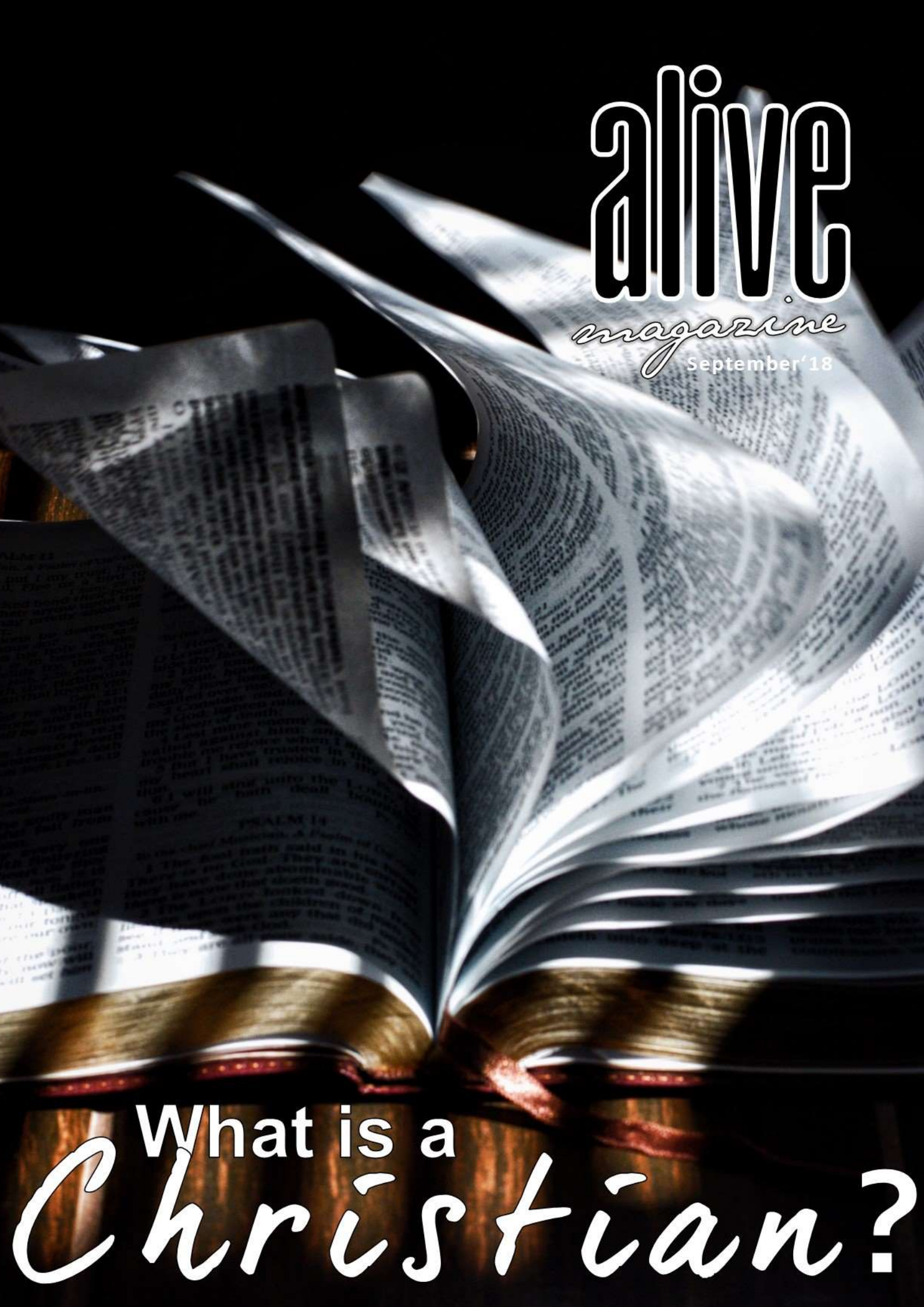




alive

magazine

September '18

What is a
Christian?

Support

**ALIVE TO GOD IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU!
AND OTHER GENEROUS READERS SUCH AS YOURSELF**

BANKING DETAILS

**Account Name: Alive to God
Bank: Standard Bank
Account Number: 411338196
(Cheque/transmission)
Branch: Menlyn
Reference: Your email address**

DEBIT ORDERS

**You can give regularly by means of a
debit order. If you would like to make
use of this option, please email us at
andrew@alivetogod.com**



www.AliveToGod.com/donate-support



<https://paypal.com/webapps/mpp/send-money-online>

CONTENTS

+ featured articles

- 4 SURVIVING OR OVERCOMING**
- Andrew Roebert-
- 6 THE ANSWER IS NO! NO TO THE DEVIL!**
- Andrew Roebert –
- 8 RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD**
- GotQuestions.org–
- 10 THE GREATEST FRIEND**
- Andrew Roebert–
- 12 FIND “THE ONE” YOU ARE TO MARRY**
- MarriageMissions.com –
- 14 REASONS NOT TO MARRY AN UNBELIEVER**
- MarriageMissions.com –
- 16 WHERE IS JESUS NOW? IS JESUS IN HEAVEN?**
- GotQuestions.org –
- 18 WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?**
- Andrew Roebert–



SURVIVING OR OVERCOMING

By: Andrew Roebert

How is it going in your life? Are you surviving or are you overcoming? There is a great difference between the two. The Bible tells us that we can live a life of overcoming. Many people spend their lives surviving life. I want what God has got for me. I want to live the life that God has for me. I want the same for you. Let's look at the difference between these two aspects.

