How to be saved and know God personally: By Erica Jermanus

Many people do not know God personally. They know about God, but they do not know Him intimately. Jesus Christ wants us to know Him more than just the surface level. He wants us to grow deeper and closer to Him. He also wants us to obey His word and commands and seek to follow Him in the things that He tells us to do. If He is telling us to worship Him or serve Him, then we should follow his leading and guidance.

You might want to know how to be saved and how to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I want to go over that in this ebook. So stay tuned for more! I am going to be sharing some steps on how you can be saved and born again. Step number one is to first admit that you are a sinner and need a Savior that is Jesus Christ because you cannot save yourself. It is to admit that you have messed up and made mistakes and that you are not perfect. When you can admit that you are a sinner in need of Christ, that is when true humility comes in.

Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." None of us are perfect and have it all together all the time. That is why we need Jesus Christ because we cannot save ourselves. Only

Jesus Christ and save us and give us eternal life. How can we be saved?

We first need to be born again of water and the Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit to make it into the kingdom of heaven. We will not make it to heaven without being born again. John 3:3 says, "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." To be born again is to a spiritual rebirth and transformation. The Holy Spirit comes into your heart and life and changes you from the inside out. He does a work on the inside of you and makes you into a new person or a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

When you become born again your whole life changes. The things you used to do in your past are behind you and now you have a new life in Christ. You no longer desire to go to the bars and clubs and get drunk and high. You no longer desire to shack up with people and have sex outside of marriage. You no longer desire to listen to worldly music, movies, and tv shows because

it grieves the Holy Spirit in you. You no longer want to go to the same places you used to go to or hang around with the same people you used to hang out with. You have become new in your mind, body, and soul. You have become a new person and a new creation.

God gives you a new heart and mind. He changes your heart from a heart of stone to a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26 says, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." God makes you more sensitive to his voice and His Spirit so that you hear His voice and obey Him when He tells you to do something. You will be more sensitive to sin too when your heart is soft. You will be corrected, convicted, and disciplined by the Holy Spirit when you do something wrong or when you sin. The correction and discipline is out of love and not out of punishment or condemnation.

God corrects you because He loves you and He wants you to take part in His holiness and He wants you to be saved and have eternal life. Hebrews 12:6 says, "For

whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." He does not want your soul to perish in hell for eternity. He wants you to be born again, be saved, and be filled with His Holy Spirit. He wants you to walk in the Spirit and not the flesh. He wants you to set your mind on the things of the Spirit and not the flesh. That is when we can have life because we are spiritually minded and we are setting our minds on the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

You can be saved by confessing with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and believing in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. Romans 10:9. Believing doesn't just stop there. When you believe you need to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. So that means you need to be willing to put in the work. You can do that by serving God and others with your unique gifts and talents. Serve your purpose and be a good steward of God's grace. Follow His leading and guidance. Follow His instructions on what to do and when to do it. He will show you the way to go and teach

you and instruct you in the way you should go. It is just up to us to put into practice what He asks us to and be obedient to Him.

Confession of sins is part of repentance. But one can confess their sins and not truly repent. When a person has godly sorrow over their sins it is when they feel a sense of remorse. They do not want to grieve the Holy Spirit. They do not want to break God's heart because they feel what He feels. Godly sorrow should lead a person to confession and repentance, and then repentance throughout a lifetime should lead them to salvation. 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

Many do not believe that they need to confess and repent because they do not believe that they sin or in need of salvation and Jesus Christ. That is when the Holy Spirit needs to open their eyes to the truth. The Holy Spirit needs to do a work on the inside of them and change them. Many are not saved because they do not admit they have sinned against God so that they can be forgiven of their sins.

1 John 1:8-10 says, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

Once a person has repented of their sins, then they are ready to get baptized. A person gets baptized as a public declaration of their faith in Christ. Baptism does not save us or get us into the kingdom of heaven. Baptism is an outward act of obedience to God and His word. We get baptized because we want to obey Him and follow his commandments. But not to earn our salvation because we are already saved if we are truly walking with Christ. Acts 2:38 says, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Baptism should be in the name of Jesus Christ and not in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are just titles. The Apostles in the book of Acts got baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and that is how it is supposed to be done. The Catholic church baptizes babies. But babies do not sin and cannot repent. They have not reached the age of accountability and they do not know right from wrong. A baby should not be baptized. When a child reaches the age of accountability, then that child can make the decision to get baptized and can repent too.

Jesus Christ wants a personal relationship with us. He wants us to seek Him and get to know Him through reading the Bible, praying, and worshiping Him. Prayer is a two-way conversation between you and God. You speak to Him and He speaks back to you. You can talk to Him about anything and everything. You can tell Him what is on your heart and mind. He wants us to pour out our hearts to Him. He wants us to be open, honest, and vulnerable with Him. He already knows what we are going to say, but He still wants us to talk to Him because He wants us to know Him and have a personal relationship with Him. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

Jesus Christ also wants us to spend time reading or listening to the word of God because that is how faith comes. Faith comes by hearing the word of God, whether it is audible or just reading a physical copy of the Bible. Our faith has a chance to grow when we are in the word of God daily. The word of God is how God speaks to us. If you are reading the Bible, it will speak directly to what you are going through in the moment. That is the Holy Spirit leading and guiding you and correcting you. Some of the scriptures you read in the Bible may not feel good because it is convicting. That is good because it gets us back on the right track with God if we have sinned or fallen away from God.

I would recommend getting a Bible you can read daily and make an effort to read the Bible on a daily basis even if it is just one chapter or verse a day that you read and think about throughout your day. The word of God is so powerful and it can transform our hearts and minds. Some people just read it on special occasions, but it is supposed to be read every day. The Bible is not meant to collect dust on a shelf. The Bible is a book that can transform your life and it can help you to grow

spiritually and become the person God has called and created you to be.

Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

God also wants us to grow in a godly community. He wants us to have someone in our lives who will hold us accountable for our sins and actions. We want to surround ourselves with people who are going to build us up and encourage us in our faith, not tear us down or destroy us. So we may need to take inventory of who we are allowing in our friend circle. God cannot send in the new friends He wants to send if we do not first let go of the old friends. So we may need to let go of the

wrong people in our lives so that we can make room for the new people for God to send.

Ask the Lord where He wants you to attend church or what local body He wants you to fellowship. He will lead and guide you and show you the way to go. Even if you join an online bible study or prayer group weekly or monthly, that is still getting into the community. Hebrews 10:25 says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."