



## Who Is Christ?

By JORGE MENDOZA ALVIR

God uses difficult situations to show who He is. When we think there are no other answers but our own, God shows His power to make us see who He is and what we are as humans.

People often ask: If there's a God, why doesn't He show Himself to us? If there is a God, why is there so much evil in this world? But one of the questions most often asked is Why, if I pray, doesn't He answer me? I used to think that if I prayed I needed an answer to know that God was with me. This misunderstanding was the actual start of my personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

### God Is My Friend

A personal relationship with Jesus is being His friend and knowing that He is your friend in good times and in bad times. Throughout the Bible we see people whose faith was put to the test, and who were often the ones that

God blessed after tribulation.

Once we humans are brought out of our comfort zone, we often seek God. This was my case. I used to think I had a good relationship with God. But when I look at what God has helped me through in life, I see that I didn't know a lot that I needed to know in order to have the best relationship with Him.

Yet Jesus stayed with me through those times and helped me to learn to love Him more and grow in Him. I used to pray for five minutes when I woke up, pray again when I was eating, and one more time before going to bed. I thought this was what it meant to have a close, personal relationship with God. But when God used tribulation to wake me up, I understood that I was really far from knowing God.

From what I have been through, I can tell you that a personal relationship with God is not only praying five

minutes three times a day. Prayer is one of the most important things to do if we want a good relationship with God. Talking to God and thanking Him for what He has done in our life; understanding that whatever He says and whatever He does is for my own good, this is what God wants me to realize that a relationship is.

I didn't understand this until I put it into practice. I started to learn more and study more of God's Word; I keep understanding more and more things that I didn't understand before. I am learning to listen to His voice, and although at first it was really hard to pray without an answer, I learned that just as human relationships need time, a relationship where we can actually hear God needs dedication and time.

Now I appreciate that God will not answer if I pray only for selfish reasons; but if I pray for others, and for His will to be done, He will answer.

Since I have understood what a personal relationship is, I have really learned to appreciate God's care for me. I have learned to let Him be first in my life, and He always provides. ■

**Jorge Menzoda Alvir** is a grade 12 student in London, Ontario, Canada.