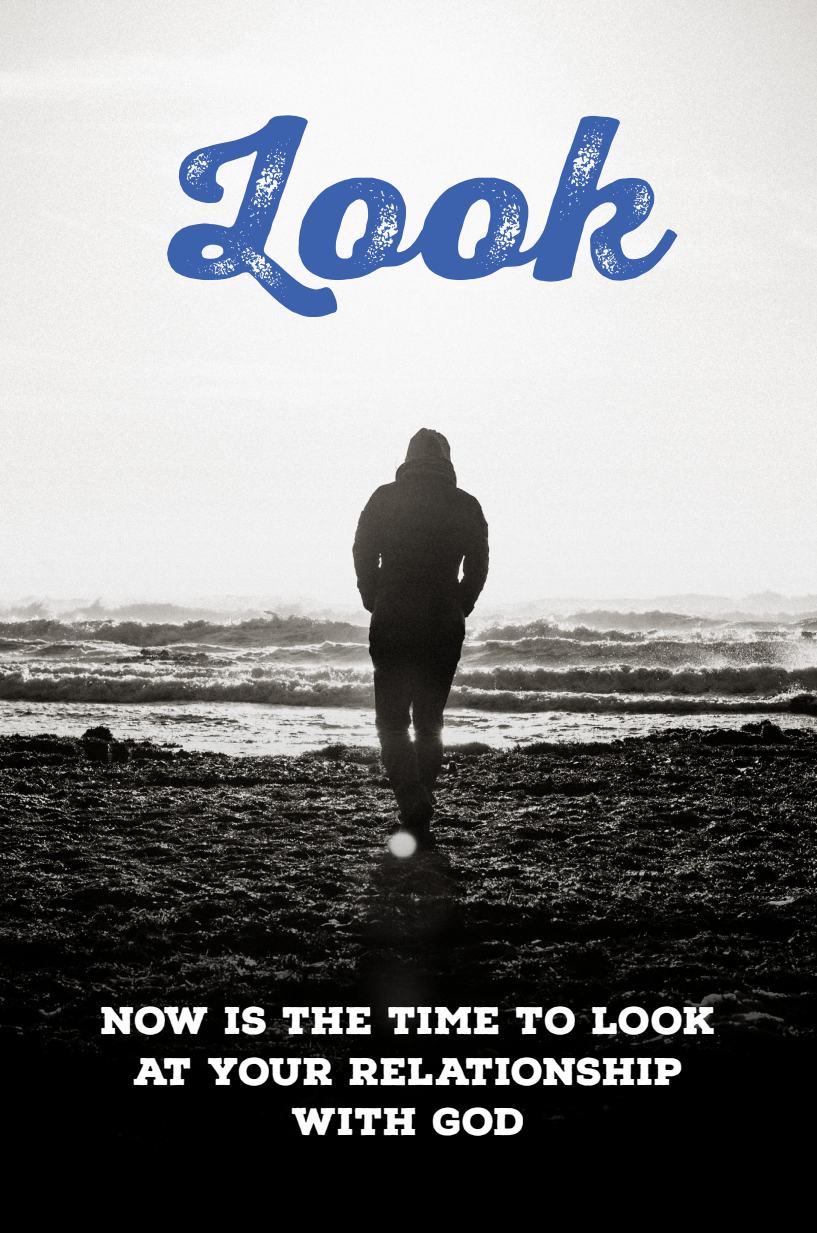


# Look

A person wearing a dark hoodie and pants is walking away from the camera on a dark, pebbly beach. The ocean is in the background with waves breaking. The sky is bright and hazy. The word "Look" is written in a large, blue, cursive font at the top of the image.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO LOOK  
AT YOUR RELATIONSHIP  
WITH GOD**

# #4

## *Look at what you should do*

Gifts are not really gifts unless they are freely received. That is why God does not force his gift on any of us. Though Christ's death on the cross made it possible for you to live in close relationship with God, which is what you were created for, that doesn't mean that this relationship is automatically yours.

