

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD, BUT IN POWER.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:20**



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## A guide to having a relationship with God

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## Introduction, what, who me, write about what?

What, this guy who has little experience in starting or keeping an earthly relationship going, writing about having a spiritual relationship with an invisible God. I agree that I may not be the most knowledgeable about earthly relationships, but I believe that my desire and motivation to press into a spiritual relationship with God, His Son Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit will surpass any earthly experiential knowledge. So come along with me on this journey, as we both press into a greater understand and deepen our relationship with the God of the universe.

## Why isn't relationship with God taught?

There are a few reasons why relationship with God is not widely taught or widely accepted. Ranging from, traditions and the strategic planning that goes with them, not knowing that a relationship with the Most High God is available to you and personal misconceptions of God.

Concerning traditions and their strategic plannings, the last verse of the scripture in Luke, where Jesus is speaking the parable of the new ways versus old ways, shows us that people are naturally resistant to change.

<sup>36</sup> And He also spoke a parable to them: No one puts a piece of a new garment on an old garment. Otherwise, both the new will tear, and *the old* does not match *the* piece from the new. <sup>37</sup> And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskin will perish. <sup>38</sup> But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved together. <sup>39</sup> Also no one having drunk old *wine* immediately desires new, for he says, The old is better, Luke 5:36-39.

People get use to the ways they always did things, even if those ways are not working to their optimum. Change is very seldom welcomed, people would rather do it the way they had always done it, (traditions of men that make the Word of God of none-effect, Mark 7:13). Relationship was never spoken of in the traditional church that I grew up in and when our church received a new young pastor who frequently spoke the name of Jesus. This alone was a change from the usual Sunday service and after a few weeks, it caused 10% to 15% of the congregation to leave. I could just imagine if he had talked about relationship, perhaps even more would have left.

Because personal relationship is not taught or even spoken of in most of the churches, sometimes people never enter into relationship because they never even thought this was possible. They are only told in most churches, that God is high and exalted and this is of course true. However they are never told that this high and exulted God made man in His own image and likeness, Genesis 1:26 and will fill us with His Holy Spirit if we but ask, Luke 11:11-13, and He wishes to have a personal relationship with us.

The last reason is the hardest one to overcome. I remember being turned off by even the thought of having a relationship with God when it was first presented to me, because of two reasons.

- For, my view of God at the time was as an impersonal God. And now I was to consider having a relationship with Him, my response was, "I don't think so". We will never have a good

relationship with someone we don't trust and this also applies to having a relationship with God. Until we realize that God is a good God, that we can trust Him and that He has good thoughts and plans for us, Jeremiah 29:11, we will never be ready for a relationship with Him. Believing that God is a harsh judge and an uncompassionate God, will keep you from receiving His abundant blessings and at the same time will keep you from entering into His peace and rest. You can read more about this in my [healing journey](#), under "Knowing God is a good God".

- Years later, after I got over my grievance with God. My second thought was, how could me, a mere human, obtain a relationship with Almighty God?, it seemed too high and unattainable and I did not see myself as worthy. This stems from a misunderstanding of who we are in Christ. We have been made in His image and likeness, Genesis 1:26,27. All believers, if they ask, have been given His Holy Spirit, Luke 11:11-13. And Jesus has brought us into right-standing with the Father, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:18. If the Father has done this for us, who are we to look at our physical lack and place our opinion over God's opinion and refuse what God has given us?

Action to be taken:

- Be open to having a personal relationship with the God of the universe and His Son Jesus Christ.

## The importance of relationship with God.

<sup>51</sup> I am the Living Bread which came down from Heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he shall live forever. And truly the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. <sup>52</sup> Then the Jews argued with one another, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat? <sup>53</sup> Then Jesus says to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves. <sup>54</sup> Whoever partakes of My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>55</sup> For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. <sup>56</sup> He who partakes of My flesh and drinks My blood dwells in Me, and I in him, John 6:51-56.

