

## A Fresh Start with God ~ *beginning again, moving forward* Week 2 – *Building a Rich Relationship with God* - October 15, 2006

- **God is jealous about his relationship with you.** Exodus chapter 34 verse 14 (72)
- **A person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.** Luke chapter 12 verse 21 (795)
- **Now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ made us friends of God.** Romans chapter 5 verse 11 (860)

What is God like?

1. **God is personal** - **God said, “I Am Who I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I Am’ has sent me to you.”**  
Exodus chapter 3 verse 14 (45)
  - **God also said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘Yahwey,’ the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has sent me to you.”** Exodus chapter 3 verse 15 (45)
  - **Jehovah-jireh** - “the Lord will provide”, **Jehovah-rapha** - “the Lord who heals”, **Jehovah-shalom** - “the Lord our peace”, **Jehovah-shammah** - “the Lord is there”
2. **God is present** - **I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, & your strength will support me.** Psalm 139 verses 7-10 (476)
3. **God is gracious** - **God is so rich in kindness & grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his son & forgave our sins.** Ephesians chapter 1 verse 7 (895)
  - “grace” simply means that I get something for nothing! **God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense**
4. **God is powerful** - **Power, O God, belongs to you.** Psalm 62 verse 11 (440)
  - **I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?**  
Jeremiah chapter 32 verse 27 (600)
  - **Seek the kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and God will give you everything you need.**  
Matthew chapter 6 verse 33 (738)

Jesus in the Gospel of John

- **Jesus is the bread of life (6:35)** - he feeds my hungry heart
- **Jesus is the light of the world (8:12)** - he shows me the way thru the darkness
- **Jesus is the gate (10:9)** - he opens the way to God
- **Jesus is the good shepherd (10:11)** - he leads me thru life & protects me
- **Jesus is the resurrection & the life (11:25)** - he has conquered death & gives me the life I was created to live
- **Jesus is the way, the truth & the life (14:6)** - he is the clear path to God
- **Jesus is the vine (15:5)** - he is the only source of true life & the source of my strength

How do I build a rich relationship with God?

- Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. Psalm 29 verse 2 (425)
- Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor. Let the earth tremble before him. Psalm 96 verse 9 (458)
- Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Psalm 100 verse 2 (459)
- Worship means I give worth to something, that I think it to be very valuable, worthy of my time & effort
- Whatever I value highest in life is what I worship most in life!
- **Your so called “gods,” who did not make the heavens & earth, will vanish from the earth & from under the heavens.** Jeremiah chapter 10 verse 11 (581)
- **Jesus said, “...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit & truth.”** John chapter 4 verse 23 (812)
- Spirit - the Holy Spirit gives me the ability to really enter into worship
- Truth - integrity, honesty, being real

How do I worship God?

Thru Music - **Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary, praise him in his mighty heaven! Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness! ...Praise him with the tambourine & dancing; praise him with strings & flutes! Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals. Let everything that breaths sing praises to the Lord!** Psalm 150 (480)

### Worship in truth

- *I choose to engage in the worship service. If I sing, I focus on the words & what they describe. If I am not singing, my mind is engaged in the songs. I choose to focus on God during the worship service. I choose to engage in worship outside of the service*

Hearing, applying & living out Bible teaching - **Jesus said, “Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.”** John chapter 17 verse 17 (825)

- **Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says....”** James chapter 1 verse 22 (930)

### Worship in truth

- *I choose to be in at least one service each week, even when I don’t feel like it, because I know it is good for me, I need it. I listen to the teaching each week and focus on myself, no one else. I leave each week with at least one thing to do / change / work on. I am intentional about living out what I hear, because I know that teaching is useless unless I live it out, apply it to my life*

A regular time in Bible reading & prayer - **Come, let us worship & bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, for he is our God. We are the people he watches over....** Psalm 95 verses 6 & 7 (457)

- **The Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before him.** Habakkuk chapter 2 verse 20 (713)
  - Bible reading - I need to spend time reading the Bible, not what others have written about the Bible
  - Prayer - when I pray, I talk & listen to God

### Worship in truth

- *Start reading the Bible for 5 minutes each day. Underline / highlight the stuff that jumps out at you*

Take a notebook & use “ACTS”

- Adoration - acknowledge God greatness in what you just read
- Confession - admit your sins to God, ask forgiveness for them
- Thanksgiving - appreciate what God has done for you
- Supplication - ask God for what’s on your heart & mind

By growing right where I am - **And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him & let your lives be built on him.**

Colossians chapter 2 verses 6 & 7 (903)

### Worship in truth

- *Is spiritual growth a constant in my life? Am I willing to do whatever it takes to continue my growth towards full devotion in Christ? Do I recognize the areas of life where I am stuck spiritually? Am I getting help in these areas?*

By giving God my money - **God said, “Bring everything I command you -- your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, your sacred offerings, and your offerings to fulfill a vow -- to the designated place of worship, the place the Lord your God chooses for his name to be honored.”** Deuteronomy chapter 12 verse 11 (149)

- **Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will be also.** Matthew chapter 6 verse 21 (737)

### Worship in truth

- *Am I being honest with God about my finances? Money, more than just about anything else, shows what I really worship!*
- *Am I giving God at least my tithe (10%)? If not, am I taking intentional steps to grow in this area? Am I putting my treasure where my heart should be? Remember, God doesn’t need my money. He wants my heart, and he knows he gets this thru my money.*

### Why should I worship God?

**Come close to God, and he will come close to you.** James chapter 4 verse 8 (932)

Next week: How do I handle my past failures with God? What do I do when I mess up again?

*This study is based on the “Fresh Start” curriculum from Saddleback Church in California where Rick Warren is the lead pastor. Rick is the best-selling author of The Purpose Driven Life & Saddleback is a dynamic church that God is working thru to change tens of thousands of lives around the world.*

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