



How Do We Get Closer to God?

By Bill Subritzky

The Bible says in Isaiah 7:14 that the name of Jesus shall be Immanuel "God with us."

For God to be with us we must draw near to God by being born-again of the Spirit of God. This is a radical experience which only happens when we confess our sins and invite Jesus Christ into our lives to be our Lord and Saviour. As we do this from our heart our name is confessed in heaven.

When we turn from all sin and confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us. "Christ in us the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27.)

Confessing sin

Sin is defined in the Bible as follows

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither those who practice sex outside of marriage, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

Cursing other people

Using bad language

Dirty jokes

Indecency e.g. pornography

Witchcraft e.g.

Fortune telling: Horoscopes

Ouija boards

Drugs (wrong kind)
Charms
New Age e.g. worship of the creation
Spiritism – séances
Martial Arts
Hypnotism

Practicing...
Hatred
Contentions e.g. quarrelsome, causing fights
Jealousies
Outburst of wrath
Selfish ambitions
Heresies
Envy
Murders e.g. deliberate unnecessary abortion
Revelries (wild parties)
Cowardly (about following Christ)
Unbelievers
Liars

If we have been involved in any of these sins we should confess and renounce them in Jesus name.

Walking with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is our Helper and the Comforter. (John 14:16-17.)

As He hears from God He will speak to us. (John 16:13). He also gives us gifts such as the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gift of healing, working of miracles, gifts of prophecy, discerning of spirits, the gift of tongues and the gift of interpretation of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12:8-11.)

If we are prepared to receive it, He will give us power. After Jesus rose from the dead he was seen by His disciples for 40 days. He then told them to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high. He ascended into heaven.

Ten days later the power of the Holy Spirit fell upon them like tongues of fire and they spoke in other languages as the Holy Spirit helped them.

The apostle Peter who had denied Jesus Christ before His crucifixion was now

filled with power and fearlessly proclaimed with the other disciples the Kingdom of God and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Within a few days 5000 people had committed their lives to Jesus Christ and the Christian Church came into existence.

The Holy Spirit power which the disciples had received was the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

This power is available to you and me today. We can know the presence of the Holy Spirit with us all the time and hear His voice.

When Jesus walked this earth He said,
"I have set the Lord always before me;
Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices." (Psalm 16:8-9)

Jesus said we could do exactly the same things as Himself and even greater works because he was going to His Father in heaven. (John 14:12).

Radical change

Forty years ago after attending church for years without being born again, in a public meeting my wife Pat I together with our four children repented from sin and submitted our lives to Jesus Christ. The same night we received the gift of tongues.

A radical change occurred in our lifestyle. This was because we made a decision to turn 180° from darkness of sin to light and from the power of Satan to the power of God.

Pat and I felt an immediate urge to tell others about our experience because Jesus Christ had become alive in our lives.

We commenced a weekly prayer meeting in our home. At first a few people came and then the numbers grew quickly so that over the next eight years thousands of people were also born-again and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

The reality of the born-again experience has never left us. We have always known the presence of God in our lives. We have received untold answers to prayer.

As we have submitted to Him daily, reading His Word, praying daily, seeking to obey Him and praying for others we know that He is walking with us. Many times we hear His gentle voice directing us. You can too!

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