

A Holy Relationship

1. There is a personal relationship, which every human being should desire to have, which is to be a holy relationship. What do we mean by “holy”? This word comes from the Hebrew word qadash (kaw-dash), which means to be made or pronounced clean (spiritually or morally), to be consecrated, purified, or sanctified. Also from the Hebrew word qodesh (ko-desh), which means sacred, sanctified, consecrated, hallowed, or dedicated (unto God). In the Greek language, the word holy comes from the words hagios (hag-ee-os), which means sacred, purified, blameless, or consecrated; and hosios (hos-ee-os), which means right or divine character, hallowed, sacred, or consecrated. Who else would anyone ever think of having such a relationship with, other than the Holy Father, Jehovah? And there is only one way, for any person to ever be able to have such a relationship with our Holy Father; and that is through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus told us in John 14:6: ***“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*** Jesus also told us in John 10:30: ***“I and my Father are one.”*** So when we think of the Heavenly Father, we also think of the Son, Jesus Christ. There are many Christians throughout the earth, who say prayers every day of the week, who read their Bible every day, who go to church every Sunday, who have very much knowledge about God, but yet they know very little, if anything at all, about really knowing God in a personal way. Most certainly, every Christian should remember to pray every day, they should read their Bible every day, they should go to church every time there is a service, if at all possible, and they should gain as much knowledge about God as they possibly can. But first and most important of all, every Christian should continuously be having a personal relationship with God, through Jesus his Son; which is truly a holy relationship.

2. This holy relationship must first begin, by a person accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior of their soul; which every person has the privilege of doing. We are told in Romans 10:13: “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” This is a promise which God offers unto every human being. Jesus also told us in Rev. 3:20: ***“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”*** Jesus is telling us in this verse in the Book of Revelation, that if we will listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking unto us, and open the door of our heart, that He (Jesus) will come into our heart. He then tells us, ***“I will sup with him, and he with me.”*** What did Jesus mean, by sup with him? This word comes from the Greek word deipneo (dipe-neh-o); which means to dine, or to have a meal with. This word sup also comes from the Greek word diepnon (dipe-non); which means not only a meal, but a feast. In other words, it will not just be a meal, which is very short, but a lasting, or a continuous meal; one which does not end. When we study of the feasts which they tell us of throughout the Bible, they were not just short, one day affairs; but they lasted for weeks, or even months. When a person begins to have a holy relationship with the Heavenly Father, through his Son, Jesus Christ, it will not be just a short affair which is over in a little while; but a relationship which will last throughout eternity. It will not be just an ordinary, everyday relationship, such as one would expect to have with our next door neighbor, or a friend down the street, but it will be an everlasting relationship which will be beneficial unto us in every way.

Jesus does not want a person to just ask Him to come into their heart, and then forget all about Him; or just run to Him when things go wrong. But He wants us to seek Him and talk to Him, every day. Jesus also wants our relationship with Him to be a two-way affair.

He wants to talk to us, just as much as He wants us to talk to Him.

3. There is a verse in Proverbs, which describes Jesus exactly. We read in Proverbs 18:24: “A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” Jesus is always a friend to us, who sticks closer to us, than any earthly brother would ever do. What do we mean by friend? This word comes from the Hebrew word ahab (aw-hab); which means to have affection for, or to love. Who could possibly ever have more love and affection than Jesus? We are also told in Proverbs 17:17, that a friend loveth at all times; meaning that the love of a true friend, never ends. Jesus is a true friend, who loves us in a greater way, than our minds could ever comprehend. And He loves us, whether we love

Him or not. And He loves us when we do wrong, when we do right, in the bad times, in the good times, no matter what the situation or circumstances may be; He never stops loves us. Jesus still continued to love Judas, and still called him his friend, even when He knew that Judas had betrayed Him. We read in Matt. 26:45-50: “Then cometh He to his disciples, and saith unto them, ***Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.*** And while He yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed Him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is He: and kissed Him. And Jesus said unto him, ***Friend, wherefore art thou come?*** Then came they and laid hands on Jesus, and took Him.”

4. One of the greatest blessings, of having a holy relationship with God our Heavenly Father, is knowing that He is always right by our side; regardless of what circumstances we may be facing. So many Christians seem to forget that God is right there with them, even during the late hours of the nighttime. Most of the time, we are so involved in so many matters during the daytime, that it would take a streak of lightning to get our attention. It is a shame, that we so often are so guilty of allowing every matter of life to seem to be so much more important to us than having a personal relationship with God. I know that there have been many times that God has awakened me during the nighttime, just because He wants to have my personal attention. Many times He will bring things to my mind that I need to talk to Him about; or He will remind me of other people who I need to pray for. And there are also times, when I feel as though He just wants me to lie there and be quiet; so that He can talk to me. When we have a holy relationship with the Holy Father, through Jesus Christ his Son, we never have to worry about being left alone. For Jesus promised us in Matt. 28:20, that He would be with us always, even unto the end of the world. And in Hebrews 13:5, He told us that He would never leave us, nor forsake us. What did He mean by forsake us? This comes from the Greek word egkataleipo (eng-kat-al-i-po); which means to leave behind in some place, or to desert or abandon; as to leave one alone in the face of danger or personal harm; or to be left alone without protection.

