

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



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

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## Forming a relationship with an invisible God

- Desiring a relationship with the living God.
- Knowing His names: they tell of His Character
- Without His Holy Spirit, it is impossible to have a relationship.
- Humble thyself, put away your self-pride.
- Turn from our worldly / wicked ways, repent
- Pray: simply communicating with God.
- Seek His face: a good start is to read His Word.
- Spending time with Him, in praise and worship..

### Desiring a relationship with God.

**God is our all and all:** He formed mankind out of the dust of the ground, He is our Creator. He has provided all things for us here on earth, making available to us the abundant life here on earth, **John 10:10** and has given us His Son, Jesus Christ, **John 3:16**, to bring mankind back into right relationship with Him. The Father wants relationship with His children, however the free-will that He has given us even plays into this. We can either accept Him or reject Him and likewise, we will enter into a relationship with Him to the degree that we desire.

**I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing, John 15:5.**

Without God we can do nothing of eternal value. Therefore if we believe in God, it would be very foolish on our part not to want a relationship with Him. Rather we need to understand that we have been privileged to be able to abide in Christ and claim the many promises within 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**.

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. 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](#).

Knowing His names: they tell of His character.

Within any relationship people like to, and even expect to be address by their proper name, we can liken this also to the Father. God's names tell of His character and who He is. For a list of some of His many names, [click on this link](#).

Know that without His Holy Spirit, it is impossible to have a relationship with God.

Without His Holy Spirit, (God's Spirit), living and activity dwelling within us, the best we can hope for is a one way relationship. People today 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 and in order for us to clearly hear from the Father we need to have 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](#).

“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](#)

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, . 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](#).

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 within you and His Spirit will lead and guide you into a relationship with Him.

Humble thyself, put aside your self-pride.

Not being humble is a relationship breaker, for:

Be humbled before the Lord, and He will lift you up, [James 4:10](#).

But he gives more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but gives grace unto the humble, [James 4:6](#).

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 must also turn from our worldly actions and turn our thoughts towards the spiritual kingdom of God.

To do this we must have a 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. For if we don't have a true knowledge of His kingdom, His promises, His Word, etc., there would be no reason to repent.

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 monologue. 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](#).

There is no need for your prayers to always be 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 trust Him and praise Him that it has been done and for who He is. In doing this we will take our focus off of our lack. 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](#).

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, worldly logic tells us that we can seek His face through reading His Word. However, analyzing the Word will only give us carnal knowledge, seeking Him will only come through a spiritual desire, a thirst to know Him. For seeking His face goes beyond 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](#).

Spending time with Him, in praise and worship.

“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](#).

Praise and worship, should occupy the majority of our prayer time. I believe that the more that we mature in Christ, the more our time of prayer will become praise and giving thanks to the Lord. Also the amount of time that we praise the Lord can be viewed as a thermometer as to how strong our relationship is or is becoming.

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings has thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, [Psalms 8:2](#).

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou has perfected praise?, [Matthew 21:16](#).

In these two scriptures Jesus quoted from the old testament and used the word praise instead of the word strength, thus equating the two words, (praise equals our strength).

Praise to the Lord, builds ourselves up, both physically and spiritual. 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 tells us to build ourselves up on our 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 are thankful and praise Him.

Praising 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.

But know that a relationship must be tangible, not just based on faith alone.

Don't fool yourself and believe that you have a relationship by faith alone, without ever seeing or experiencing either external or internal proof. Yes, we do walk by faith, [2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:7](#), and the just shall live by faith, [Hebrews 10:38](#). However, when it comes to entering into a relationship with His Spirit it must be a viable and active connection, not just a unseen faith connection. First, we need to realize that the Lord God wishes to have a relationship with us, knowing that we are His creation. I have put down a few scriptures below with a few words under them to help understand and comprehend that the Lord does want a relationship with us.

- Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knows not, [Jeremiah 33:3](#).  
We can call on Him and He will answer us, but we need to expect an answer.
- And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God, [Ephesians 3:19](#).  
It is written that we should know the love of Christ that passes knowledge, (that is above man's intellect, an experiential knowledge), to experience the fullness of Christ.
- That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death, [Philippians 3:10](#).  
The Apostle Paul wrote this later in his life, and he was looking for that ever growing increasing relationship, even-though he had great revelation and had a great and powerful ministry. With God there is always another level to obtain, and relationship is a key to starting that process.
- For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also, [James 2:26](#).  
The body without the spirit is dead, the spirit is the life-giving source, as Jesus also said you can do nothing without Me, [John 15:5](#).
- Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need, [Hebrews 4:16](#).  
God here is telling us that we can boldly come into His throne-room of grace, if He has made this offer to us and offered to help us in our time of need, (Jehovah-Shammah), [Ezekiel 48:35](#), this alone proves that the offer of a personal relationship is available.

Not only does God wish to have a personal relationship with us, it is also impossible to do anything (constructive), without His Spirit.

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. Just knowing facts or statistics about someone won't give you a zeal for that person, as a personal relationship would. 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 and 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 and to praise Him.

When we do have 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 it by first going out to minister to others, thinking that when God sees and realizes all your efforts, He will surly come into a closer relationship with you. Actually, it needs to be you first coming into a closer relationship with Him, He is not holding His relationship back from you, we are the variable, it is not God.

Your praise and worship, an indicator of your relationship.

I have talked about 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?

Well, you might say, praise and worship is hard, you know I really don't feel like it is working for me. Know that it is easier to cultivate a feeling through an action, than an action through a feeling. If your goal is to dance before the Lord with a heart of thankfulness. It will come about quicker by getting up and dancing, whether you feel like it or not, give Him the sacrifice of praise, **Hebrews 13:15**, rather than just waiting for the feeling of thankfulness to just happen.

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**.

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**.