

# Relationship

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Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them. Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God.

How surprised and gladdened will be the lowly among the nations, and among the heathen, to hear from the lips of the Saviour, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me"! How glad will be the heart of Infinite Love as His followers look up with surprise and joy at His words of approval!

Matthew 7:22-23 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.

So if these folks who are doing all these works in God's name don't make it and these heathen who don't know His name do make it. I need to rethink my "theology".

**I need to figure out what it means to Know God and to be Known of God.**

Genesis 4:1 has a pretty uninhibited definition of Knowing.

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, Incase we don't know what it's talking about here? It's a relationship and Intimacy is involved.

**It seems that Relationship is more important than any of this other stuff.**

**Positive Relationships are necessary for human success**

I want to really study this relationship that God wants to have with us but first let us consider how critical Positive Relationships are to human success.

There has been a ton of research that has linked, addiction to growing up with a lack of positive relationships.

Had Eve faced the temptain with Adam, together they would likely have been able to make the right choice.

**The angels had cautioned Eve to beware of separating herself from her husband while occupied in their daily labor in the garden; with him she would be in less danger from temptation than if she were alone.**

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## **Even in our unfallen state, Success proved to be impossible without Positive Relationships.**

So I guess it's no wonder that the solution is a Relationship.

Let's go back to the beginning and try to understand this relationship that God wants to have with us.

**Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man**

**Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.**

**Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.**

As a youngster growing up in a very conservitive home I always thought that God was kind of discovering a defect here. But that is not the case at all. He is highlighting a feature! God is actually conducting quite a charade to draw attention to this point. As we go into the next verse it seems that we are moving onto the next part of the story.

**Genesis 2:19-20** And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

But when we get to the end we find that we are still on the same subject, all this was just a big charade to draw our attention to this Need that Adam had, which he was created with, in God's image. God didn't want us to miss this point. That He had created Adam in His image with this Need, that only a being who was created in Adam's image could fill.

**Genesis 2:23** And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Would it be reasonable to deduct that God must have this same need or at the very least a strong desire for this type of relationship?

**Ephesians 5:30** For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. Paul apparently thinks so.

It is hard to imagine God as having needs or even wants.

**Acts 17:24-25** God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

This is talking about physical needs. God definitely doesn't have any physical needs that we can fill. We exist because of His power we don't have anything to give back physically. But emotionally he desires a relationship with us. A human can live without relationships but what kind of life would it be?

If God desires this type of Love, it's the one thing that He cannot be created for Himself. So he created us in His own image with the capacity to give Him this Love, that He desires, in hopes that we would.

An abandoned dog when given a piece of food can quickly identify it as Love because it has nothing to give in return.

But how does the All Powerful Creator of the Universe God receive this type of Love?

Is it free unconditional Love or are we just here for the loaves and fishes?

**John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.**

**Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason?”**

Love can not be taken it must be given.

Love is not possible without Freedom

**The capacity that God has given us to have this kind of relationship with Him, gives us a tremendous power.**

So God created us with the Freedom to Love Him or not!

In order for us to have this Freedom God had to compromise His All Powerful status.

**Daniel 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.**

If you read this whole story you find that God had wanted to answer Daniel's prayer sooner but was held up by the Prince of the kingdom of Persia. God is all powerful, He is the one in whose hand is the breath of every living thing, He didn't have to fight with the king of Persia! But he compromised His all powerful status for the possibility that Love could exist.

This Capacity that God has given us, to give Him Free Unconditional Love, is an enormous power. We call it Free Will. I like to call it Freedom.

We have the ability to choose to have God's power or the adversaries power in our lives.

We can see how powerful this Freedom is by looking at Eve's use of it. Had she not exercised this Power in the way she did, our adversary would still be sitting in his tree waiting for someone to come and talk to him.

We each have this same power over our own lives. If we choose that we want God's power in our lives then the Adversary has to get God's permission before he can get at us, as we can see in the story of Job.

We can get just a little idea how powerful, how deep this Love relationship is that God desires to have with us when we see how much power is in this Freedom He has given us.