SURVIVING

What does it mean to be surviving? I meet many people. Often when I ask people how they are, they tell me that they are surviving. What does this mean? It just means that they are still alive. The definition of surviving: to remain alive or in existence, to continue to function or to continue to exist or live. I believe that many people live like this. They just continue to exist or function. They are still alive and breathing, but that is about it.

ALIVE OR LIVING

Here is another big difference. To be alive is to continue breathing. To be living is more than just being alive. I want to be living life, not just still alive.

John 10:10 'The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.'

Life to the full, or abundant life is what Jesus has for us. God never intended for us just to live or exist or survive. There is so much living to be done.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE

Where can we find this life? I believe that none of us want to just exist. We all want to live life to the full and experience all that God has for us. For more life we need to go to the source of life.

John 6:48 'I am the bread of life.'

It is only in Jesus that we can experience real living. As we experience God we will experience this life that He has for us. We need to be connected to the source of life, if we are going to live the life He has for us.

OVERCOMING

What does this mean? Overcoming has a very different meaning to the word surviving.



To overcome means to get the better of, or to gain superiority over something. I believe that this is how God wants us to live. To live on top. To live a life where we prevail over and are victorious over things that would otherwise get us down. To conquer, to master, to beat, to triumph and to win.

HOW DO WE OVERCOME?

1. Through being connected to God.

It is His plan for us to live a life of overcoming. This is living on top.

Galatians 2:20 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.'

When this happens we can experience a lifestyle of overcoming. How does Christ live in you and me?

2. By His Spirit.

Ephesians 3:16 'May He grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the Holy Spirit' (Himself indwelling your inner most being and personality)

3. We overcome because we have got God inside of us and because of the power of the blood of Jesus.

Revelation 12:11 'They overcame by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony.'

4. Not in your own strength.

Philippians 2:13 '(not in your own strength) for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you.'

5. Another tool for overcoming is our faith. 1 John 5:4

WHAT DO WE HAVE TO OVERCOME?

Sin, bad habits, attitudes. Forgiveness, hurt. Despair, hopelessness, discouragement. Difficulties. Fear of man. Overcoming circumstances and situations that face us on a regular basis. Trials and tribulations.

Philippians 4:13 'I have strength for all things in Christ, Who empowers me (I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me, I am self sufficient in Christ's sufficiency.)'

RESULTS OF OVERCOMING

Revelation 2:7 'To him who overcomes (is victorious) I will grant to eat of the fruit of the tree of life.'

Revelation 2:17 'To him who overcomes I will give to eat of the manner that is hidden and I will give him a white stone with a new name engraved on the stone.'

Revelation 3:12 'He who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the sanctuary of my God.'

Revelation 3:21 'He who overcomes I will grant him to sit beside me on My throne.'

What a reward!

SURVIVING AND ALMOST DROWNING

A person who is almost drowning, is surviving. His head is just above water and he survives. The water is overcoming him all around. Perhaps you feel like this.

John 16:33 'In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world. (I have deprived it of power to harm you and I have conquered it for you.)'

God does not want us to just have our heads above water. He wants us to overcome. The greatest joy is that He wants us to overcome and He wants to help us to overcome.



The Answer is NO!

- No to
The Devil!

BY: Andrew Roebert

“

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

”

Are you having a little too much stealing, killing and destroying in your life? Does it seem like the abundant life that God promised is a little illusive? God has life to the full for each of us. We want this abundant full life. We are not going to allow the enemy to attack and take from us what God has intended and promised us.

NO, YOU WILL NOT TAKE OUR HEALTH

Healing and health is some of the things that God has said can be ours.

Exodus 15:26 I am the LORD that healeth thee.

Psalm 103:1-2 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities; who heals all thy diseases

One of Gods benefits to us is healing. Today we are trusting for healing and health.

NO, YOU WILL NOT TAKE OUR PROVISION.

God is a provider. God is our provider.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

He wants to supply our needs. He wants to provide for us, like a father provides for his children. We will not stand for any further loss to the provision God has given us. Today, God, we are looking forward to your provision in our lives.

NO, YOU WILL NOT TAKE OUR FAMILIES

Our families are God's gift to us. We will not tolerate them being harassed.

