

Roadmap

Long Run on a Hamster Wheel

Hey, are you like Max? Trying to find your own private Woodstock? Maybe you think somewhere over the rainbow is a place where clouds never hassle sunny skies. So, are you there yet? Probably not even close, huh? *Well, if life feels like a long run on a hamster wheel, maybe you're ready for a change. Inside where it counts.*

Okay, here's a chance to start over, a square one opportunity. First considered the claims of Jesus. You thought about it and figured out it's the right thing. You see him as a pretty cool guy—somebody you'd like to meet and hang out with, even try to emulate. Good on you, bro, girlfriend, right on. You're set to go, and wondering “what next?”

How do you tap into that impression and crossover to the spiritual side? Take a running start, break through? *Nada.* You're not the transcendent one here. God is. *The funny feeling you have inside right*

now? That's a portal into your spirit. You're open and ready. God's pulling on your heart strings. The "how do" is guided by a power bigger than you.

Peel Back the Onion

Jesus is standing by to make it happen. The only clearly charted path is God given. People who knew Jesus wrote key details to apply his promises in a personal way. Check out the roadmap. *"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."* John 1:12 NIV.

It's not like you get "beamed up." No special effects are in play. It's a new reality. God breathes his Spirit into your heart and Jesus moves in, takes up residence. The crossover, if you're ready—the proverbial step of faith—makes it happen. *"... no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again."* John 3:3, NIV.

Time to get real with God. He knows you inside out

anyway. *Sweep your bravado self out of the way and look under the layers.* Peel back the onion. Uh-oh, look at that selfish core, the dark spot. Ugly, huh? “... *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace...*” Romans 3:23-24a, NIV. Yep, that’s thin ice you’re standing on, bro.

But God’s got you covered. He promised, “*If we confess our sins he is faithful and just and will forgive us...*” 1 John 1:9, NIV. *Jesus died to cancel out the charges, to break the cause and effect, to forgive the bad karma.* He made a way, spiritually speaking, to move from death to life.

See, God’s not checking numbers. You don’t earn this new start. It’s free. All the spirit-energy you need, the faith, the grace; it’s free too. “*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourself, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*” Ephesians 2:8-10, NIV.

Stained-Glass Secrets

Faith is not an elusive secret hidden in the

stained-glass windows of medieval cathedrals, so don't go all Da Vinci Code and stuff. Everyone has a measure of faith. It's right on your tongue. Do it, dude. Go ahead, girlfriend. Talk to God. *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13, NIV.

In your own words, talk to Jesus, invite him in. He said he would come in to anyone who laid it down for him. *"Here I am. I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..."* Revelation 3:20, NIV.

If you're stuck on the words, *use this sample prayer. Check your heart. Did reading these Bible verses speak to you, make the message seem real? Okay, go.* "God, thank you for loving me. I believe in you. I believe Jesus is the Son of God, and that He died for me and rose to life again. I've blown it big time. I can't hide that from you. All the pain I caused others, every bad thing I've done; please forgive it all. I'm tired of struggling to tie all the loose ends together. I open my heart. *Jesus, come in. Be my Lord. Fill*

me with the Holy Spirit. Lead me through the rocky places. Help me be true to you forever.”

Bad Monkey Jumping

Take a few minutes to process what happened. ***Did you get a witness? Feel God's love? Maybe some big, bad monkey jumped off your back.*** Cool. That's way cool if it happened. It feels different to everyone, so don't get hung up on a feeling. It's not the depth of emotion that puts you in a relationship with God. It's his promise that he dwells in you based on your invitation. ***If you prayed, click the red "Did ya?" star below the Roadmap Spacer.*** It's a simple tally. No data base, mailing list, or info collected. ***Don't let the moment slip away. Do it Now!***

Okay, you feel connected and want to know how to navigate the spiritual waters. Stormy seas are common to life. A good resource of follow-up information in more detail is provided here on **thegospeldude.com** website. Check out **“Hipster Crosswalk”** next.

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