

# Claiming a personal God and a personal Gospel.

The Apostle Paul personalize his relationship with God and the gospel, by saying?

My God: Romans 1:8, 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 1:4 & 14:8, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 12:21, Philippians 1:3 & 4:19, Philemon 1:4. and he also said: according to my gospel, Romans 2:16 & 16:25, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:8.

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There are 137 scripture references that contain the phrase, "my God", the apostle Paul was not unique in personalizing his relationship with his God. The list of names are:

In the Old Testament: Jacob, Moses, Balk, all the Israelites 'during the 40 years in the wilderness', Joshua, Ruth, David, Solomon, Elijah, Miciah 'the prophet', Ezra, Nehemiah, sons of Korah, Asaph, Ethan, Ahaz, Agur, Isaiah, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Jonah, Micah, Habakkuk and Zechariah)

In the New Testament: Jesus, Thomas a disciple and the Apostle Paul claimed a personal God.

It is not enough to know about God, by just reading His word and intellectually learning about His ways. We also need to know God personally, For God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth, [John 4:24](#).

## **Personalize our gospel, brings further confidence and power.**

God's Word must become our personal belief system and lifestyle! An academic belief in His Word is not enough, we may start out that way, but we must accept His Word as true and make it our driving force. Having a personal relationship with God the Father and Christ Jesus His Son is not an option. However, just as earthly relationships are all different, some may be more intimate than others. Likewise, the closeness of the relationship that we have with God and His Son is up to us. We can see this principle in scripture when the Apostle Paul prayed for the church at Phillipa, he uses the phrase, "my God"; But, my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, [Philippians 4:19](#). Paul was using his relationship with God, his belief and His faith as a baseline of what God could and would provide. And having established that foundation, he was then able to confidently speak supply over the church and its believers, knowing that God would meet their needs.

## **The importance of having a personal relationship.**

Everything is centered around relationships, whether it is earthly relationships or our relationship with God and His Son. We can clearly see this in the account of the seven sons of Sceva in [Acts 19:13-16](#). For the seven sons were driving out demons by the name of the "Jesus that Paul preaches". And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you? Then the man having the evil spirit overcame them and they fled out of that house naked and wounded, [Acts 19:16](#).

## **Our relationship is our choice, God is willing, but are we?.**

We have the Holy Spirit (God's Spirit), living within us. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" ,1<sup>st</sup> [Corinthians 6:19](#). God has given us the opportunity to have a personal relationship with His Holy Spirit, (a relationship that we could never have commanded or archived of ourselves). But it is up to us if we are going to acknowledge and nurture this relationship. For just as in an earthy relationship we must have an ongoing desire to continue and share in that relationship, it is entirely up to us! The Father has done His part and He is willing, He desires to have a relationship with us more than we do with Him. God is waiting on us to say yes to Him. For He knows that once we invite Him into our life, we will be able to move in the power of the Holy Spirit rather than just stand in our own might.

## Why does every believer need this relationship, the short answer is, to be empowered.

Scripture tells us that, "we wrestle against powers and principals and against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places," [Ephesians 6:12](#). We also know that, "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;," [1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:4](#). What comes against us in this life is spiritual rather than physical, therefore, in order to stand for Christ and do work for His kingdom, we will need to stand in His strength and use His weapons, rather than standing in our own strength. Thus, we will need to have a personal relationship with our God. For you generally do not lend your tools, (or in this case 'weapons') out to strangers.

## Without relationship, how can we call upon the Lord.

Do you have a close relationship with God, or is it just a casual relationship, perhaps you have no relationship with the Lord? The degree of your relationship will tell you, how comfortable you are calling on God? Just as in an earthy relationship, in our time of need, we call on our close friends. We do not generally call on strangers or mere acquaintances. I believe God wants us also to feel comfortable to call upon Him to meet our needs, for He knows that in this world we do have needs, [Matthew 6:32](#), and He wants to meet them. However, if we see no need to call on the Lord, He will most-likely pass by us. In the scriptures below, it gives us examples of how Jesus (God), was intending to pass by.

And He saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night He came unto them, walking upon the sea, *and would have passed by them*, [Mark 6:48](#).

And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: *and He made as though He would have gone further*, [Luke 24:28](#).


In both scriptures Jesus would have passed by if He was not called upon, and in both cases the disciples did call upon Him and He not only came to them, but a miracle also followed as only He could do. Hence we all need a personal relationship with God, for how can we call on someone to meet our personal needs, (direction or healing) if we do not have a personal relationship with that person?

## Only when we believe and are 100% convinced, will we reap the benefits of God's Word.

Only when His powerful Word becomes our core philosophy and we expect His Word to produce for us, will we then start seeing the Word work. In the verse below, Jesus was praying not only for His 12 disciples but also for all believers that would believe on Him through their word, [*in Him*], or we could say through their belief system. "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word," [John 17:20](#). God's Word always works, the Word will not return void, [Isaiah 55:11](#). However it is according to what you believe, If you are believing for nothing or just for good encouragement, you will receive according to what you are believing for.

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD BUT IN POWER**


1st Corinthians 4:20



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Mark 16:20