1 Corinthians 7:14 If the family separates, the children might never come to know the Lord; whereas a united family may, in God's plan, result in the children's salvation.

God's plan is that families should thrive. We don't want to see any further breakup or destruction in the lives of our loved ones.

Isaiah 43:6 I will bring my sons and daughters back to Israel from the farthest corners of the earth.

God we pray that you will bring our families back together. And God we pray that you will bring our families back to you!

NO, YOU WILL NOT TAKE OUR LIVES

God has given us life. He intended for us to enjoy life and life to the full. You will not take our lives!

Psalm 103 :1-5 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities; who heals all thy diseases; Who redeems thy life from destruction; Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

God has redeemed our lives from destruction. This is what God has planned for us and this is what we want! We want our lives to be crowned with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

NO, YOU WILL NOT TAKE ANY GOOD THING THAT GOD HAS FOR US.

God has promised us good things.

Psalm 103:5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things.

God wants us to experience and enjoy the good things that He has for us. We want these things that God has for us. Nothing less. Any good thing that God has for us, is ours. We want everything thing that God has for us. You will not take any good thing that god has for us!

NO, YOU WILL NOT TAKE OUR BROKEN HEARTS

God is the one who heals our broken hearts. We will give them to Him. He knows how to handle them.

Psalm 147:3 He heals the broken in heart, and binds up their wounds.

God, we give you access today to our hearts, so that you can heal and restore them as only you can.

NO, YOU WILL NOT MAKE US STRANGERS TO GOD

God has told us that we are no longer strangers to Him.

Ephesians 2:19 Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

You will not make us strangers to God through:

1. SIN
2. BUSYNESS
3. SADNESS
4. DESPAIR
5. DISCOURAGEMENT

God has made life available to us and we will settle for nothing less!

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. We want this life and the knowledge of the fact that we belong to God.

NO, YOU WILL NOT TAKE OUR HOPE

Our hope is in you Lord. We will not allow our hope to be stolen from us. Hope is what gives us strength for tomorrow. Hope is ours, as a gift from God. We will not surrender it!

Psalm 71:4 O Lord, you alone are my hope; I've trusted You from childhood. We will continue to trust You. Don't allow the devil to take away your hope.

WE WILL TRUST THE LORD OUR GOD

This is Who we will trust.

Psalm 103 :1-5 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities; who heals all thy diseases; Who redeems your life from destruction; Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfies your mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

1 Corinthians 2:9 No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him

We are trusting God for our health, our provision, our families, our lives, for His good things, our broken hearts, His presence and our hope. We look to You, God, and we trust You with expectation.

Receiving *Forgiveness* From God

GotQuestions.org

”

*Acts 13:38 declares,
“Therefore, my brothers, I want
you to know that through Jesus
the forgiveness of sins is
proclaimed to you.”*

“

What is forgiveness and why do I need it?

The word “forgive” means to wipe the slate clean, to pardon, to cancel a debt. When we wrong someone, we seek their forgiveness in order for the relationship to be restored. Forgiveness is not granted because a person deserves to be forgiven. No one deserves to be forgiven. Forgiveness is an act of love, mercy, and grace. Forgiveness is a decision to not hold something against another person, despite what they have done to you. The Bible tells us that we are all in need of forgiveness from God. We have all committed sin. Ecclesiastes 7:20 proclaims, “There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.” 1 John 1:8 says, “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” All sin is ultimately an act of rebellion against God (Psalm 51:4). As a result, we desperately need God’s forgiveness. If our sins are not forgiven, we will spend eternity suffering the consequences of our sins (Matthew 25:46; John 3:36).

Forgiveness – How do I get it?

Thankfully, God is loving and merciful – eager to forgive us of our sins! 2 Peter 3:9 tells us, “...He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” God desires to forgive us, so He provided for our forgiveness.

The only just penalty for our sins is death. The first half of Romans 6:23 declares, “For the wages of sin is death...” Eternal death is what we have earned for our sins. God, in His perfect plan, became a human being – Jesus Christ (John 1:1,14). Jesus died on the cross, taking the penalty that we deserve – death. 2 Corinthians 5:21 teaches us, “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” Jesus died on the cross, taking the punishment that we deserve! As God, Jesus’ death provided forgiveness for the sins of the entire world. 1 John 2:2 proclaims, “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” Jesus rose from the dead, proclaiming His victory over sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:1-28). Praise God, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the second half of Romans 6:23 is true, “...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Do you want to have your sins forgiven? Do you have a nagging feeling of guilt that you can’t seem to get to go away? Forgiveness of your sins is available if you will place your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior. Ephesians 1:7 says, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” Jesus paid our debt for us, so we could be forgiven. All you have to do is ask God to forgive you through Jesus, believing that Jesus died to pay for your forgiveness – and He will forgive you! John 3:16-17 contains this wonderful message, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”

Forgiveness – is it really that easy?