We also read in Psalm 27:9-10: “Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.” When everyone else fails us, or forsakes us, God will always take care of us. He will always be right by our side. A holy relationship with our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ his Son, is something which should always be cherished.

A. We read in Psalm 16:7: “I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.” Counsel-Hebrew-yaats (yaw-ats): advice, resolution, consultation, direction, or guidance. In the night season. This is referring to the hours of the night.

B. David told of one of the times when he was visited by God, in Psalm 17:1-6: “Hear the right, O Lord, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips. Let my sentence come forth from thy presence, let thine eyes behold the things that are equal. Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from paths of the destroyer. Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not. I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.” One of the worse means of destruction, to a holy relationship with God the Heavenly Father, is to use our mouth in a sinful manner; going about speaking words of slander, gossiping, and backbiting other people; especially the children of God. Every one of God’s children are servants, in one manner or another. And when we are guilty of speaking evil towards God’s servants, we are guilty of blasphemy in the eyes of the Heavenly Father. Even though it is a blasphemy for which one may be forgiven, it is a sin which angers God very deeply. It is always better to say nothing at all about a person, if what we say is not something good. As David spoke in verse 4, of Psalm 17, He kept himself from the paths of the destroyer (Satan), by the words of his lips; or by not allowing evil to proceed from his lips.

C. When Jesus was on the earth, the majority of the time, He was completely compassed with crowds of people during the daytime. And there were many times I’m sure, when the only time He could find time alone with the Heavenly Father was at nighttime. We can read of many instances during his earthly ministry, when He spent time alone in prayer at night. We read in Luke 6:12: “And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.” And in Luke 21:37 we also read: “And in the day time He was teaching in the temple; and at night He went out, and abode in the mount that is called the Mount of Olives.” If we desire a holy relationship with our Heavenly Father, let us never forget

that He is always present; at any time, and at every place. And some of the most holy moments of our lives, can be during the nighttime; when we lie awake upon our bed, or when we find ourselves alone in the living room, or when we take a stroll in the dark out in the backyard, as God looks down from the sky. What a wonderful God to know!

5. In maintaining a holy relationship, we must continually give praise and thanks unto our Heavenly Father, through Jesus his Son. We read in Ephesians 5:18-21: "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." The point which Paul is attempting here to impress upon the Ephesians, is that a person should never be influenced by an excess of wine, but always be influenced by God's Holy Spirit; Who will always give a person the desire to joyfully sing praises unto the Lord. A person who is continually filled and influenced by God's Holy Spirit, will always be thankful unto the Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ the Lord also. Christians should also continually be submitted unto one another, as they work together to fulfill the commission which Jesus gave unto us also. This will bring harmony and happiness also, rather than difficulty. This must be done if we are to have a holy relationship with our Heavenly Father, through Jesus his Son. If we refer back to Psalm 34:1, we will read: "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." This means we will continually have the Lord on our minds; at home, on our job, in our car, or wherever we may be. If we have the Spirit of God in our heart, we can sing unto the Lord, and pray unto the Lord, without ever opening our mouths. 1 Thes. 5: 18 tells us: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." This is telling us, that it is the perfect will of the Heavenly Father, that we always be thankful; not just when things are going good, but even when things are going wrong. For we are not to base our future on the way circumstances may look, but on what God's Word tells us; and on what the Holy Spirit has taught us in past times. When we have a holy relationship with God, we will always remember the times when He delivered us during bad circumstances, or made a way out for us when there looked like there was no way out. And He always does it in a way, that never enters our mind.

6. Another very vital part of continuously having a holy relationship with God the Father, is daily abiding in his Holy Word. We read in Psalms 1:1-3: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be light a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." A person who has a holy relationship through Jesus the Son of God, the Word of God will be their delight. Psalm 119:35 tells us: "Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I *delight*." Hebrew-chapets (khaw-fates): to be pleased with, to desire, to have a love for, to be spiritually drawn towards, or to be persuaded or influenced by. We also read in Psalm 119:47: "And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved." And in Psalm 119:89-92: "For ever, O Lord, thy Word is settled in Heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants. Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction." Without any doubt whatsoever, God's Word is settled forevermore in Heaven. It will never be changed.

As a matter of fact, God gives us a stern warning in his Word, concerning anyone attempting to change his Holy Word. We read in Revelations 22:18-19: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the Words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the Words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." God truly is faithful to all generations. We were all created equal, for the purpose of being servants unto the Lord our God. Sadly to say, we have not all continued to follow God's ordinances, or in obedience unto his Word. Therefore, many are perishing in afflictions of every kind, because they are not allowing their delight to be in the law of the Lord, or the Word of God. We are promised to have good success, if we will keep God's Word in our mouth, and continually meditate upon it. Joshua 1:8 tells us: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shall have good success."

A. *Meditate*-Hebrew-hagah (haw-gaw): to murmur, ponder, mutter, study, utter, or to have one's mind continually fixed upon.

B. Prosperous-Hebrew-tsaleach (tsaw-lay-akh): to be profitable, or to be successful in every way; to achieve gain, or to move ahead.