The above block of scriptures is a pretty good argument for entering into a relationship with God. For Jesus, (God in the flesh), said; if you do not eat of My flesh and drink of My blood you have no life in you. Jesus also said; "I am the Vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing", John 15:5. And in the next two verses He said; <sup>6</sup>"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered. And they gather and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done to you", John 15:6-7. From these scriptures it is evident that God is calling to us, expecting us to come, telling us that it is the only way, that we need to enter into relationship with Him, for outside of relationship with Him, we can do nothing. God has given us a free will, we can either accept Him or reject Him and likewise we will only enter into a relationship with Him to the degree that we desire.

Jesus talks about abiding in Him and without Him you can do nothing. You may get to heaven by claiming Romans 10:9, "confessing Jesus Christ and believing that God raised Him from the dead". But without a relationship, without abiding in the vine, it is pretty evident that you will be a completely ineffective and struggling christian. We need to stop thinking of how little we must do to get by and realize that we have been given a great privilege and start viewing abiding in Him as an opportunity and not as an obligation or a duty. We may not be able to yet describe all the wonders that awaits us in heaven, but only two options are available to us. Either we choose to

hold on to this cold, corrupt, impersonal and temporal world or we choose to abide in Christ and we claim the many promises in His Word.

Abiding in Him will give us everlasting life, which is not just living forever, but is knowing Him, John 6:40 and in this here physical world, experiencing life and life more abundantly, John 10:10. When we abide in Him, in this present life, we will have love, peace and joy, the fruit of His Holy Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23.

If you do not see the importance of having a relationship with God and His Son Jesus Christ, do not condemn yourself. It simply means that you are currently being completely controlled by your carnal mind, (of the five senses). You will need to turn off some of the stimuli that you are receiving from the world and focus on the things of God. The best way I found to do this is through praise and worship.

Action to be taken:

The importance of relationship with God.

- If you do not see the need for having a relationship with God, form a habit of praise and worship. You can further read about this in my [healing journey](#), under "Praise and worship, a powerful tool".

Know that there is no such thing as an instant relationship.

There may be instant coffee that requires no brewing, instant potatoes that require no peeling and mashing and even instant milk which simplifies the handling process. In our culture today we have fast food, microwaved meals, the times that we live in, we expect it to be done for us, A.S.A.P. (as soon as possible). However cultivating a relationship with God is not going to be instant or microwaved however, it will be the most fulfilling thing of your life.

Are you willing to pay the price, devote the time, do you have the desire to form a relationship with the God of this universe? It will take time and there will be a cost to it, Jesus talked about counting the cost.

<sup>27</sup> And whosoever does not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first, and counts the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? <sup>29</sup> Lest haply, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish, Luke 14:27-30.

This is also true for our spiritual relationship with the Lord. Ask yourself, if you can complete the walk that you plan? For if you fall short, you will give others opportunity not only to mock you but also to mock the Word of God. If you wish to pursue more than just God's common grace and wish to walk in His blessings and to operate in His gifts, you will come up against resistance. Jesus told His disciples; "For many are called, but few chosen", Matthew 22:14. All believers have been called by Christ to accept their assignment and to fulfill their destiny that He has called them to, but it is our choice whether we will say yes and become His chosen.

This relationship will take time, just like any other earthly relationship. In the days of courting our spouse, most of us would do anything to be together. All of a sudden top priority was placed on this relationship and if the timing happened to be less than convenient, we would make time and hardly be aware of the inconvenience. That is what the Lord wants with all of us, He wants to

take first priority in our lives. For Jesus said, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me", Matthew 10:37.

Action to be taken:

Know that there is no such thing as an instant relationship.

- Know that cultivating a relationship with the Lord will not happen overnight. Count the cost, and make that commitment to gain that relationship with God.

Creating the desire to want a relationship with God.