Lets look back at a passage we saw earlier in the book of John:

*"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..."*

John 1:10-12

?

Why do you think the world did not recognize him?

Why did you think so many did not receive him?

What did someone need to do to become a child of God?

What exactly does it mean to "believe" and "receive"?

Becoming a child of God is something that happens in the unseen, spiritual world. Remember what Jesus said in his conversation with Nicodemus?

*“Flesh gives birth to flesh, spirit gives birth to spirit.”*

John 3:6

We also know that becoming a child of God has nothing to do with religion or good works. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul says:

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

Ephesians 2:8-9

# THERE ARE THREE KEY THINGS YOU NEED TO DO IN ORDER TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD.

You can remember them by the acrostic “C, B, A”

## 1. Confess - agree with God that you are a sinner

*“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

1. John 1:8-9

?

Have you ever known someone who claimed to be “without sin” when they were really behaving horribly? What is that person like to relate to? What will happen if you try to help them?

Do you think it is easy to “deceive ourselves” about our sin? Why or why not?

Why do you think confession is a condition for receiving forgiveness?

Does this mean that you have to remember everything you have done wrong?

## 2. Believe - accept in faith that Jesus is the son of God and died for your sins

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*

John 3:16-18

?

Why is belief so important to receiving eternal life?

What is the difference between just knowing about Jesus and believing in him?

What was God's purpose in sending his son into the world?

What will happen to those who don't believe?

### *3. Accept - personally receive Christ's gift of forgiveness and payment for your sins. Receive him as your Lord and Savior*

*"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."*

John 1:12-13

?

What happens when a gift is not accepted?

Why do you think God doesn't just make us his children without waiting for us to accept?

What does it mean when it says, "nor of human decisions or a husband's will, but born of God"?



These three things, **CONFESS, BELIEVE, ACCEPT**, can be done at any time, in just a few minutes, alone or with another person. Putting your faith in Christ is not complicated, but this simple step of faith makes the difference in where you spend eternity. Generally people do these three things out loud in prayer, which is just talking to God. You probably want to put it in your own words, but it can be as simple as the prayer given below:

*„God*

*I know I am a sinner. I believe you sent your son, Jesus Christ, to die for my sins. I accept him as my Lord and Savior, and in faith I receive the gift of his payment for my sins. Thank you for forgiving me and making me your son/ daughter. Amen”*

?

Is there anything holding you back from putting your faith in Christ?

Would you like to do it right now?

Here is just a partial list of the things that happen the moment you place your faith in Jesus:

Your sins are  
**FORGIVEN**

You become a  
**CHILD  
OF GOD**

You have  
**ETERNAL  
LIFE**

You are given  
the gift of the  
**HOLY SPIRIT,**  
to lead and guide you

You become  
a part of **GOD'S  
FAMILY,**  
with brothers and  
sisters all over  
the world

Your name is recorded in the  
**"BOOK OF LIFE"**



# *A deeper Look*

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## **MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE**

While it seems quite simple to believe, it is actually impossible without God's intervention and help. Because of the impact of sin, we are blind and dead spiritually. This means that our spirits don't naturally perceive God, or respond to his truth.

God has to do several miracles to make it possible for you to believe. First of all, his Holy Spirit has to begin to bring light to your conscience, help you realize that you are sinful and separated from him. You may experience this as a sudden wave of guilt, or a sense that you are alienated from God.

Then God has to begin to open your eyes to the truth. Without that supernatural work, all the Bible passages we have studied now will be impossible for you to understand, and will appear "foolish" or "stupid" to you.

The Bible says that no one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him. This means that if you are seeking God, it is only because he started seeking you first, and drawing you to himself. If you are at all interested in knowing him, it is because he is calling you. Stop and pay attention to his voice. Don't harden your heart and reject what he is doing to reveal himself to you.

# Look

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