

So many people think that God is remote – waiting to punish every mistake. But God is longing to be in an intimate relationship with you. He wants you to know His love, compassion and peace in a way which is personal to you. This booklet will help you come to a place where you can enjoy God – just you and Him.



**Katherine Hilditch** has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the

booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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# JUST YOU AND HIM



Katherine Hilditch LifeinJesus.net 'Just You and Him' by Katherine Hilditch

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## Life in Jesus

To read more about Jesus and all He has done and won for us go to –

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There are many more booklets on the website

You can read them online or print them out completely free of charge

There is no limit to the number of copies you can print out for your own use or to give away

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Unless otherwise indicated all Scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible British Edition (WEBBE) (Any words in brackets are not in the original text but are included to help understanding)

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#### Just You and Him

There can be a huge sense of satisfaction and joy in a good healthy relationship with another person, but your relationship with God goes way beyond that. He loves you as no other person can and He will never, never let you down. He is always there for you. But it's only as you believe it that you'll start to see it's true.

Spend time, just you and Him, and enjoy it. But remember, wherever you are, whatever you're doing, however busy you are, that relationship is there. And even if you struggle with good relationships with other people, this is one relationship you don't have to struggle with. Just believe and enjoy your one-on-one with God – it's just you and Him.

## JUST YOU AND HIM

Christians often talk about having 'a personal relationship' with God and with Jesus. And this is exactly what it is. It's not just knowing about Him, it's experiencing His presence and enjoying it, and being in two-way contact with Him all the time.

#### A Personal Relationship

There are probably people in your life who you have a personal relationship with – maybe your mother, your father, your husband or wife or partner, your child or a special friend. Noone else can have exactly the same relationship with these individuals as you do. It is completely personal to you and that other person.

It's the same when you become a child of God; your relationship with Him is completely unique and personal to you and Him. And it is always positive, it will never harm you. It's all based on God's unconditional love for you.

An earthly dad cannot be in two places at one time. If he's having a private conversation with his daughter, he can't be having one with his son at the same time. But God can!

He can have a personal relationship with any number of people all at the same time. Because He has a personal relationship with one person doesn't mean He hasn't time or love to spare to have a relationship with someone else. At any one time, lots of people round the world will be talking to Him, listening to Him, thinking about Him, praising and worshiping Him, and He will be fully participating in each individual personal relationship without taking anything away from any other. Only God can do that. I have a personal relationship with Him and if you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so do you, and neither of us experiences it less because the other is in relationship with God too. Isn't that wonderful! God is a personal God and He is the God of all and everyone who will accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. There are no limits on numbers or time or anything else.

### Always, Always, Always

Wouldn't you love to know there was someone who was always there for you? God will never be too busy to talk to you. His phone will never be engaged or switched off or need charging. He will never be out. He will never be offline because of a faulty broadband connection. You will never have to wait in a queue for your turn to see Him. In fact, His relationship with His people is always intimate, not remote as on the phone or by email. He is always, always, always there for you. No person on earth can be as available to you as God can be and wants to be.

#### Jesus – the Only Way

So how do you get into this wonderful personal relationship? It is freely available to you, but you have to receive it. But this isn't a one-way process. All the time God is drawing you to Himself with His love, because He wants to have that intimate relationship with you even more than you want it. Jeremiah 31:3 says – 'I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore I have drawn you with loving kindness.' God even knew you as you were growing in your mother's womb. <u>Psalm 139:15-16</u> says – 'My frame wasn't hidden from you, when I was made in secret, woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my body.' He has always known about you!

#### God is With You and In You

But talking about going into God's presence isn't really the right phrase for born-again Christians. God now lives within you through His Holy Spirit. He's always there with you so you are always in His presence. But this phrase refers to when you consciously turn your thoughts onto Him. He's already there, but you need to be aware of His presence.

Before Jesus was born, people prayed to God asking Him to be with them. You'll find examples of this in the Old Testament, especially in the book of Psalms. People weren't able to be bornagain in those days, so this was exactly what they needed to do.

But you don't have to ask God to be with you, because now you're born-again, He already is, and He has promised He will never leave you. In <u>Hebrews 13:5</u> God said – '*I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you.*' And in <u>Matthew</u> <u>28:20</u> Jesus said – '*I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*' Instead of praying asking God to be with you, thank Him that He is with you and always will be. It's such a wonderful prayer to pray and it will build you up in faith.

