

First Steps

1 John 4:19-21

We love because God first loved us. —1 John 4:19

First steps in life almost always seem to move toward something or someone.

In our relationship with God, the first step has already been taken. God reaches down to us in the person of His one and only son Jesus Christ.

Because of God's first steps to us in Jesus Christ, we can (are able to) come near to God.

1. God took the First Step in Creation.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. —Genesis 1:1

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image..." —Genesis 1:26

2. God took the First Step in the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. —John 1:1

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. —John 1:14a

The Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. —Rev. 13:8

3. First steps may require Goal Setting.

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? —Luke 14:28

The objective nature of salvation.

¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed...¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. —1 Peter 1:18-19

4. First steps usually involve Relationships.

We love because he first loved us...²¹And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. —1 John 4:19, 21

We must take the first steps in:

A. Evangelism

B. Relationships

C. Overcoming Societal Sins

Our most important relationship, our relationship with God.

God took the first step.

We must respond.

Memory Verse:

We love because God first loved us.
—1 John 4:19