  - You **don't listen** to Me; yet you listen to the world
  - You **don't talk about** Me; yet you talk about others
- *Sorry, Lord*
  - *Please teach me how to love You more ...*

# Good News!

- Question:  
*How close are you to God today?*
- Good news:  
The answer to the above question is not as important as the answer to the next question ...
- Next Question:  
***Are you willing to make an effort to come closer to God?***
- *Come closer to Him and say*  
***Sorry, Thank You, Please ...***





# Building a Relationship with God



## ① Sorry

*Psalm 50 – have mercy on me!*  
**REPENTANCE & CONFESSION**

## ② Thank You

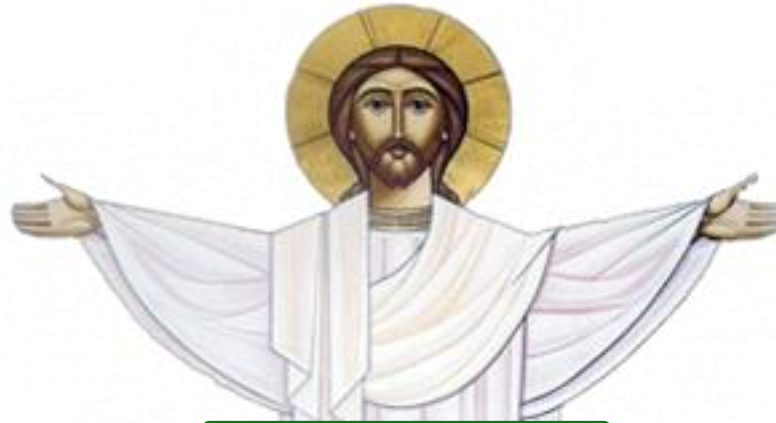
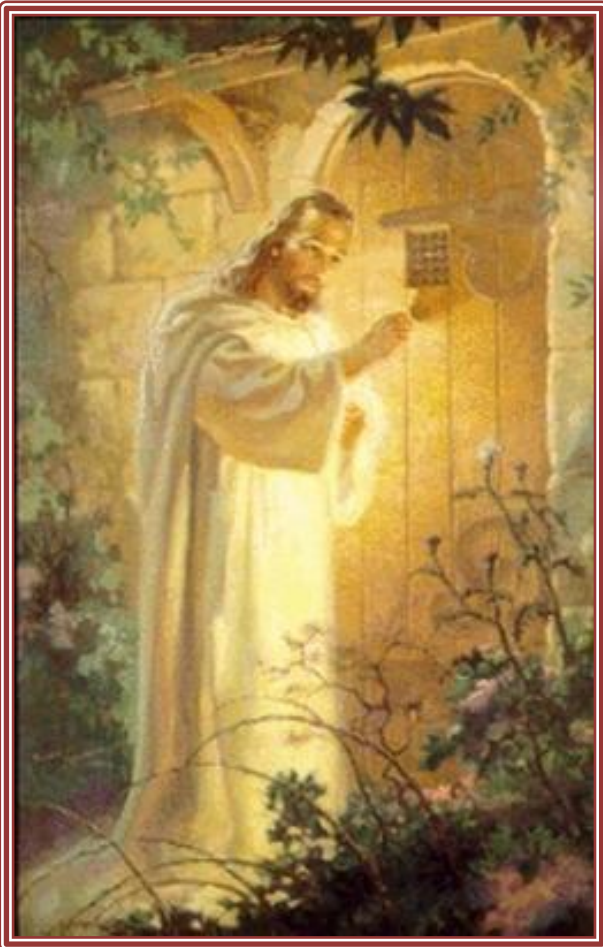
*Thanksgiving Prayer, and ...*  
**GLORIFICATION & PRAISE**

