

A scenic view of a beach with waves, a white cross, and birds in the sky. The cross is on the left side of the image. The text "Senior Bible Study Ministry" is centered in the upper half of the image.

Senior Bible Study Ministry

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>



Stairway to Heaven

Matthew 14 (NIV)

34 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him 36 and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.



Korazin

Bethsaida

Capernaum

Gamla

Gennesaret

("Paradise")

SEA OF GALILEE

Magdala

Tiberias

Hippius

Seeking Jesus



Seeking Jesus

- Seeking Jesus involves a heartfelt longing to experience His presence & to commune with Him in prayer, worship, & fellowship
- Before seeking Jesus, an unbelievers must realize that
 - They have a need for Him
 - Jesus is available & reachable
- As believers we are called to introduce Jesus to non-believers
- Unbelievers must be open to meeting the real Jesus


Seeking Jesus

- Seeking Jesus involves acknowledging the need for forgiveness & redemption, repenting of sins & turning to Him for cleansing & renewal
- Unbelievers must come to realize that they are doomed eternally

27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, (Hebrews 9:27 NIV)

Seeking Jesus

- Seeking Jesus requires surrendering our own desires & plans to His will, trusting in His wisdom & guidance to direct our paths
- It is characterized by a sincere desire to
 - Know Him
 - Walk in His ways
 - Experience the fullness of life that comes from being in relationship with Him



Hearing the Voice of Jesus

The voice of trust.

Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- To "hear" Jesus is not merely an act of physical hearing but a spiritual engagement with the living Word of God that leads to salvation & transformation
- It involves understanding, receiving & responding to the truth of God's Word with faith & obedience
- It involves accepting His truth with faith & trust in God's promises

Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- Hearing Jesus requires a response of obedience & surrender to God's will
- This includes repentance from sin (Acts 2:38), confessing Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9) & following Him in discipleship (Matthew 16:24)
- True hearing of the Jesus results in a transformed life characterized by spiritual fruitfulness & obedience to God's Word (Matthew 7:24-25)

Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- This includes living a life of love, righteousness & service to others, reflecting the character of Christ (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Hearing Jesus is an ongoing process of spiritual growth & maturity



Ask Jesus

Ask Jesus

- Asking Jesus for spiritual healing involves
 - Acknowledging our need for His intervention in our lives
 - Seeking His forgiveness
 - Inviting Him to bring wholeness & restoration to our souls
- We begin by recognizing our spiritual neediness and brokenness

Ask Jesus

- We acknowledge our spiritual blindness & our inability to save ourselves (Romans 3:23)
- We humbly confess our sins to Jesus, acknowledging our wrongdoing & asking for His forgiveness
- The Bible assures us that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)

Ask Jesus

- True spiritual healing involves turning away from sin & turning towards God
- Jesus Himself proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17)
- Repentance is a change of heart & mind that leads to transformation & renewal (Acts 3:19)

Ask Jesus

- Asking Jesus for spiritual healing requires faith in His power to save & transform us
- Jesus often commended individuals for their faith, such as the woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:22) & the Roman centurion (Matthew 8:10)
- We called to persistently & fervently pray to Jesus, seeking His intervention & trusting in His timing

Ask Jesus

- Jesus taught His disciples to "ask, seek, and knock" in prayer, with the assurance that the Father will give good gifts to those who ask Him (Matthew 7:7-11)
- We surrender our lives to Jesus, entrusting ourselves completely to His care & control
- Jesus invites us to come to Him, saying, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28)

Ask Jesus

- Surrendering to Jesus brings true peace & rest for our souls.



Receive
Jesus

Receiving Jesus

- Confession of sins is an essential step in receiving spiritual healing
- We humbly acknowledge our wrongdoing & ask for God's forgiveness
- Receiving Jesus for spiritual healing involves placing our trust & faith in Him as the Son of God who died for our sins & rose again, securing our salvation

Receiving Jesus

Acts 3:19 - "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

- True repentance involves a turning away from sin & a turning toward God
- It is a change of heart & mind that leads to spiritual renewal & transformation

Receiving Jesus

- Salvation & spiritual healing are gifts of God's grace, freely offered to all who believe
- We cannot earn or merit them through our own efforts
- Receiving Jesus for spiritual healing involves
 - Making a personal commitment to Him as Lord & Savior
 - Surrendering our lives to His authority
 - Following Him obediently

Receiving Jesus

- True healing & transformation occur as we walk in faith & obedience to God's Word, allowing His Spirit to work in and through us

**THE FREE GIFT
OF ETERNAL LIFE**

The Free Gift of Eternal Life

- The free gift of eternal life in accepting Jesus as Lord & Savior is a profound expression of God's love & grace toward humanity
- It includes
 - New spiritual birth
 - Adoption into God's family
 - Assurance of salvation
 - Promise of everlasting fellowship with God

The Free Gift of Eternal Life

- Eternal life is the gift of God's grace, available to all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior (Romans 6:23)
- It is a quality of life that begins in relationship with God here & now, extending into eternity
- It is characterized by intimacy with God, righteousness, peace & joy in the Holy Spirit (John 17:3)

The Free Gift of Eternal Life

- The offer of eternal life is a demonstration of God's immense love & grace toward humanity, despite our sinfulness & unworthiness (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- God desires for all people to come to repentance & receive the gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:9)
- Eternal life is obtained not by our own merit or good works, but by placing our faith and trust in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross (John 5:24)

The Free Gift of Eternal Life

- Believers are born again into God's family through faith in Jesus Christ, becoming children of God & heirs of eternal life (John 1:12-13)
- The Holy Spirit, received upon faith in Christ, seals believers for the day of redemption, guaranteeing their inheritance of eternal life (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- Those who have received the gift of eternal life can have assurance of their salvation and confidence in God's faithfulness to keep His promises (John 10:28-29)

The Free Gift of Eternal Life

- Nothing can separate believers from the love of God in Christ Jesus, ensuring their eternal security & future inheritance in the kingdom of God (Romans 8:1)

Main Idea

Just as Jesus healed those who sought Him out, when we surrender our life to His Lordship, He will forgive our sins & give us the gift of eternal life.

Question

Are you on the stairway to heaven?



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