Yes it is that easy! You can’t earn forgiveness from God. You can’t pay for your forgiveness from God. You can only receive it, by faith, through the grace and mercy of God.



THE Greatest FRIEND

By: Andrew Roebert

We all need friends. Friends are the special people in our lives. They may only be acquaintances or those with whom you associate. Human friends can mean so much in our lives. Friends have the capacity to influence and encourage us. Do you have any real friends that you can totally depend upon? There is someone who wants to be our friend. He is the greatest Friend a human can know.

WHAT IS A REAL FRIEND?

Perhaps if we understood this we would be able to accurately evaluate who our real friends are. A friend is someone with who you have a connection. It is someone you get on well with and in whose company you are comfortable. I once heard a statement that true friendship between people takes place when silence between them is comfortable. Perhaps you have some friends like this. A friend is someone who is not hostile towards you. A friend is someone who shares your interests. A friend is someone we spend time with. A favoured companion. An ally, a mate and a partner, that is what a real friend is.

WHAT WOULD THE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN IDEAL FRIEND BE?

Have you ever thought about this? Here are some ideals:

1. An ideal friend would be consistent and constant.
2. An ideal friend would always be available.
3. An ideal friend would always understand.
4. An ideal friend would always help.
5. An ideal friend would be able to carry your burden for you.
6. An ideal friend would always have the best advice.
7. An ideal friend would never let us down.

Proverbs 17:17 A true friend is always loyal.

It is quite something to consider these aspects.

HUMAN FRIENDSHIP IS FRAGILE

Humans are unable to deliver the kind of friendship we would call ideal. People will always let us down. Even the best and the longest standing friend will fail us and not live up to our expectations from time to time. The writer of the book of Psalms experienced this:

Psalm 41:9 Even my best friend has turned against me—a man I completely trusted; how often we ate together.

This is what makes human friendship such a delicate balance. Yet, each one of us is looking for someone we can completely trust, someone to whom we can entrust ourselves. There is Someone who wants to be our friend. Someone who can be trusted totally and completely.

I KNOW A FRIEND

I know a Friend who has been the ideal friend to me. I think the old songwriter knew the same Friend when he wrote that great song: 'What a Friend we have in Jesus.' I think the writer of the Psalms knew this Friend.

Psalm 54:4 But God is my helper. He is a Friend of mine!

If the writer of this Psalm knew this Friend and if the great songwriter knew this Friend and I know this Friend, then you can too. Let me introduce you to my Friend, GOD. He wants to be your Friend as well.

THE CLOSEST FRIEND.

The Bible tells us about this Friend.

Proverbs 18:24 'There are "friends" who pretend to be friends, but there is a Friend who sticks closer than a brother.'

God wants to be our Friend and wants us to be His friends.

John 15:15 'I no longer call you servants ... Instead, I have called you friends'

I want more of this friendship. More of this friendship for myself, and more of this friendship for you. We all need more of the friendship of the greatest Friend.

THE GREATEST FRIEND CAN BE TRUSTED COMPLETELY.

This is the great reality.

Psalm 118:8-9 It is better to trust the Lord than to put confidence in men. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

Psalm 56:9 This one thing I know: God is for me!

Psalm 56:11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Yes, you can trust God completely. Who are you trusting in today? How about putting your trust in the greatest Friend.

WHY CAN WE TRUST GOD COMPLETELY?

There are many reasons why God can be trusted. Here are a few:

1. He is constantly the same: Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

2. He will not forsake us: Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong! Be courageous! Do not be afraid of them! For the Lord your God will be with you. He will neither fail you nor forsake you."

3. He will not fail you and me:

Hebrews 13:5-6 For God has said, "I will never, never fail you nor forsake you." That is why we can say without any doubt or fear, "The Lord is my Helper, and I am not afraid of anything that mere man can do to me."

God wants to be our best Friend, our Confidant, our Ally and Partner.

STAYING CONNECTED TO THE GREATEST FRIEND.

This is an important aspect.

John 15:7 If you remain in Me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

We need to stay connected. In vital union with the One Who can be trusted. When we do our own thing, we lose the connection. When we lose the connection, we are alone. This friendship is a rewarding friendship IF we will stay connected to the Friend. That is the decision of my heart. May it be true for you as well.

FIND “The One” YOU ARE TO MARRY

MarriageMissions.com

When you are looking to find the one you are to marry, there are a few things you should consider first. This article, written by Greg Groeschel, is talking to those who are followers of Jesus, or who claim to be. If you are, please prayerfully consider: Loving Jesus must be your number one priority in life if you’re going to become the kind of person God wants you to become and be able to give and receive love in your marriage the way you should. So reach out to Jesus with all of your heart. Devote the best of your time and energy to pursuing a closer relationship with Him. Place your relationship with Jesus at the centre of your life and revolve everything else around it.

Find your “two.”

