

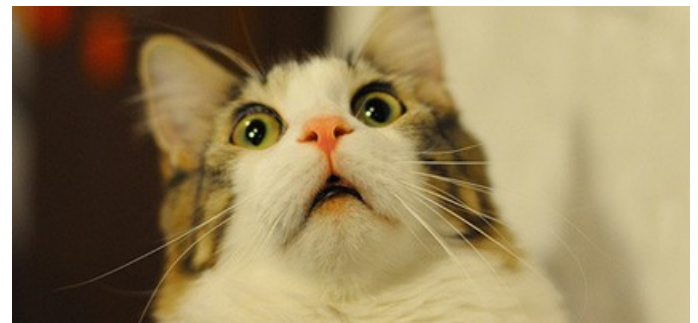
# DEVELOPING A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD





# 1) The Slave

- Driven by **fear**
- Driven by 'not wanting to upset God'
- Believe bad things happen because God is punishing you for doing/not doing something



# **GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL, UNDESERVING LOVE**

**“God loves us more than a father, mother, friend, or any else could love, and even more than we are able to love ourselves.”**

*-John Chrysostom*

Since love itself is God. Love is His nature, based on Him- not on us or our behaviour.

**Nothing we can do can make Him love us more or less.**



# GOD'S GRACE

- “To Him who **loved** us and **washed** us from our sins in His own blood” Revelation 1:5
- Not to Him who washed us and loved us, but to Him who loved and loves us in our filth and whose love transforms us to be as white as snow
- **“The Christian does not think that God will love us because we are good but God will make us good because He loves us”**

-CS Lewis

- We don't sin in response to that great love

## 2) The Hired Worker

Going to God to **get stuff**

God is like the lucky charm/the waiter

Prays just to 'please God,' as if He needs our prayers.

Pray expecting something

Make deals or bargains with God "If you give me this \_\_\_\_ I promise I will pray more/stop doing this sin"



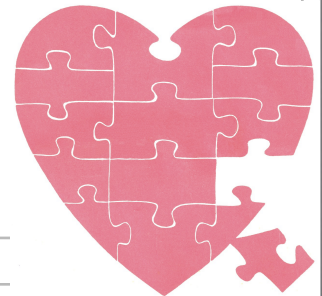
# GOD'S LOVE COMPLETES US

**“You have made us for Yourself and our hearts are restless till they rest in You”**

*-St Augustine*

The sole reason God created us was to know Him and this unique love.

Until we know God, our heart will chase other things that won't fulfill us.



# GOD'S LOVE COMPLETES US

**“God cannot give us happiness or peace apart from Himself, it does not exist”**

- *CS Lewis*

We pray to enjoy God. We don't pray to use Him or get something out of Him- we sit with Him and experience His love and receive His joy.

# 3) God's child

God is personal- He is not a force or abstract concept.

A **living intimate relationship** with Him.



# GOD'S UNIQUE LOVE

**“God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us”**

- *Saint Augustine*

- God does not do mass relationships, His relationship with You is as unique as your thumbprint.
- God wants to manifest Himself in your life personally.
- To know this love is our purpose in life.

# Knowing about vs knowing

A relationship with God won't be real till we know Him personally







# A daily personal relationship leads to...

- 1) An increase in faith, a growing and living faith
- 2) Loving others in Him. Because we are abundantly filled with His love, we naturally overflow it to others.
- 3) Life- we aren't really living till we filled with God's life.

**“Communion with God is life. Separation from God is death”**

*-St Irenaeus*

# A daily personal relationship leads to....

4) We see the richness in the Bible/ the liturgy/ prayer – nothing becomes a chore/ an empty ritual anymore.



# TASTE AND SEE

**PSALM 34:8**  
**TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD**  
**BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TRUSTS IN HIM**