Christians sometimes say that they feel their prayers don't get past the ceiling. But they don't need to! God is inside you and hears all your words and thoughts whether they're prayers or not. Again, the people living before Jesus quite rightly asked God to hear them when they prayed. But you have Jesus inside you, and instead of asking God to hear you, praise and thank Him that He does. Talk to Him. Don't make it all just a list of requests. Chat with Him – He's your perfect Father. And don't forget to listen too. Relax and enjoy your relationship with Him. relationship exists and think and talk and act in that belief, not by your feelings. Feelings can be fickle, but God's truth never changes.

#### One-on-One

Long before Jesus was born, God had set up a system where the people weren't allowed to approach God themselves. They had to go to a person called the High Priest and he would approach God for them. The High Priest was a person God had chosen specially to do this.

In the Jewish temple, there was an inner part called the Holy of Holies and this is where God's presence was in the days before Jesus. It was separated from the rest of the temple by a special curtain or veil. Only the High Priest was allowed to go behind the curtain and into God's presence and he could only do this once a year.

As Jesus died on the Cross, <u>Matthew 27:51</u> says something amazing happened - 'the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom.' This is hugely significant. As Jesus died, this curtain was dramatically and miraculously ripped from top to bottom, demonstrating beyond doubt that now anyone could come straight into God's presence just as they are and wherever they are. You no longer need to go through a priest to gain access to God. The way is open and available to you directly. Just you and God – wow!

Jesus made it possible. Jesus is the way, and the only way. You can go straight into God's presence because Jesus has opened up the way. You don't have to ask a priest's permission or anyone else's permission or even Jesus's permission. It's just you and Him, one-on-one.

He has always loved you and He's been drawing you to Himself with love all your life. You may have responded to Him already. Or there may have been times when you felt a pull to Him, but you ignored it. Or your life may have been so busy or difficult that you never noticed it. It's often said that God is a gentleman – He won't ever force Himself on you. He wants you to respond freely and willingly – it's the only way to a real love relationship.

And the way into this personal relationship is Jesus. There is no other way. In John 14:6 Jesus said - 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.' Many people believe there are lots of different paths to God through different religions and philosophies, but Jesus made it clear there is only one and it's Him.

#### How Did Jesus Open Up the Way to God?

Long ago, when God first made people, He made them to be perfect and to be in an intimate personal relationship with Himself. But they chose to sin, that is do wrong things. God Himself is perfect and cannot have anyone sinful in His presence, so this meant that people were no longer able to be in that special relationship with Him.

But God still loved them and He wanted His relationship with them restored even more than they did. What was His solution? He sent His very own Son, Jesus, to earth to die as a sacrifice for all the wrong things people have thought, said and done. As He died on the Cross, Jesus took all the shame and guilt of everyone's sin on Himself – imagine the horror of that. And God poured out all His anger against sin on Jesus and punished Him for every sin in the world – past, present and future. And this means you are completely forgiven. Jesus took the blame and suffered the punishment and you are free. He did it for everyone  He did it for you. Because He has been punished for your sin, you do not have to be. That's real sacrificial love – that's amazingly good news.

When you believe that what Jesus did on the Cross was personal for you and accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, the complete forgiveness Jesus won for you on the Cross becomes reality in you, and you come into the personal love relationship with God that He wants so much. And this relationship will change your life for the better in amazing ways that you can't even imagine right now, as you grow in that relationship.

#### Coming into Relationship with God

When you acknowledge that Jesus is God and decide that you want to follow Him you are making Him your Lord. If you've never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour then make today the day you do. God loves you totally and unconditionally, but it's only as you're born-again that He becomes your Father and you are able to experience that wonderful, personal and unique love relationship with Him.

<u>Romans 10:9</u> says – 'If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Choose to believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart.

If you've done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you've ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you'll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever. As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand all Jesus has done and won for you and experience more of God's love for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

#### Faith, not Feelings

If you have done that, did you feel any emotion or feeling of relief or release when you did it? Great if you did, but if you didn't, don't worry – neither have lots of other people. But that doesn't alter the fact that if you've done it sincerely that relationship has begun. You need to start to learn to live in this relationship by faith rather than by feelings. That means choosing to believe it's real and basing the way you think, speak and act on that belief.

As you choose to believe your relationship with God exists and start to get to know Him, you'll find the feelings come along. But don't rely on them; feelings can come and go. Instead rely on God and on His truth. This is why it's so important to read the Bible. The Bible is the main way in which God will speak to you. As you build yourself up in all that the Bible tells you about Him, you will find your love for Him growing and you will be able to enter deeper into your relationship with Him. The way is permanently and fully open on His side. He wants you to keep stepping further into everything Jesus has won for you, opening yourself up to Him more and more.

You have the wonderful adventure of getting to know Him better for the rest of your life. Don't give up if you feel you're not getting anywhere. Just choose to believe that the