

Discovering a Life-Changing Relationship with God

Pastor Jen Yarbrough | January 4, 2026

"And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." **Ephesians 3:18-19 NLT**

Message Thread: You can have a deeply meaningful and life-changing relationship with God.

The Elephant in the Room: God is a Spirit and usually invisible in the physical realm.

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." **Romans 8:16 NIV**

How do I have a deeply meaningful and life-changing relationship with God, one that surpasses all others? "In spirit and in truth".

"For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." **John 4:24 NLT**

"In spirit": We are both physical (body) and spiritual beings (spirit and soul) and therefore experience a Spirit-to-spirit connection with God.

"Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again." **1 Thessalonians 5:23 NLT**
"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?"

1 Corinthians 6:19a NLT

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth." **John 14:16-17a NLT**

"Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives." **Galatians 5:25 NLT**

- **How do we connect with God "in spirit"?**

- Read His Word
- Talk to Him (prayer)
- Listen for Him
- Enjoy His creation
- Worship Him
- Look for His engagement in your life

"In truth": being properly informed; having knowledge of.

- **The physical world God created gives us knowledge about Him.**

"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God."

Romans 1:20 NLT

- **The Bible is the best source to gain knowledge and understanding about God.**

"Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth." **John 17:17 NLT**

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT

- **It includes the accounts of Jesus' life on earth.**

"Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus replied, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?' **John 14:8-9 NLT**

- **We also experience the Spirit-to-spirit connection through spending time in His Word.**

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." **Hebrews 4:12 NLT**

Directions for the YouVersion Bible app:

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- Create an account for yourself.
- Search for any of the following leaders in our church. Roger Chance, Jason Baker, Joe Pryor or Michelle Pryor.
- Add one of them as a friend.
- They will send you the invite to join the Bible reading plan.

Challenges:

- 1) Have you embraced both "spirit" and "truth" in connecting with God? If not, which do you need more of to make it balanced?
- 2) What can you implement to connect more with God "in spirit"?
- 3) What can you implement to connect more with God "in truth"?