

CHAPTER THREE

HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

A. WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

Becoming a Christian is the beginning of developing a relationship with God. God is a person — not a force, or a vapor, or an invisible eye. He wants to talk to you, and He wants you to talk to Him. When you meet new friends, it takes many hours of communicating to really get to know them. God has become your friend, and He is the most interesting and loving person you will ever know. Jesus said, **This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent** (John 17:3).

The deep cry of every person's heart is to know God. Each person has a built-in spiritual craving to know his Creator. This hunger can only be satisfied by spending time getting to know Him. The primary way to receive spiritual fulfillment and to grow in your relationship with God is to establish a daily quiet time of prayer and Bible reading.

What is your new friend like? He has revealed Himself in His Word, the Bible. How do the following verses describe God?

1. Who is God?

Matthew 28:19

God is one God, revealed in three persons. What three persons make up the Godhead?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. What do these Scriptures tell us about God the Father?

a. Matthew 7:11 _____

b. John 4:23,24 _____

c. Hebrews 12:9 _____

d. James 1:17 _____

In your own words, describe the qualities of a good father _____

3. What do these Scriptures tell us about Jesus, the Son?

a. John 8:12 _____

b. John 10:14 _____

c. Hebrews 13:8 _____

d. Galatians 3:13 _____

JESUS, OUR REDEEMER: Jesus Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law. The term “the Law” usually refers to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. According to these five books, we can see that the curse of the Law, or the result of breaking God’s law is threefold: poverty, sickness and eternal death. Jesus, through His death, burial and resurrection, redeemed us from this curse. In other words, He freed us from the bondage of poverty, the destruction of sickness and disease and the eternal separation from God. All we have to do is believe and have faith in Him as our Redeemer.

4. What do these Scriptures tell us about the Holy Spirit?

a. 1 Corinthians 3:16 _____

b. John 16:13,14 _____

c. Romans 8:14 _____

d. Romans 8:16 _____

B. HOW DO I GET TO KNOW GOD?

1. Do what Enoch did

Enoch was a man who knew God. He is only mentioned a few times in the Bible, but his example is one each of us can follow. His name means dedicated.¹ Enoch was dedicated to God.

Let’s look at the Scriptures to see what Enoch did to get to know God.

a. Genesis 5:24

What did Enoch do? _____

Describe what it means to walk with or fellowship closely with someone who is a friend.

b. Hebrews 11:5

What did God think about Enoch? _____

2. Put God first

We can live a life pleasing to God, just like Enoch did, by doing what Enoch did. Enoch put God first. Every day we have decisions to make and responsibilities to take care of. Each day, whether we realize it or not, we take care of those duties that are a priority to us. Where should God fit in our daily priorities?

a. Matthew 6:33

What does God say we should seek first? _____

What is the result of putting God first? _____

b. Colossians 3:1,2

What things are we to seek, now that we are Christians? _____

What do you think Paul means by seeking "those things that are above"? _____

c. Luke 10:38-42

What was it about Mary that Jesus commended? _____

What was it about Martha that we need to be aware of? _____

It is easy to get too busy. What things are taking too much of your time? _____

3. Seek God with your whole heart

a. Revelation 3:15,16

What does God think about those believers who are lukewarm, or half-hearted, toward Him? _____

b. Psalm 119:2

How are we to seek God? _____

c. Jeremiah 29:13

When will we really get to know God, or find Him? _____

d. Matthew 5:6

We will be filled with God when we do what? _____

In your own words, describe what it is like to hunger and thirst for God. _____

4. What are the results of seeking God?

a. 2 Chronicles 7:14

Who is to seek God? _____

What four things are we to do? _____

What does God promise to do? _____

b. 2 Chronicles 16:9

What type of person are the eyes of the Lord ever seeking for? _____

What does God want to do for that person? _____

c. Psalm 34:10

Those who seek the Lord will not lack what? _____

d. Proverbs 8:17

When we seek God what happens? _____

e. Hebrews 11:6

What does God do for those who diligently seek Him? _____

5. Examples of those who sought God

a. 1 Chronicles 28:9

Solomon was instructed to know God and to serve God. How was he supposed to do this?

b. 2 Chronicles 31:20,21

How did Hezekiah seek his God? _____

What was the result? _____

c. Ezra 7:10

Ezra prepared his heart so he could do what three things? _____

C. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Deuteronomy 30:19,20

Our Christian life is a result of choices we make. God will never force Himself or His will upon us. He has given us a free will to choose life or death, blessings or curses.

Do you choose to seek God first? _____

Getting to know God by seeking Him daily is a lifelong commitment. Just as marriage is a commitment in which two people choose to spend the rest of their lives getting to know one another, so too is our relationship with God.

Getting to know someone takes time. It also takes effort, patience, talking and listening. It takes seeking out the company of one another. It takes your whole heart to really get to know someone well. God wants us to walk with Him, just as we would walk with our spouse or our best friend.

What are some specific ways you can begin to put God first and seek Him with all of your heart? _____

Are there any attitudes, habits, or activities in your life that you need to change in order to make God your number one priority? List them: _____

D. GROUP EXERCISE

Take time as a group to share the ways that each of you seeks God. How does each person spend time reading the Bible or praying? Discuss the benefits of the different approaches each person uses.

What differences have you seen in your life when you are seeking God and when you are not?

What type of activities hinder you from seeking God daily?

¹James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (McLean: MacDonald Publishing, 1978), "Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary," p. 41, #2585, #2596.