Having a relationship with a spiritual God may be a new concept to you, it was to me, and it still remains so to me, every new step I take. However, I highly recommend to each of you to take the first step of faith, for there is nothing to compare with knowing God and receiving His goodness. The things of this world and what they can give us, fall far short of the blessings that the God of the universe has for us. Having a relationship with the God of the universe, is something that we cannot buy, we could not gain it through our own efforts, our deeds or by begging for it, if God was not willing. For we are made in His own image and likeness, Genesis 1:26,27. If we are believers and we have asked for His Spirit, He has freely given us His Holy Spirit, (His Spirit), to dwell within us. Therefore when we come to Christ, we are legitimate children of God in every way and Hebrews 13:5 says, "He will never leave us or forsake us" and Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the purposes which I am purposing for you, says Jehovah; purposes of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope". If we truly have a proper understanding and knowledge, knowing that God is a God of Love, how could we refuse such a deal? For when we give up, this inferior temporal world, we are given eternal-life. And scripture says God's people will have love, peace and joy, Galatians 5:22, this is only for starters. When you consider that God created the whole universe, I believe there will be adventures and amazement beyond what we can imagination, there will not be one boring moment in heaven. All we need to do is genuinely say yes, spend time with Him and He will do the rest. For God is a good God, Mark 18:10.

If you see yourself as needing to cultivate a greater desire for relationship with the Lord. First do not condemn yourself, thinking, what a bad christian I am. Because our human flesh does not and will not naturally seek the spiritual things of the Lord. For scripture says; "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. And these are contrary to one another; lest whatever you may will, these things you do", Galatians 5:17. Not wanting to seek the spiritual things of the Lord is simply operating 100% out of your carnality. Carnal simply means; of the five senses, to operate only off of what we (hear, taste, smell, see and feel). Thus we need to learn to operate in the spirit realm rather than abiding only in the flesh. If this natural world right now is all that you know, I encourage you to first turn down the volume and began to unplug from some of your worldly information sources. This may be hard at first and perhaps even seem to be unnecessary, but it will deliver a two fold benefit. It will allow you time to spend with the Lord and with His Word and it will also shut off some of the sources of unbelief that the world pumps out.

Action to be taken:

Creating the desire to want a relationship with God.

- Meditate on scriptures that you know, start where you are, you do not have to wait until you become a bible scholar, just start!
- Learn His Word, His ways and walk in them, pray and praise Him, do not be deceived in thinking

that nothing is happening, that is a lie from the devil. Everything done for the Lord, with a pure heart, will in its season produce fruit.

## Taking control of your thought life, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:5.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:5.

We must choose to reject and refuse to entertain dark thoughts. This truly can be achieved as a discipline, for the Lord would have been unjust in giving us a directive in scripture that was beyond our ability to keep. Perhaps it is impossible to 100% safe-guard yourself against all dark thoughts while we remain in this physical life, but we do have total control over the thoughts that we entertain. When we choose to think on a dark thought it is almost inevitable that we will be taking down to a level where we do not wish to go. This knowledge may only come from the experience of having fallen into this trap a few times, because our minds will at times promise us a utopia if we but only entertain the thought. However after awhile we can easily realize that these are vain promises and we can refuse to entertain certain thoughts.

We must not take ownership of the dark thoughts that our adversary attempts to put on us. For we are made in the image of God, Genesis 1:26-27, we have the capability of having God's Holy Spirit dwelling and operating within us and can achieve the mind of Christ, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:16. And since, "God is love", 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:8, and "Love thinks no evil", 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:5. We can see that if we are truly walking in the Spirit, children of the Most High God, a dark thought does not and cannot belong to us. For it is an attack of the enemy, a fiery dart of the wicked one, that we need to deflect by using the armor of God, Ephesians 6:13-17. If you view the thought as originating from you, how will you be able to cast out one of your own thoughts? For how can flesh cast out flesh, how can Satan cast out Satan?, Mark 3:23. Once we realize that these thoughts are not our own, they will actually become easy and even natural for us to cast them down.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things, Philippians 4:8.

