

## **Hope in These Uncertain Times**

The key to finding hope, peace, and a sense of purpose in these uncertain times is a relationship with God. Despite what you might have heard before, this is the main focus of Christianity. There is so much more to a relationship with God than lists of do's and don'ts, or rights and wrongs. Over the next few minutes, let me walk you through the true meaning of Christianity, and explain how you can establish your own relationship with God, and find the hope, peace, and sense of purpose that He had provided me and millions of other Christians throughout history.

As Christians, we believe that the God of the Bible created everything (Genesis 1:1), including mankind (Gen 1:27). God had a relationship with the first man, meaning that they walked and talked together (Gen 3:8-10). That first man broke that relationship by disobeying God's rules (Gen 3:1-19), resulting in a separation from God (Gen 3:22-24). Because God is perfect and completely good (1 John 1:5), He cannot be in a relationship with someone who is not.

Mankind's continued disobedience (of which we are all guilty, Romans 3:23) has saddled us with a debt that we can only pay by our separation from Him (Rom 6:23). However, God is merciful and truly wants to have a relationship with each of us. So, He allowed His Son, Jesus, to pay that debt for us (Rom 3:22-26).

To do this, Jesus became human, and lived His earthly life in perfect obedience to God (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus allowed Himself to be killed, and this sacrifice of a perfect and completely good (not to mention innocent) man paid mankind's debt to God. Now, we are free to have the relationship with God that He had intended all along.

As with any gift that is offered, there is the act of giving and the act of receiving. God is offering the gift of His Son Jesus and the relationship with Him that Jesus made possible. All we need to do is accept the gift! This consists of two parts: acknowledging what Jesus has done for us, and entrusting our lives to Him (Romans 5:1-2). This is done with a simple prayer, or conversation with God. If you want to accept God's gift, then pray this prayer with me, or (even better) put it into your own words:

"God in heaven, I acknowledge You as the Creator of everything. I want to have a relationship with You, even though I disobey Your rules and am not worthy. I am thankful for the sacrifice Your Son Jesus was on my behalf, and I accept Your gift of a relationship. I give my life over to You, so that I can live the way You've always intended for me to live. I thank You in advance for the hope, peace, and sense of purpose that will come from knowing You. Amen."

This short prayer is your ticket into a relationship with the Creator of the universe! Your next step is to get a Bible, and start reading it. Please contact me (my e-mail address and a link to my Facebook account are at the end of this video), and I'll

gladly send you a Bible and some reading materials to get you started. In the meantime, there is a .pdf file on [www.thefirewall.org](http://www.thefirewall.org) that has a transcript of this video, and printouts of the verses from the Bible that fill in the story.

Even if you already have a Bible, please contact me and let me know about your decision to follow God. Or, if you're not sure about what I'm saying here, I'd love to talk with you and try and answer as many questions for you as I can. Also, on [www.thefirewall.org](http://www.thefirewall.org), we have links to some other sites that have more information than what this short video can provide.

The next step is to find a church or some type of Bible study group that you can get involved in. If you live in Maryland, particularly in the Baltimore area, I run a modern worship service on Sunday nights called The Firewall. Our message is Biblical, our music is loud, and our coffee is free! More information about The Firewall can be found on our website ([www.thefirewall.org](http://www.thefirewall.org)). If you're not close enough to come to The Firewall, then a quick web search should turn up dozens of churches in your area.

Once you begin your relationship with God, you'll have access to the hope, peace, and sense of purpose that I was talking about earlier (Hebrews 6:19-20, Philippians 4:7)! Congratulations on making the best decision that you'll ever make, and if you're not ready to make that decision today, I have confidence that you will in the proper time.

**If you need more information, or have any questions, please contact Jason Chaillou at [thefirewall@comcast.net](mailto:thefirewall@comcast.net), or [www.facebook.com/aboutajay](http://www.facebook.com/aboutajay).**