

# KEEP GROWING IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

## *Note to the speaker:*

Encourage the audience to strengthen and deepen their relationship with God. Motivate them to train their conscience and grow to spiritual maturity

### **A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS POSSIBLE** (4 min.)

From creation's beginning, Jehovah laid the basis for humans to have a good relationship with him

He placed man in perfect surroundings, with the prospect of endless life (Ge 2:9, 15-18)

Humans were created with the ability to reflect God's qualities, such as love and justice [**Read Genesis 1:27**]

Despite human sin and imperfection, God still invites humans to enjoy a good relationship with him (Jas 4:8)

### **TRAIN YOUR CONSCIENCE** (10 min.)

To have a good relationship with God, we must conform our conduct to his righteous standards

God gave humans the conscience as an aid in doing what is right [**Read Romans 2:14, 15**] (*lv* 15-17 ¶3-7)

We must train our conscience so that it guides us correctly (*it-1* 501 ¶2)

When properly trained, our conscience alerts us when our actions are out of harmony with God's standards and warns us in advance of actions that could harm our relationship with God

By means of Bible laws and principles, Jehovah directs us in a way that emphasizes our need to use our conscience

The Bible explicitly identifies some things as morally wrong, giving us laws against these (1Co 6:9, 10)

Our obedience to Bible laws, especially when unobserved by humans, shows our attitude toward the Lawgiver

Most matters must be decided on the basis of Bible principles; this calls for greater use of the conscience

Principles are fundamental truths that act as moral guides (*w02* 4/15 19 ¶4-6)

Analyzing Bible principles teaches us about Jehovah's personality and thinking

Learning and applying principles takes more effort than following a list of rules

Our sensitivity to principles reveals to Jehovah what is in our heart (*w02* 4/15 19-21 ¶7-12)

### **ADVANCE TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY** (10 min.)

After baptism, make it your goal to advance to spiritual maturity [**Read Hebrews 5:14-6:1**] (*it-2* 355)

Strive to understand deeper Bible truths (*w09* 5/15 9-10 ¶5-6)

Allow God's Word to guide you completely (*w09* 5/15 10-11 ¶7-11)

Failure to do so can result in ongoing spiritual weakness (Heb 5:11-13)

Spiritually mature ones accept and apply the full range of Christian truth [**Read Ephesians 4:13, 15**]

They put away any lingering traits of their former personality (Eph 4:22-24)

They are wholly united in thought with fellow believers (*w01* 8/1 13-14 ¶6-11)

In contrast, a spiritual babe lacks stability and sound judgment (Eph 4:14)

As we grow from spiritual childhood to adulthood, we draw closer to Jehovah God

We are protected from the pitfalls of Satan's world (1Co 14:20; *w09* 5/15 12 ¶14-16)

We reflect Jehovah's image more and more as our thinking aligns more closely with his

### **CONTINUE TO GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD** (6 min.)

Reaching spiritual maturity does not end our spiritual growth

Timothy was a mature Christian, yet he was urged to make advancement (1Ti 4:15)

He could reflect God's image to a greater degree in his attitude, speech, and conduct (1Ti 4:12, 13)

Constantly add to your knowledge of God and your appreciation for his ways (Ps 25:4, 5)

Continue to make improvement in producing the fruitage of the spirit (Ga 5:22, 23)

You will gain great satisfaction as your relationship with God grows stronger

Those having a good relationship with God have the prospect of strengthening that relationship for eternity

There is no end to what we can learn about Jehovah (Ro 11:33)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]