**1 Corinthians 2:9** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

**Ezekiel 36:27** And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

That reminds me of the intimacy, This "Knowing", in the biblical sense as the young people say, that we were alluding to earlier.

**Romans 8:10-11**

**But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.**

**1 John 3:23-24**

**And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.**

Since the beginning our adversary has tried to hijack religion to misrepresent God. Even the Jewish religion at the time of Christ was misrepresenting Him so badly that He became filled with rage and cleaned the temple out with a whip. There is no person or organization which can get you into the Kingdom. The only thing that can save us is a personal relationship with our Creator, made possible by Christ's sacrifice. We have a big advantage today because we each have God's word and we can read it for ourselves. Let us let go of the religious baggage that we might be carrying and read God's word with a sincere desire to Know your creator.

**We cannot depend for counsel upon humanity. The Lord will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach somebody else. If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch.**The Desire of Ages p, 668,

## Further Study

Take a few moments and list a few qualities of a good relationship. Think of a best friend, write down what made that relationship special. Think of a beloved spouse or if you are single or don't have a beloved spouse picture what the perfect spouse would be like and list the things that would make that relationship wonderful.

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**There are two stages of positive relationships. In the first stage the one fills the need of the other who is helpless and has nothing to give. As in the case of an infant. The second stage is where both fill each other's need, I call this a synergistic relationship. We can see this in the "Adam Knew his wife" verse above the result was something more than the sum of them, a whole other person was created.  $1+1=3$  so this relationship had, at least a physical, synergistic result. I would like to believe that it was also emotionally synergistic as well.**

Read **Ezekiel 16:4-14**

1. Consider how this relationship evolves from one of a helpless child to a position of "helpmeet" it feels like religion often leaves us in the helpless child relationship, but God desires more.
2. What is it that evolves the relationship from child to "helpmeet"? From Helpless to Helpmeet.

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3. What are the big differences between the two stages of relationship?

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Let's look at some of the relationships, between God and humans, in scripture. Keep in mind that each relationship will be different because each of us are different. So the relationship that I have won't be the same as one that Moses had the one that you have won't be the same as the one I have. But we can learn a lot about what is possible in this God human relationship.

## **Moses**

Read **Exodus 32:9-14**

Regardless of whether God was testing Moses or if it would have been a better plan for Him to make a new nation from Moses. What can we learn about the relationship God and Moses had from this conversation?

It would seem that Wisdom and Understanding would play a big part in the evolution of the relationship.

It would be one thing to find your child painting the wall with peanut butter but that isn't something you would expect to find your spouse doing. Your child might ask you for a unicorn but you would expect more realistic requests from a spouse.

**Isaiah 27:11 ...for it is a people of no understanding: therefore he that made them will not have mercy on them, and he that formed them will shew them no favour.**

**James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.**

**Deuteronomy 4:6 Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.**

How fulfilling would a relationship be if both partners always agreed. Would you value a friend who always agreed with everything you said? How meaningful would your relationship with your spouse be if they always agreed with you on everything? What would it be like if your spouse had no ideas of their own and just stood around waiting for you to give them direction? Could you even call that a Love relationship? Or if they had ideas, but with no understanding, ...painting the walls with peanut butter.

Read **Exodus 33:12-17**

Here we find Moses pleading for God to be among them and to go with them. Did God want to go with His people? Yes! But the people had exercised their Freedom in a way that made it impossible for God to be among them. Did Moses' intercession to God, his exercise of his Freedom, make it possible for God to be able to go with His people as He desired?

**Ezekiel 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.**

**Ezekiel 22:29 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.**

Here we see a description of a land which is on the path to disaster? What will be the natural outcome of a land that was living like this?



**Ezekiel 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. 31Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God.**

So God could see the destination of the path that they were on and He didn't want to have to watch them arrive at that destination. So He tried to find an intercessor. Just one person. But there was none.

What good is the Freedom to choose your path if you are not allowed to arrive at the destination of your chosen path? Had He removed their ability to arrive at the destination of their chosen path He would have at the same time removed the possibility of Love.