This does not mean thinking and meditating on your last pleasant and memorable vacation or holiday. Meditating on your last earthly venture, is not going to take you to a higher spiritual level. Each one of the attributes listed in the above scripture relates to our God and His kingdom. Whatever things are true, the Word of God is our one eternal truth, "let God be true, but every man a liar", Romans 3:4. Think on what is honest, just, pure, lovely of good report, and having a standard of morality, these attributes can be contributed to our God. And the scripture ends with one considering thankfulness and praise. Praise and thankfulness is the best way and perhaps the only way to prepare your heart to start a relationship with the Lord. For, if we are not thankful and we do not view God as someone worthy to be praised, why would we choose to enter into a relationship with someone we did not particularly care for? Being thankful and praising the Lord will also naturally and effortlessly take away any dark thoughts that you may have.

### Action to be taken:

Taking control of your thoughts and emotions.

- Realize that the negative and dark thoughts that come to a spirit filled child of God, do not belong

- to you. Knowing this you will then be able to easily cast them down.
- Praise God that He has given you the ability to, take control of your thought life.

## How do we have a relationship with a invisible / Spiritual God?

### Step 1. – Knowing His names.

“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he has known My name”, Psalm 91:14.

This is a good first step or a prerequisite to having a personal relationship. If you wanted an earthly relationship to flourish, the first thing you do is to learn the persons name. On the other hand if you really do not care to pursue a relationship with that person, you might quickly forget their name or perhaps never even make an effort to remember their name in the first place. Click on this link to see a comprehensive list of the [names of God](#).

Because of the new covenant, the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, we can now call God, “Father” and even the more informal names of “Daddy” or “Papa”, However the names of God in the old testament not only give us a more formal name and a title to address Him by, but they also reveal to us His nature and character. Example: God is not only called, “Jehovah-Rapha”, (the Lord your healer), but He is also the healer. He is not only called “El-Shaddai” (God Almighty), but He is the, All Mighty God. That is why everybody should learn and understand His names and what they mean.

#### Action to be taken:

Knowing the personal and redemptive names of God.

- Learn the names of God, this is the first step to knowing His nature and character.
- Praise God, for each of His names, for that also shows us His true character.

### Step 2. – Without His Holy Spirit, it is impossible to have a relationship with God.

Without His Holy Spirit, (God's Spirit), living and dwelling within us, the best we can hope for is a long distance relationship. People today do at times initially meet through channels other than meeting face to face. And that may be a means of starting or finding a relationship, but rarely can it be sustained, much less grow unless a more personal contact is initiated. Having a personal relationship with God, is much the same way. That is why we need to acknowledge and work with God's Holy Spirit, for God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ are seated up in heaven, Luke 29:69, Acts 7:56. And God's Holy Spirit has been sent to us to be our Helper, our Teacher, our Comforter, etc., John 14:26, 15:26.

All believers need to acknowledge God's Holy Spirit dwelling inside of them, not only if they wish to pursue the things of the Lord, but to simply live a fulfilled and victorious life. For a primary purpose of the Holy Spirit is to show us the Father's love that He has for us, “And hope does not make *us* ashamed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through *the* Holy Spirit given to us”, Romans 5: 5. Therefore, all believers need to acknowledge the baptism of the Holy Spirit, regardless of the degree of relationship they wish to pursue. All we have to do

is ask for God's Holy Spirit, Luke 11:11-13.

<sup>11</sup> For what father of you, *if* the son asks *for* bread, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a snake for a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if he shall ask for an egg, will he give him a scorpion?

<sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give *the* Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? Luke 11:11-13.

People have heard various things about the Spirit, but as the scripture says, “Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brothers, I would not have you ignorant”, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:1. Some people have been driven away by speaking in tongues, thinking that it's the only reason for the Spirit. Some feel the gifts have passed away and there is no further purpose for God's Spirit. Whatever your reasoning, having a relationship with God without His Spirit dwelling and moving within you is not possible. Acknowledging His Spirit within us is the first step towards relationship with Him and all we have to do is ask, Luke 11:11-13.