C. Success-Hebrew-sakal (saw-kal): to continue in an intelligent style, or in a profitable fashion; to have a record of progression, or gain.

7. In having a holy relationship with God our Father, we must also continue in Christian fellowship and love. We are told in Hebrews 10:19-25: "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

A. We can now have boldness to enter into the Holy of Holies. Greek-parrhesia (par-rhay-see-ah): confidence, bravery, or assurance (of the right to go into God's presence).

B. By the blood of Jesus. Jesus' blood has cleansed us from all sin and unrighteousness; past, present, and future. 1 John 1:7 tells us: "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

C. By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us. Greek-egkainizo (eng-kahee-nid-zo): to dedicate, or to renew.

D. Through the veil, that is to say, his flesh. John 1:14 tells us: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

E. And having an high priest over the House of God. Jesus is our High Priest forevermore. Hebrews 2:17 tells us: "Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto his brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in all things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." Hebrews 3:1-4 also tells us: "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to Him that appointed Him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who hath built the house hath more honor than the house. For every house is built by some man; but He that built all things is God."

F. Let us draw near with a true heart. Greek-alethinos (al-ay-thee-nos): truthful or honesty; as to be witnessed by others.

G. In full assurance of faith. Hebrews 10:38 tells us that the just shall live by faith. And we read in Hebrews 11:3-6: "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarded of them that diligently seek Him."

H. Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience. We can have a perfectly clear conscience, as far as sin is concerned, forevermore. Hebrews 9:14 tells us: "How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

I. And our bodies washed with pure water. Ezekiel prophesied of the cleansing which Jesus Christ came to give unto us, in Ezek. 36:25: "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you." And 2 Cor. 7:1 gives us a word of encouragement concerning this matter: "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

J. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering. Hebrews 4:14-15 tells us: "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." James 1:6-7 tells us, that he that wavereth is

like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. And that a man with wavering faith cannot receive any thing from the Lord.

K. And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Every person who is a child of God, should always attempt to encourage one another, to walk in the love of God, and to always go about seeking to do good for one another. Our lives should always be an encouragement to one another; never a discouragement.

L. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together. As children of God, we should always be in the practice of assembling together to offer thanks and praise unto the Lord; using every opportunity we have to do so; for it is one of the greatest privileges we have, which should never be taken for granted. For it is a privilege which many around the world have been denied the right to. It is one of the greatest privileges we have, in walking in our holy relationship with God our Heavenly Father.

M. But exhorting one another. Greek-parakaeo (par-ak-al-eh-o): to beseech, exhort, encourage, comfort, or to uplift.

N. And so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. What day are we referring to? The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth, to gather his children and take them home to Heaven. 2 Peter 3:9-13 tells us: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." Truly, we do not have to look very hard, to see that the day of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is at hand. Therefore, it should be our main desire, to uplift and to encourage one another; in every way we possibly can.

8. Another one of the main factors, in walking in a holy relationship with God our Father, is to be completely devoted unto Him. Probably the most important question which we will be asked, when we desire to walk closer to God, or when we desire to have a holier relationship with Him, is, "Are we willing to pay the cost?" Most of us usually give it no thought; or never really stop to think, about what a costly situation we could be getting ourselves into. Not that it is not worth the costs, by no means.

For what could be worth any more than eternal life in Heaven, having divine health and healing in our bodies, and having the Holy Spirit to guide us every step of the way, as we live our life upon this earth. In addition to all this, God promises us that He will meet our every need, in every way; if we will only trust in Him. What greater costs could there be to pay, than the costs which Jesus has already paid for every one of us? He gave his life, that we might live forever. But did you ever give it a thought, that possibly there may be circumstances someday, which might cost you your life as well? Do you think that Stephen ever really thought that he would have to give his life, in order to serve Jesus faithfully? Let us take a look at his life for a moment. Acts chapter 7 tells us the sermon which Stephen preached. And after he had preached the sermon, the people were cut to the heart; their consciences were torn to pieces; because of their guilt and their shame, which Stephen's sermon brought upon them. And in Acts 7:54-60, we read of Stephen's devotion unto God: "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly unto Heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." How many of us would be willing to act as Stephen did? If Jesus revealed unto you, that it would cost you your life, in order for Him to accomplish his perfect will, would you still be willing to follow Him? Don't be surprised, if sometime you hear Jesus ask you, "Are you willing to pay the costs?" Many times, we make some pretty earnest requests of the Lord. We ask for different ones, or for certain ones, whom we know need to find their way to the Lord, to be born again. Or we ask for certain ones to be healed. But how often are we willing to be God's instrument, for Him to accomplish, or to bring to pass the answer to our request? Especially, if we knew it may possibly cost us our life? Would you? We should never make a request of God to do any thing, if we are not willing to be his

instrument in bringing it to pass. Does this change your mind at all, about wanting to have a holy relationship with God? I should hope not. Our life is in his hands anyway. The air we breathe is furnished entirely by God. So let us always be thankful, and fully devoted unto Him. For as Romans 8:31 tells us, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" A holy relationship with God; what more could anyone ever ask for?

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