This is why Christ had to suffer. He took the destination of our chosen path so that we could have the opportunity to switch paths.

## **Elijah**

The argument could be made that the experience of Moses would not be comparable to us since Moses was called for a specific job and maybe we are not called. So lets look at some powerful relationships of people who may not have been called.

Read **1 Kings 17:1-2**

Here we find the first mention of this guy named Elijah. It says that he lived in Gilead and that he went and told Ahab that as the Lord God of Israel lives there will be no rain "according to my word"

There is no mention of God's sending him to deliver this message. Nor does he says, "Thus Saith the Lord" as is customary in the old testament when a prophet delivers a message from God. It also does not introduce him as a prophet, though he is later referred to as a prophet.

**James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.**

James tells us that Elijah was just a man like us and that he prayed earnestly that it would not rain. If God had sent him to deliver this message why would he have needed to pray that it wouldn't rain?

Is it possible that Elijah was just a man who had developed a close relationship with God. And seeing the idolatry promoted by Ahab he was deeply hurt to see God's people in this state. Possessing Understanding of God's purpose, perhaps through study of the writings of Moses.

**Deuteronomy 11:16-17 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the Lord's wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the Lord giveth you.**

I can imagine Elijah reading this and praying "God we need this now". Eventually stepping out in faith and making the proclamation to the king. **"As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word"**

I can imagine our adversary seeing this and going to God saying "what do you mean sending your guy here? These are my people, can't you see them bowing to me? They have chosen me, are you going to violate their Freedom? And God could have responded Elijah volunteered, get out of his way!

This could bring a deeper meaning to "the spirit and power of Elijah"

## **Daniel**

We also have no record of Daniel being called to be a prophet. In Fact we have record of him asking God for the vision and Understanding. Is it possible that he too is a volunteer?

With Daniel we do have a little more details on how his relationship with God grew. In the first chapter we see Daniel trusting God's word and following it. In **Daniel 1:9,15,17** we see God responding to Daniel's trust with blessings. So the relationship is growing. In chapter 2 we see God trying to communicate with the King of Babylon In **Daniel 2:13** the executioner shows up and informs Daniel that the king has ordered his death. Daniel who had suffered the siege of Jerusalem possibly witnessed the execution of his parents and countless others could have easily seen this as more destruction. But because of this Relationship with God Daniel recognized that God was trying to communicate with the King. In **Daniel 2:17-18** Daniel is asking for God's Understanding, in effect Daniel is volunteering to be involved in God's effort to communicate with the king.

There is another interesting verse about Daniel. Read **Ezekiel 14:14,20**

These are interesting verses. When have we heard of someone being able to save their own soul through their righteousness? Much less some else' sole. But these verses insinuate that in normal circumstances these 3 saints could have saved other peoples soles.

Let's look at these 3 "saints", all people with this close Relationship with God.

Noah Well we know that he saved his children at least from the flood. Though his preaching he wasn't able to get anyone else to get on the boat. But his kids, at least he could tell them "you guys are getting on this boat!!!"

Job The scripture tells us that ..."**it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.**" Job 1:5

But what about Daniel? We don't think he had any children. But there is in **Daniel 4** the extraordinary story of God going to unusual lengths to save The King of Babylon. How many pagan kings are recorded in the scripture. Yet we have no record of God going to these lengths to save any of them.

**1 Timothy 2:1-4 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

If God wants everyone to be saved why do we not have a story like this for every pagan king? Paul here insinuates that our prayer can aid in these people being saved and coming to a knowledge of the truth.

The adversary could easily have claimed Nebuchadnezzar. He worshiped idols, he destroyed God's temple.

Could it be that it was because of Daniel's Prayer that God was able to intervene in the king's life to give him the knowledge of truth?

We know Daniel prayed daily could it be that he was pleading daily that God save the king's soul by any means?

Understanding this Freedom that God has given us, the context in which Love is possible, is the answer to the question of if God is Love why does he allow so much misery.

Love is not possible without Freedom. And Love is so awesome God apparently deems it worth the misery.

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