If you’re not yet married and are looking for a spouse, search for a spouse carefully, in ways that honour God. Don’t even consider marrying someone who’s not a Christian. That is because you can’t ever truly be compatible with someone who doesn’t share your spiritual connect with Jesus. And marrying a non-Christian can only bring misery into your life that will grow. Beyond choosing a person who’s a Christian, you should also look for someone who shares common interests with you, whose personality fits well with yours, and to whom you’re physically attracted. Don’t rush the process. And don’t settle for less than God’s best for you simply to marry by a certain time.

Move a relationship with a potential spouse through first gear.

In first gear, when your relationship with a potential future spouse is just beginning, work to get to know each other well and build a strong foundation of friendship.

Rather than spending time alone, try to spend most of your time together with groups of people. If you discover that you’re not interested in taking the relationship to the next gear, then don’t lead the other person on; be honest about how you feel to avoid hurting that person more deeply later on.

Move a relationship with a potential spouse through second gear.

In second gear, as you sense God blessing your friendship, you can spend more time alone together. But continue to guard your heart, and avoid discussing marriage at this point. However, ask yourself questions like:

“Is this person becoming more like Christ?”

“Does this person have the right kind of friends?”

“Is this person responsible —financially, relationally, emotionally, intellectually?”

“Is our attraction increasing?”

“Are we helping each other grow closer to God, rather than drawing each other away from Him?”

If the person you’re dating isn’t helping you move closer to God or isn’t right for you, break up with him or her as soon as you know.

Move a relationship with a potential spouse through third gear.

In third gear, you should discuss the possibility of getting married. Explore it with the help of prayer, advice from mentors, getting to know each other’s families, and talking openly about how each of you have been both hurt and helped in life and what dreams each of you are hoping will come true in your lives.



Don't hesitate to break up if God isn't clearly leading the two of you to get married. It's better to end the relationship (and grieve and heal) before making a lifetime commitment than to marry when you know you shouldn't.

Move into fourth gear: engagement.

If it's clear to you both that marriage is where God is leading your relationship, then set a wedding date. But use the time during your engagement to plan your marriage —not just your wedding. Participate in premarital counselling, and discuss issues about which you'll have to make decisions about together in married life, like: career choices, where you'll live once you're married, how you'll share and manage your finances, your philosophy for bearing and raising children, which church you'll be a part of together, and how you plan to grow spiritually together. Continue to protect your sexual purity during your entire engagement until you're actually married, so you can enjoy God's best during your marriage. The fifth gear is marriage itself!

Pursue sexual purity.

Keep in mind that you can't have premarital sex without consequences (physical, emotional, and spiritual). Your future marriage will be affected in significant ways if you and your future spouse have sex before your wedding. Realize that you can't have premarital sex without intimacy, either, since God designed sex to develop intimacy between people. So if you end up breaking up with the person you had sex with it, the breakup will hurt badly. Ask God to help you make and keep a commitment to abstain from sexual behaviour of any kind until your wedding night. You'll gain many benefits if you do, including trust between you and your spouse (if you compromise sexually before marriage, you may compromise after marriage by having affairs) and an exciting sex life (that you'll never have to compare to the thrill of dangerous sex before marriage and are free to build with real intimacy between you).

Set clear boundaries of behaviour in your relationship to guard your sexual purity (such as no sleepovers). Ask some trusted friends to hold you both accountable to respect those boundaries

Identify sins and wounds and pursue repentance and healing.

Both you and the person you're considering marrying need to confess sins to God regularly. Repent of them, and accept God's forgiveness and strength to make better decisions. You all should also talk honestly with God and each other about the emotional wounds you've suffered in life. Seek God's healing for them, perhaps through Christian counselling. This will help you both begin married life as healthy as possible.

Keep passion alive after you're married.

Every new day that God gives you and your spouse during your marriage, pursue each other like you did when you were dating. Seek to learn something new about each other. And nurture the passion and deepen the intimacy between you. Don't keep sins or secrets from each other. Confess them to each other and pray for each other regularly.

Submit to God together.

Rather than trying to convince each other to make decisions that either you want or that your spouse wants, commit to seeking God's will together regularly. Base your decisions on the guidance He gives you. Learn how to pray together. Listen carefully to each other and to God, and work through conflicts with love and respect.

Reasons

NOT

To Marry an

Unbeliever

MarriageMissions.com

There are different reasons not to marry an unbeliever if you are a follower of Jesus Christ. Please prayerfully consider what is written below.

Reasons NOT to Marry an Unbeliever

Imagine two oxen joined together at the neck by a wooden crosspiece so they can pull a plough. They are two animals of the same species, joined together to accomplish a certain job. They've been trained to respond to the farmer's voice, and they're considered a team once they are joined together by the yoke. A wise farmer will pick two animals that work well together. They both have about equal strength, and make a good team. If one animal is stronger, stubborn, or lazier than the other, one of them could get hurt, and they're likely to end up walking in circles. A "team" like that is more like a pair in bondage. Paul uses this illustration to instruct us to be careful about who we "yoke" ourselves to in any kind of relationship that will shape our identity or the way we do things. The application to romantic relationships is obvious since they're relationships that impact us the most. If we try to live life yoked together with an unbeliever, it's nearly impossible to enjoy harmony and agreement. As a team of two, both must be unified in their destination. When the two oxen are pulling in different directions, they're fighting against each other and the struggle weakens both of them. To stay tied together is foolish. Their ultimate goal will be accomplished.

