

# *The 5 Progressive Levels in Relationship to God + Jesus Christ for New Believers who Want to Grow as a Christian*

## *A Step-by-Step Guide to Maturity*

### **BELIEVER: The First Progressive Level in Relationship with Jesus**

The Bible Believer believes these four things:

- Jesus was sent from God and is His Son (John 3:16);
- He was born of a virgin (Luke 1:27,31)
- He died on the cross as the lamb of God; thus, paying the price for sin, for without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (Hebrews 9:22);
- He was buried and rose again, “if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

“I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and **they have received them** and have known surely that I came forth from You; and **they have believed that You sent Me**” (John 17:8).

### **DISCIPLE: The Second Progressive Level in Relationship with Jesus**

The disciple encompasses three D’s: Disciple, Discipline and Decision

- **Disciple:** Webster’s dictionary’s very first definition of disciple uses the synonym of ‘follower’ to explain that this disciple is “a follower of Jesus Christ, and one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another.”
- **Discipline:** “to train or develop by instruction and exercise in self-control” (Webster’s). To be a disciplined disciple, the believer must make a:
- **Decision:** Jesus said to His disciples, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” And what did they do? They immediately left their fishing nets and followed Him. James and John were in the boat with their father, mending their nets. When Jesus called them, they immediately left the boat and their father, and followed Him (Matthew 4:22).

### **BONDSERVANT: The Third Progressive Level in Relationship with Jesus**

Jesus says that ***the servant does not know what his master is doing*** (John 15:15).

The bondservant stage is characterized by three things:

Voluntary Service: The word *servants* comes from the Greek word *doulos*, [Strong’s 1401]: from *deo*, means ‘to bind,’ The word denotes one in bondage to, or subject to another, and is usually translated, ‘slave’ or ‘servant.’ Often the service involved is voluntary, in which a person willingly offers obedience and devotion and loyalty to another, subordinating his will to him.

No longer a men-pleaser: The disciple finally comes to realize that he/she cannot follow Jesus and worry about, or live their life, concerned about what other people think, “not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart” (Ephesians 6:6).

Humble selflessness and learned obedience: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a **bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men, and being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled** Himself, and **became obedient** to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:5-8). Jesus, “though He was a Son, yet He learned **obedience by the things which He suffered**” (Hebrews 5:8).

### **FRIEND: The Fourth Progressive Level in Relationship with Jesus**

James 2:23 tells us that, “Abraham **believed** God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And he was called the **friend of God.**”

As Jesus was preparing his disciples for His departure at the end of their training period, He said to them, “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have **called you friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should **go and bear fruit**, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you. **These things I command you that you love one another**” (John 15: 15-17).

A friend of God is marked by this:

Love and Fruit: Jesus commanded that, because you are my friend, “Love One Another!” Love is the first fruit of the Spirit detailed in Galatians 5:22, “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. When we learn to love, the rest will follow; without the others, there is no love; fruit is singular as one bunch of grapes.

And because we love, we will pray for others like Abraham did.

Intercession for others with the ability to change God’s mind: Genesis 18 tells the story of Abraham’s intercession for the city of Sodom. As God was about to rain down fire and brimstone upon the evil city of sin, He said to Himself, *shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?*

“Come, let us reason together,” says the LORD . . . “If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword”; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 1:18-20).

### **SON/DAUGHTER: The Fifth Level of Progression in Relationship with Jesus**

The heavens were opened, and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him [Jesus], and suddenly a voice came from heaven saying, “**This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**” This is the highest compliment from God we could ever have!

Boaz/Jesus said to Ruth [name meaning Friend of God]: “Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! . . . And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request . . .” (Ruth 3:10-11).

“And it shall be in that day,” says the LORD, that you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ And no longer call Me ‘My Master,’ For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals [idols and false gods], And they shall be remembered by their name no more” (Hosea 2:16-17)”