There is no need to be afraid of God's Holy Spirit, as were the Israelites afraid when God came down on Mount Sinai, you can read about this in [Exodus 20:18-21](#). The same event is later mentioned in Deuteronomy 5:27-28, and God said that the people have done well, referring to a fear and reverence for God. Now, under the new covenant, having a better promise, we have been given the gift of God's Holy Spirit. And God wishes all believers to be filled with His Spirit, not to our detriment but to are benefit.

The Holy Spirit is called the teacher, Counselor, Comforter. If you have little clue about how to have a relationship with a spiritual God, you are not alone, we all start out that way. All we need to do is to reach out to God's Spirit and His Spirit within you will lead and guide you into a relationship with Him, if we are willing to flow with His Spirit. We will talk more about flowing in the Spirit in a later section.

### Action to be taken:

Without His Holy Spirit, it is impossible to have a relationship with God.

- Working with God's Spirit dwelling within you, is the first step to relationship with Him.
- If you are not baptized in the Holy Spirit, ask the Father for it, use Luke 11:11-13.
- Praise God that His Holy Spirit will comfort us, teach us, counsel us, guide us, etc.

### Step 3. – Humble thyself, put aside your self-pride.

“Be humbled before the Lord, and He will lift you up”, James 4:10.

There are several scriptures on the negative effect on pride, I will link a few of them together, so that we can see the self-deception and the damage that pride will cause. Pride is as a chain about their neck, [Psalm 73:6](#). Everyone proud in heart *is* hateful to the Lord, [Proverbs 16:5](#). A man's pride shall bring him low; But a lowly spirit shall obtain honor, [Proverbs 29:23](#). The pride of thy heart has deceived thee, [Jeremiah 49:16](#). Forms of pride are learned from birth, but if we wish to pursue a relationship with the Lord, we need to learn to become humble.

Humbleness is not an action, it is a way of life. For the same action can be done, with various degrees of pride attached to it or it can be done with sincerity from the heart. To be truly humble starts with taking an inventory of ourselves and realizing that without Christ we can do nothing, “I am the Vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings

forth much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing", John 15:5.

Humbleness is not something that cannot be taught it has to be acquired, it must become a way of life, usually found only after much time spent walking in the wilderness. The reference that I draw on is the life of Moses, you can read about this in its entirety in [Exodus chapters 2 & 3](#). "(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)", Numbers 12:3. This scripture was penned by Moses himself near the end of his life, after he had acquired humility. In brief, Moses grew up in Pharaoh's Egyptian palace, most-likely with a degree of pride. For at 40 years of age he took matters into his own hands and killed the Egyptian, thinking he could deliver the Israelites himself, through his own knowledge and skill. When he was found out he fled to the land of Midian and was there in the wilderness for 40 years. After the burning bush encounter with God, Moses no longer felt capable within himself to deliver the Israelite's out of Egypt.

God wants to get us to the place where we realize that the victory will not be accomplished in our fleshly, carnal talents, but rather in His power and might through us. As long as we believe that we can do it ourselves, He will let us try to do it. God gave man a free-will and He is not going to override our free-will. Humbleness comes from realizing within ourselves by only using our natural talents we cannot win any kingdom victories.

#### Action to be taken:

Humble thyself, put aside your self-pride, (pride in your self efforts).

- Meditate on Moses; before Midian, (self-pride in Pharaoh's court) and after Midian, (humbled and meekest man on the earth).
- Meditate on what Jesus said; if you do not abide in Me you can do nothing, John 15:4-6.
- Praise God, for it is not about our self-efforts, but due to the finished work of Jesus Christ.

#### Step 4. – Turn from our worldly / wicked ways, repent.

Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, Matthew 3:2

Jesus spoke the above scripture. Repent simply means to "(think differently, to reconsider, out of a moral conviction)". The church has put a spin on the word repentance to imply being remorseful over a sinful action and this can be part of repentance. But we need to turn from our worldly (carnal) thinking and turn our thoughts towards the spiritual kingdom of God.