## ③ Please

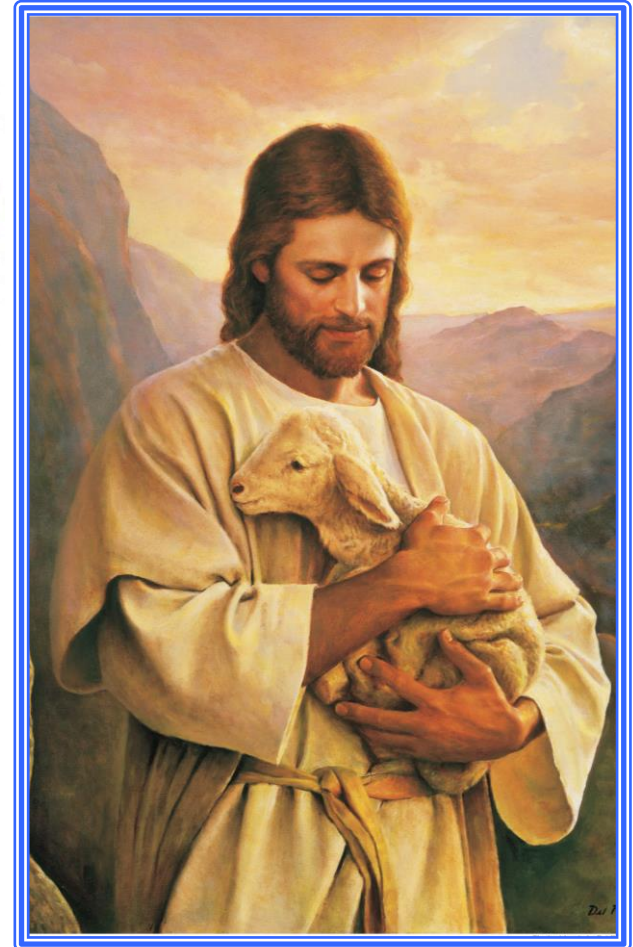
*Accept me, Bless me, Stay with me, Save me,  
Fill me, Abide in me (**COMMUNION**)  
Enlighten me, lead me, guide me, carry me,  
Talk to me (**BIBLE**), talk with me (**PRAYER**)*

# More Good News

- If I have a good relationship with God,
  - I will also have good relationships with others ...
- the same “**Sorry**, **Thank you**, **Please**” basics apply*



**THANK YOU!**





I would like to say **SORRY** to You LORD for: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

I would like to **THANK** the LORD for: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

I would like to **PLEASE ASK** the LORD for: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

Slides: [www.stmary-ottawa.org/sermons/2015/SMO\\_2015\\_09\\_04\\_Relationship\\_with\\_God\\_101.pdf](http://www.stmary-ottawa.org/sermons/2015/SMO_2015_09_04_Relationship_with_God_101.pdf)

Reference: **"Why Jesus?"** by **Nicky Gumbel**

- Successful Relationships need Love, Trust, Honesty, Communications, Sacrifice, Patience, Forgiveness
- Most Importantly, they need **God's Presence**
- Christianity is about Relationships: with God (1<sup>st</sup>) and with one another
- The greatest commandment is to **LOVE GOD**; the second greatest is to **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR**
- We were created to live in a RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
- Until we find that relationship with God, there will always be something MISSING in our lives
- We are often aware of an EMPTINESS, and try to fill it in different ways (some good, some not)
- No money, drugs, alcohol, or improper relationship can fill that EMPTINESS
- Neither can over-working, music, sports or success fill that EMPTINESS
- Neither can the closest human relationships, wonderful as they are, fill that EMPTINESS
- Only a RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD can fill that EMPTINESS
- As a human race, we feel empty BECAUSE we turned our back on God.
- Individually, I feel empty WHEN I still turn my back on God.
- Jesus is the only ONE who can satisfy our deepest hunger: **"I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE"** (John 6:35)
- Jesus makes it possible for our **RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD** to be restored.
- Jesus satisfies our hunger by giving us **MEANING & PURPOSE IN LIFE**
- Jesus satisfies our hunger for **FORGIVENESS**
- Jesus satisfies our hunger for **LIFE BEYOND DEATH**
- Jesus also gives us **FREEDOM from Fear, Guilt, Addiction (Slavery)**
- Jesus gives us **FREEDOM to Know Him, Love Him, Build a relationship with Him**
- Through Jesus, we also have the Gift of the **Holy Spirit** to dwell within us, and change us for the better
- I have a choice: do I choose to REJECT or ACCEPT God's gifts?
- Sometimes we reject for a variety of excuses, but God still loves us, knocks, waits for us to open to Him
- We are called to accept His wonderful gifts, and Build a relationship with Him ...
- We can start with the Basics, by saying **"Sorry"**, **"Thank You"**, and **"Please, Lord"**
- It doesn't matter so much if I am far from God, or near to Him today ...
- What matters is, **"Am I willing to make an effort to come closer to God?"**
- Come closer, so He can hug you tight! He loves you, died for you, so you can live. Come closer to Him!