Life Lived Through God's Eyes

When God comes into our lives we start to see life through His eyes. Our purposes, passions, and priorities change. Even if we don't yet know exactly what those priorities are, life itself has greater value simply because God is in it. We have greater confidence in what we can accomplish. That is because we know that it isn't done by our strength, but by God's. We know that anything is possible if God is in it.

As a result, you may suddenly find that things you used to care about —goals, perhaps, that you and your boyfriend had together —now don't matter. You start re-evaluating what you love. And you're drawn to care about what God cares about. You're motivated by your love for God. And your desire to please Him comes from your love for Him. Things that neither you nor your boyfriend ever cared much about now mean everything to you. God may call you to move, start a ministry, feed a homeless person, and your boyfriend now sees you as crazy. But in reality, your eyes have opened to life in terms of eternity.

We Have a Different Perspective

We discover things about life, too, through knowing Christ. These are things that God "reveals" to us through His Spirit. Suddenly we start saying things like "I've been created for a purpose and I'm accountable for living it out." Or we think, "I need to forgive, and I don't have a choice about it." Or we think, "All people are measured by God. Why should I care what a person thinks about me?" We want to talk about these things, share these thoughts with others, or even shout about them. But how are you going to feel when you express these things to the most important person in your life, and he stares at you with a blank look on his face?

The tension created by this disconnect is likely to make you talk less about God — and worse, to notice Him less in your life.

God's Warning

If you sense this is happening in your relationship, it's not just a feeling. It's a warning. Perhaps it's time to unhitch yourself from the yoke before you do great harm to yourself and the person you love. At first I couldn't pinpoint what was so frustrating about trying to persuade Jason to see things my way. I wanted him to understand this new path I'd found and agree to walk down it with me. But like the oxen, we were pulling in different directions. And with every attempt at persuading him to change direction, I was weakened, and I miserably failed. I now see the difficult situation I put myself in. I was not only pulling against my boyfriend, I was struggling to hold up my relationship with God, a relationship with my boyfriend and my boyfriend's relationship with God. The burden became too great, and sooner or later, one of them had to go. I had a real awakening one Sunday. After church, I went home and sat on my porch.

The birds were chirping, and it was a beautiful afternoon. I asked God why it was so hard to convince [my boyfriend] Jason that knowing Him was a wonderful thing. I started to journal, and I sensed God's response to me. He Impressed Upon Me:

"Listen to the birds ... Can you understand them?"

"No."

"If you wanted to tell them about Me, could you?"

"No."

"I send birds to minister to the birds. If you tried to tell them about Me and My love, what would happen?"

"I'd get frustrated and give up."

"Yes, because I haven't given them the understanding and knowledge of your language. I'd have to open their ears, prepare their hearts. I must be at the foundation of all you do and say, or you might as well be trying to communicate with birds. It's noise not comprehended. It's nonsense to their ears. I must be at the foundation of all your life and ministry. The house will collapse without a strong foundation."

I realized that I was frustrated because Jason and I were speaking different languages. As much as I tried to get him to agree with me, nothing I said worked. I realized it didn't matter how much I preached and prodded —unless the Holy Spirit was the one who persuaded Jason, nothing would be accomplished. It was by the Holy Spirit prodding me that I came to know God. So how could I expect it to be any different with Jason?

Unstable Foundation

If you and the person you're dating do not have a foundation rooted in loving Christ first, the relationship you build won't be stable. This instability will soon turn into a deep dissatisfaction. Any material discontent you've ever struggled with does not compare to the vacancy you'll feel when God's purpose in your life is being wasted. Jesus says that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. The only way that the burden can be light is if you give this burden to the Lord. The weight of trying to hold up both your own and your boyfriend's relationship with God is too heavy.

And soon enough, one relationship will come crashing down. At one time I thought that Jason and I had so much in common. But the way we looked at faith was the only thing we didn't have in common. So why couldn't we keep our relationship and work around this one difference? What did we have in common that really mattered? When it comes down to it, someone who's serious about following Jesus doesn't have that much in common with someone who isn't. "Oh," but you say, "there are so many things we have in common. We like the same food, sports, entertainment, and intellectual activities."