To do this we must have some knowledge about God's kingdom and His ways. For no one would (*repent*), turn their thinking and believe in something that they did not know or understand. So in-order to repent we first must have a knowledge and desire to turn to the truth. Even through we might not wish to continue with our past actions, if we do not know the truth, the truth will not set us free. Scripture says; "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou has rejected knowledge", Hosea 4:6. Without knowledge of His kingdom, His promises, His Word, etc., there would be no reason to repent.

#### Action to be taken:

Turn from our worldly / wicked ways, repent.

- Learn about God's kingdom, His promises, His Word, etc. and cultivate your desire.
- Change your earthly thinking to thinking about God's spiritual kingdom.

- Praise God, because He has supplied an alternative for us, we can repent, turn and seek Him.

## Step 5. – Pray, communicate with God.

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice evermore. <sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing. <sup>18</sup> In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you, 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Praying to God is communication with God, just as you would also communicate with a friend. The way we pray without ceasing is to be focused on the things of God and to meditate on what is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, etc., Philippians 4:8. Prayer is not meant to be a one way conversation, it is a dialog, not just a monolog. Imagination that you were having a conversation with a good friend, if one person did all the talking that would not be a conversation it would be venting of one's option. And when we do pray we should expect a response. Elijah found God not in the mighty wind, nor the earthquake or the fire, but in an ever small voice. He did not find God in the spectacular, but rather in the everyday stillness, 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19:11-12. Most of us need to unplug from all of the no-stop information that the world feeds us in-order to hear God's voice. For as long as we are content with the busyness that the world has to offer us, God will take second place and will not be heard.

Most of our prayers become shopping lists. God knows our needs before we speak, Matthew 6:8. So rather than tell Him about our nicely compiled list of needs, it is far better to just praise Him for who He is and that He has supplied your need. In doing this we will take our focus off of our lack, for when we focus, concentrate on what we lack it leads us to further depression. And we will also start speaking and thinking biblical truths, that all of our needs have been supplied according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus, Philippians 4:19.

In-order to pray and communicate with God without complaining, there needs to be a trust built up in your relationship. Most of our prayers or what we call prayers are shopping lists, types of manipulation or even complaints. I don't believe God is pleased with any of this, rather He is pleased with our simple trust. I have been through all of these stages and I share them with you, so that you will realize that they are just stages that we go through.

All of us at times come to God with our shopping lists and He does know that we have needs, Matthew 6:32. This however become an issue when our entire focus becomes on our lack and the things that we need. This was my case for a number of years and I did not see it myself. However one day a good friend told me one day, that I only call on God when I need something. Even when she told me this it still did not register, perhaps because I viewed God as only someone to meet my needs. Some of my coming to a bible school was to manipulate God so that I then could achieve what I needed. A form of I will do this if You do that, this doesn't work, not with God at-least. And when we realize this then the complaints start flowing. God's Word will began to work in our lives when we fully trust Him and we realize the power and the truth of His Word and when we can rest upon His promises. Knowing that Jeremiah 29:11, Hebrews 13:5 and every promise in His Word is true. When we come to this understanding, then we will be ready for a proper relationship with God.

### Action to be taken:

Pray, communicate with God.

- Talk to God as you would a friend, do not tell Him of your needs or complaints, He knows

them already. Praise and thank Him for supplying your needs and giving you His Holy Spirit to teach you how to access, how to bring those gifts into the physical.

## Step 6. – Seek His face, through thirsting after His Word with your whole heart.

“As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for You, O God”, Psalm 42:1.