Lining Up With God's Goals

Of course, this can be true. You can be in harmony with almost all of life's goals. But life goals are much different than life purpose. Goals are something you do. Purpose is who you are. If knowing God is the main purpose of your life, it's devastating when you can't share this with the person closest to you. Yes, you can fall in love with an unbeliever. But when it comes down to what really matters, the two of you are speaking different languages. You two are like the oxen going in circles. You think you're getting somewhere. But you keep ending up in the place you started. You love your boyfriend, but you also love God. And the pull of them both will get you nowhere. Your Views and Desires Have Changed After the initial excitement of being in love wears off, you'll find yourself longing for intimacy that you can find only with someone whose life is firmly rooted in a foundation in Christ. When your life is rooted in Christ you have a whole different purpose for living, and suddenly you find yourself feeling alone in that purpose. Because your views and desires have changed, neither of you feels free to share the deepest longings of your heart. And neither of you feels understood by the other. There's no solid common bond to keep the two of you together. Your fulfilment now lies in your relationship with God. This presents a problem because your boyfriend's satisfaction lies in you. You're looking to God for fulfilment and your boyfriend is looking to you for fulfilment. Trying to make your lives fit together is like trying to put a square block into a round hole. God created us so that only when we look to Him will we truly be satisfied.



WHERE IS JESUS NOW? IS JESUS IN HEAVEN?

GotQuestions.org

According to Mark 16:19 and 1 Peter 3:22, Jesus is in heaven right now at the right hand of God the Father. Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:9-11 describe the bodily ascension of Jesus, which occurred 40 days after His resurrection. Jesus had told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them and for all believers (John 14:2-3).

It is plain from Scripture that Jesus' ascension was a literal and bodily return to heaven. He rose up from the ground gradually and was received into a cloud while His disciples and other astonished onlookers gazed in wonder. Then two angels appeared and promised Christ's return "in just the same way that you have watched Him go" (Acts 1:11). This marked the end of the human limitations Jesus had during His earthly ministry. Some of the attributes He possessed as God had been temporarily suspended, but now the suspension was over. His heavenly glory returned—a glimpse of which was seen at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9).

King David said in the Spirit, "The LORD says to my lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'" (Psalm 110:1).

This verse literally says, "*Yahweh says to Adonai.*" This is a remarkable conversation between two Persons of the Godhead. In Matthew 22:43-45, Jesus applies this psalm to Himself, claiming that He is more than the son of David, but that He is David's Lord. Jesus' place is at the right hand of God, the place of divine honor.

Other passages that indicate Jesus' presence in heaven are Matthew 26:64; Luke 22:69; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 12:2; and Revelation 5:7. Also Stephen, just before he died, had a vision in which he "looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55).

So, biblically, Jesus is in an actual place called heaven, a place of glory where God dwells with His angels and redeemed children. In another sense, Jesus is also with us here, in this world. Jesus, being God, has all of the attributes of God, including omnipresence. So, Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit are everywhere and not just "in heaven." As Solomon said in 2 Chronicles 2:6, "The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain him."

WHAT IS A Christian?

By: Andrew Roebert

What is a Christian? Are YOU a Christian? "I was brought up in a Christian home." That doesn't make YOU a Christian. "My mother always went to church." That doesn't make YOU a Christian. "I believe in doing good and helping others." So do many who don't have any time for Christ. That doesn't make YOU a Christian. "I was baptised and confirmed." So are thousands who care little about Christ. That doesn't make YOU a Christian. "I believe in God." – So does the devil. That doesn't make YOU a Christian. So many SAY and THINK they are Christians yet rarely bother about Christ."

WELL, WHAT THEN IS A CHRISTIAN?

Let us begin at the very beginning. In the beginning when God made man, He made him good and perfect and sinless. He wanted man to be His friend who would look after the earth. Everything that God made was perfect. But, God did NOT make man a robot. He gave him a precious gift of a free will to choose between good and bad. He desires for man to love Him freely. But, man chose to disobey God; he made the wrong choice. He preferred to please himself rather than God. ∴ He SINNED.

And so sin entered into the world. It is a disease we all have, "for all have sinned". Romans 3:23 Sin is not only a matter of murder, stealing, robbery and adultery. It includes far more.

WHAT IS SIN?

I sin when I come short of the standard God has set before me (Romans 3:23). The pass mark for an exam is 50. If you get 49 marks you have failed. If someone else gets 5 marks he has failed. It is no good you saying, "I did much better than the one who got 5". You have both failed.

50 - Pass

49 - Fail

5 - Fail

You may think you're not so bad, better than most. But that's not the point, for not one of us has come anywhere near God's perfect standard – Jesus Christ. We can't even reach our own standards.

We may not have done anything specially wicked. We simply are sinners because we are just not good enough. I sin when I live for myself. I sin when I say, 'I'm my own boss, it's my own life, I can do what I like with it.' I sin when I refuse to put my trust in Jesus Christ. (John 16:9)

What sin does

Sin spoils!

Sin is like an ugly blot on a clean page. Being selfish, lazy, thoughtless, telling lies and dirty stories ruin one's character. Sin destroys the happiness of a home or a friendship.