The term “seek His face” may be an old testament expression but, scripture tells us that, Jesus is the Word made flesh, John 1:14. Therefore we can seek His face through reading His Word. However, understanding the Word and analyzing the Word, will only give us carnal knowledge, seeking Him from out of His Word will only come through having a spiritual desire, a thirst to know Him. For seeking His face goes beyond than just reading and memorizing His Word. Jeremiah the prophet wrote; when we seek Him with our whole heart, we shall find Him, Jeremiah 29:13.

### Action to be taken:

Seek His face, through thirsting after His Word with your whole heart.

- Read and become familiar with His Word, if you have read a certain story a number of times, read it yet one more time. Do not ever stop reading His Word thinking you know it.
- Cultivate that desire to know Him, go beyond head knowledge into spiritual revelation.
- The best way to get spiritual understanding is through praise and worship.

## Step 7. – Spending time with Him, praise and prayer.

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name”, Hebrews 13:15.

I talked about spending time with God in prayer, but let me talk here about the powerful tool of praise and worship, which I believe should occupy the majority of our prayer time.

Our praise to the Lord becomes our strength. This is seen through two scriptures: Psalms 8:2 and Matthew 21:16. In Matthew 21:16, Jesus quoted from the old testament and used the word praise instead of the recorded word strength, thus equating the two words, (praise equals our strength).

Praise to the Lord, builds ourselves up, both physically and spiritual. Physically, it is impossible to hold two opposite emotions at the same time. We cannot be filled with God's peace, joy and love and yet be tormented with fear, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear:”, 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:18. And praise builds us up in the invisible spiritually realm, for scripture says, “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost”, Jude 1:20.

Our praise ministers to God, “But Thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel”, Psalm 22:3. Giving praise to the Lord is also a command. God wants us to praise Him, not because He is an egotistical God, but because He knows that we will be inline to receive the blessings when

we praise Him.

Praising the Jesus Christ and Father God will make the Devil flee. The Devil knows the importance of praise and worship. In the three temptations of Christ, one of the temptations was, that the Devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory and said to Him, "All these things will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me", Matthew 4:9. The Devil knew that whomever you worship becomes your Lord and Master. Jesus then said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve'", Matthew 4:10.

Most everything we need can be found through praise and worship. For our Father knows what we have need of, "for your heavenly Father knows that ye have need of all these things.", Matthew 6:32. If we then praise Him out of a pure heart, He will supply our needs, "how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?", Matthew 7:11. "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee", Deuteronomy 28:2.

When I first began praising the Lord, I actually did not want to and this is not uncommon, in-fact it is really the norm, because the flesh and the spirit have two separate agendas. "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. And these are contrary to one another; lest whatever you may will, these things you do", Galatians 5:17. The flesh does not understand the spiritual things of God and only wants to do fleshly, (worldly) things. So your soul, (your mind, will and emotions), must, at first override your flesh and give place to your spirit. I had little idea how to enter into praise, so I decided to start singing hymns or praise songs. But however you do this, just start and do it

Action to be taken:

Spending time with Him, praise and prayer.

- Set up a daily time of praise and worship and praise Him out of a heart of gratitude, put away any shopping list that you might have, He knows what you need better than you do.

Telling others about the great God you have, the proof of relationship.

God is a personal God, He wants you to know Him on a personal level. You can click on this link to find a teaching on "[a personal God](#)" When you know something on a personal level, it touches your life, you cannot separate the two. As apposed to knowing facts or statistics about someone or some thing, you just don't have the same zeal when talking about it. What makes a person talk about something is when it becomes personal to them, when it touches them. Today we have many people in churches praying to a corporate God, but they do not know Him personally and that is why they rarely speak, boast or brag about their God. The apostle Paul, writing to the church in Philadelphia wrote, "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus", Philippians 4:19. He wrote that his God would supply their need. Even though the church in Philadelphia was a good church, one that Paul spoke highly about. He still wrote that his God would supply their needs, For Paul knew what his God was capable of. When God becomes personal to us, we will not be able to help but to talk about Him.