Sin spreads!

Sin is like weeds in a garden; if not rooted out, they will soon overrun it. Little acts of dishonesty and disobedience soon become habits we cannot break.

NEW WORLD TRAN
OF THE
HOLY
SCRIPTURE

Sin separates!

Isaiah 59:1-2

Sin is like a thick cloud, which blots out the sun. As a result God seems miles away. God is pure and holy. He hates sin. He cannot and will not look at sin. Sin blocks the way to HIM. Sin cuts you off from God in this life and in the life to come. Be quite clear about this; hell is a grim and dreadful reality for ALL who reject Jesus Christ in this life.

What are you going to do about it?

You cannot remove the barrier by yourself and you cannot save yourself, and neither can helping others nor doing good remove this barrier. If sin results in us being cut off from God is there no hope for us? Has God left us in our misery? What is God's answer? God's answer is the cross of His Son, where He proved and demonstrated His love for us, "in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us". (Romans 5:8) BUT, HOW did Christ's death prove God's love to us? How did it remove the barrier of sin between God and us?

God's character is like a coin with two sides: JUSTICE and LOVE. His justice rightly condemns man, for sin must be punished. His love makes Him long for man to become His friend again.

On the cross His justice and His love were perfectly satisfied. Sin had to be punished, so God in His love sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place, bearing the death penalty for our sins.

By dying for us, He removed the barrier of sin that separated us from God opening the way for us. "There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin. He only could unlock the gate of heaven and let us in."

YOUR PART

Step 1: Something to CONFESS. 1 John 1:9

You need to confess that you have sinned in the sight of God. Be deeply sorry about your sins. Hate it and be willing to turn from every thought, word, action and habit that you know is wrong.

Step 2: Something to CHANGE. Luke 13:3

"I tell you, Nay : but except you repent, (do a right about turn) ye shall all likewise perish." Jesus changes lives that are willing to change. Jesus said we must repent. Repentance means a complete turn-around. It is a decision to start living a new life. YOU must make this decision. HE will help you see it through. Will you take it now?

Step 3: Something to BELIEVE. 11 Corinthians 5:15

"He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again." True belief is total commitment to Jesus Christ. It means to trust completely in what He has done for you. "For HE (God the Father) hath made HIM (Jesus, the Son) TO BE SIN FOR US ... that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." (11 Corinthians 5:21) True belief is to place your entire life and eternal destiny into the hands of Jesus, who has already died on the cross, bearing all the guilt and penalty of your sin.

Step 4: Something to DO. Revelation 3:20. Taking this step will give you the power to keep on living a changed life.

Ask Jesus Christ into your life to be your Lord to control you, your Saviour to cleanse you, your Friend to guide and be with you. So many miss this last step and never come to know Jesus Christ. No verse in the Bible makes this last step clearer than Revelation 3:20. Jesus is speaking, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I WILL COME INTO HIM." Jesus waits outside the door of your life. He will not force his way in. He wants to be invited in. The handle is on the inside; only you can open the door. You become a true Christian when you open the door of your life to Jesus Christ.

CONSIDER Matthew 10:38

Jesus never promised it would be easy to follow Him. Except opposition, sneers and misunderstanding – for every part of your life, your friendship, work, family, time, money, all must come under His control. IF you want to make a decision right now, look for a quiet place, get down on your knees and earnestly pray this prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know I have sinned in my thoughts, words and actions. There are so many good things I have not done. There are so many sinful things I have done. I am sorry for my sins and turn from everything I know to be wrong. I know You gave Your life upon the cross for me Gratefully I give my life back to You. Now I ask you to come into my life. Come in as my Saviour to cleanse me, Come in as my Lord to control me Come in as my Friend to be with me, And by Your grace, I will serve You all the remaining years of my life in complete obedience.
Amen

Timeless Christian Resources

RoebertMinistries.co.za



**ON AIR
IMPACT**

103FM

**CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY
RADIO STATION**

**LISTEN LIVE
IMPACTRADIO.CO.ZA**

ADDICTION?

ELIEZER MINISTRIES CAN HELP

Contact us for ministry in discipleship, Christian healing and deliverance from addiction

EliezerMinistries.com | healing@eliezerministries.com

062 HEALING (4325464) | Pretoria, South Africa

Trevor & Violet

MIDWEEK SPECIAL

**Santorini in
Ballito**

FRONT ROW, GROUND FLOOR

SLEEPS 6, 2 BATHROOMS

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY

@R950 PER NIGHT

GET THURSDAY NIGHT FREE!

AKROTIRI19.WORDPRESS.COM

AKROTIRI19@GMAIL.COM

Igoda Mouth Resort

**AFFORDABLE SELF-CATERING FAMILY
HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION IN EAST LONDON**

IgodaMouthResort.co.za

+27 43 736 7017

FREE DAILY BIBLE VERSE

AliveToGod.com