We often put the cart before the horse. Many people go out to win souls for the kingdom of God,

but they are doing this as an obligation to Christ or as a church work and they are most-likely wondering themselves if it will all be worth it. We need to first get our relationship right with God and then we can minister to others, for we cannot give away what we don't have. When we enter into a right relationship with God and His Son, sharing our testimony with others will become a natural out-flowing of what God has done for us and what He can do for you. Do not try to fake this by going out to minister to others, thinking when God see and realizes all your efforts, He will surely come into a closer relationship with you.

Do not start boasting of your God as an obligation, thinking that, "it is the christian thing to do" or if I tell others I will one day gain my relationship with Christ. This is a proof of a relationship and not an action step, relationship with God has to be genuine. If your relationship with Christ is not genuine and you start telling others, they will most-likely see right though you and size you up as a hypocrite. If you don't yet have a natural out-flowing, a desire to tell others about your great God. Go back and work on further nurturing your relationship and when you have achieved it, you will see this proof and be able to effectually minister to others.

#### Action to be taken:

Telling others about the great God you have, the proof of relationship.

- Major on knowing and speaking God's Word, not man's vain philosophies. For if you spend your time speaking of worldly philosophies people will not see your relationship with Christ.

#### Your praise and worship, an indicator of your relationship.

I talked of the importance of praise and worship and that it should occupy most of your prayer time, for prayer is simply communication with God. Praise and worship is a measurement of where you are in your relationship, for it reaches into the heart level. Ask yourself, what you get out of your time of praise and worship, is it a dry and forced or does it lift you up?

#### Action to be taken:

Your praise and worship, an indicator of your relationship.

- Check your spiritual pulse, how much time do you spend praising the Lord? When you are praising the Lord is it a peaceful joyful time?.
- Remember, it is much easier to cultivate a feeling though an action, that an action though a feeling. IE. the action needs to come first.

#### Experiencing, love, joy and peace, the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23.

There should be little need to explain this, for the fruit of the spirit is what God wishes all of us to walk in, however this may need the most explanation. We need to come into relationship with God having an expectation of receiving not only blessings but also love, peace, joy, etc. A relationship takes two equal parts of giving and receiving and we must know and expect that God will fulfill His part. It is not a mind game, a matter of becoming good at imagining or conjuring up in one's mind a feeling of love, joy and peace. The world cannot fake God's love, joy and peace. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled,

neither let it be afraid”, John 14:27. What I want to emphasize here is to expect God's peace to come to you, for He is real and His Word remains true, “let God be true, but every man a liar”, Romans 3:4b.

#### Action to be taken:

Experiencing, love, joy and peace, the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23.

- Expect to experience God's love, joy and peace. God's Word is not just a self-help book, His Word is not just a mind enhancing tool. Expect the Word to work in your life, the Word is alive, Hebrews 4:12.
- Praise God that you can experience His love, joy and peace.

#### Further proof, operating in the gifts of His Holy Spirit.

This is progressive as we further walk out our christian journey. The key here is learning to depend more and more on Jesus and His Word, rather than our natural talents. Over the years, as I minister to others, I have learned to let the Word stand on its own. Not to major in man's vain philosophies, but rather to major in knowing and speaking forth the Word of God. Apostle Paul said to the church in Corinth, “I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God”, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:1. Paul later writes that, “For the kingdom of God *is* not in word, but in power”, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:20. The power is in the Word, it is not in clever and encouraging speech. If you see ministering to other people as a personal work and believe that you alone must realize their need and meet it, you will fail. Either you will get frustrated and overwhelmed, or you will burn yourself out trying to fix problems that you lack the resources to properly fix. The power is in His Word. To use an earthly analogy, you are placing the ball by in God's court and relying on His Word to accomplish what it was sent to do, Isaiah 55:11.

#### Action to be taken:

operating in the gifts of His Holy Spirit.

- Major on knowing and speaking God's Word, not man's vain philosophies. For if you spend your time speaking of worldly philosophies people will not see your relationship with Christ.