

# PERSONAL DEALING WITH GOD

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Jesus said, when He was on earth, that we would have to get back to that place where we would deal personally with God and act toward Him as our first parents did in the Garden of Eden. This has all to do with our getting to Heaven, and also with every blessing here; it is what this Truth is all about and our hope of Heaven depends upon it. Jesus said in Matthew 18:3, "*Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*"

In John 17:3 when Jesus made that wonderful prayer to His Father, He said: "*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*" From this we see that only those who know God will receive eternal life. What Jesus meant was, those who have a personal knowledge of God and will deal with Him freely and fully. It could not be otherwise; we could not do anything but run to Him for everything we need first, last, and all the time.

This Bible states that when a parent is righteous, that righteousness reaches unto their children. (Psalm 103:17) It also strictly states that if we will give heed to His Word and ask according to God's will, it shall be done unto us--if we abide in Him and He in us, we shall ask what we will and it shall be done unto us--if we give heed to His Word and not allow it to depart from us, it will give life and health to all our flesh. When we have gotten back to the attitude of little children, where God is first, last, and everything, we will prove that God has victory for us along every line.

The great love of God and the virtue of the Cross of Jesus Christ can never be fathomed. Paul said in Romans 11:33: "*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*" That is a positive fact. This Bible cannot reveal the fullness of the love, mercy, wisdom, and power of God; although, it does reveal the character of our God, but we could never fathom the fullness of the love, mercy, and power of our God.

Adam's fall into sin changed man's attitude toward God entirely. Adam had been accustomed to dealing with God, he would run to God for all they needed; but after the Fall he ran away from God. The Lord said: "Adam, where art thou?" From that day the whole human race has been running away from God, and the world has never been farther from God than at the present time. That is what sin does and that is what makes sin such a desperately wicked thing, because it leads to this sinful, personal aversion, or dislike of God. That is the root, the foundation of sin.

Adam answered God: "*I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*" Genesis 3:10. How could anyone conceive such a thought, to be afraid of God when He tells us that He loves us with an everlasting love, and was willing to give that love to help us. It is only sin that makes people afraid.

Consider the children of Israel, for a moment; they realized what the Blood meant, the Blood of that little lamb had protected them; they saw what God did at the Red Sea and saw that miracle performed by being able to go through that body of water on dry land; still their old, evil natures had not been cleansed and God's Spirit take the place; they were blind and ignorant.

A million and a half people got over the Red Sea and then discovered there was no water to drink. They were willing to suffer thirst and endure much hardship rather than get down on their knees and deal personally with the God Who had done so much for them previously. They walked three days in that wilderness without a drop of water. Finally, they did find a stream of water, but upon discovery they found the water was bitter---God permitted them to find that bitter stream to teach them how futile

it was to try to find anything apart from God. They were compelled to trust God after all. They went to Moses and complained about the situation.

Moses did not try any self-effort; but he went to God and got before Him in prayer, laid the whole matter before God. God told Moses if he would take a branch of a tree and put it in that stream of water it would become sweet. They learned the lesson of trusting God for that water.

This Bible shuts us up to God in everything; it takes the Christian right out into the wilderness, as far as human help is concerned, the Christian is in the wilderness with God, just as the Israelites of old, not a wilderness of unbelief and ignorance; but it is a place where God is our only Helper. This New Testament teaches us how we may be brought to such a place of blessing. The whole principle of this Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is to bring us back to the state of man in the Garden of Eden.

We need to consider very carefully the many blessings that come from dealing with God directly, as they are the things we need to have and know. The first thing which happens when we begin to deal with God directly is that the hindrances in our life are exposed. After hindrances are exposed, the first prayer brings a deliverance. You can pray indefinitely and if hindrances are not exposed, you can receive no answer to prayer; but the first thing after beginning to deal with God is that hindrances will be exposed, and how we may be delivered. There is no power on earth that can expose it but God; He is the only One; and He can make it plain, so plain that you cannot get away from it.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of John, the man came to Jesus with a request for healing of a dying boy, saying: "Come down and heal my son: for he is at the point of death." The first thing Jesus did was to expose the hindrance in that man's life, telling him that except he saw signs and wonders, he would not believe. He meant to say: "You are not willing to take God's Word at its face value."

That is a great hindrance in the lives of many people; they are praying and waiting until they see their deliverance before they believe. If Jesus was here in person, He would find many souls crying and praying, in a discouraged condition, and as they came to Him direct, He would tell them just as He did this man, "Except ye see signs and wonders ye will not believe."

As the man saw that hindrance in his life, he only had to pray one more time to receive his deliverance. "Come down ere my child die." After that hindrance was exposed and made right, Jesus said: "Go thy way, thy son liveth." His prayer was answered at once. The man believed the Word, after the hindrance was exposed, and went home and found the boy delivered.

He was dealing directly with God, not anyone else. He did not ask anyone else to pray for him--although that is all right--but he saw the importance of dealing with God directly.

Take the case of Job; Satan had become fully entrenched in his life: There are many people trying to hide behind the experience of Job; they tell you that Job was terribly afflicted and he was a righteous man. There never has been a human being on earth in the same position as Job; he had no Bible, he never heard a full Gospel sermon preached, as far as the records go.

He was as ignorant of the knowledge of God, and as full of unbelief as someone living in the woods. He never received any deliverance out of his troubles until God exposed the hindrance. His three friends tried to convince him that he was wrong and God right; Elihu, a man of God, tried to help him, but the net result to all this dealing with man was that Job found himself still on the ash heap full of sores. However, God began to deal with him and then he began to deal with God. When God was through dealing with him, he acknowledged that he was nothing, never had been anything; that he was no good at all; that he was wrong and God was right.

God exposed his hindrance; ignorance, and unbelief, and Job repented in dust and ashes. Job 42:5, "*I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth thee: Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*"

What he meant to say was, "I never understood how to deal with Thee personally; all I ever did was apart from Thee, but now I see things entirely different." The righteousness of Job is nothing for us to hide behind. Job was very anxious to repent, after the hindrance of his life was exposed; so he could not have been so righteous.

We do not repent for righteousness; we repent for being under the control of Satan instead of God. Job saw his self-righteousness, and said: "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Only one prayer was needed, after God exposed the hindrance, and not just for himself, but for his friends; and his whole captivity was turned.

There is nothing that can take the place of personal dealing with God. We look to each other, lean on each other and we leave God out. We desire to see where our deliverance is to come from, and how it is to come, but that is not going to help us.

The Gospel plan is that God will hear and answer the individual's prayers from beginning to end. It is all right to ask one to pray for you, but if you do this continually, it becomes idolatry, because you depend more on the one praying than you do upon God Himself. We are to go to God direct and deal with Him Whose power really does the work and receive our deliverances direct. Paul said to people he visited, that they ought to be teaching others, but they were still repenting and had not learned the first principles of faith in God.

Hebrews 6:1, *"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God."*

A foundation should be laid so that we will deal with God directly, and walk with Him from the beginning of our Christian life; then we can receive our deliverances, because the Holy Spirit will inspire us with confidence in God for personal help first, last, and all the time.

Another very comforting point is that God never scolds or finds fault with us for anything we have done. No matter how sinful we have been, how mean and contemptible, how unreasonable we are; He knows all about us, and yet He never scolds us.

Consider the demoniac of Gadara; he was a bad case, humanly speaking. Jesus never scolded or admonished him in any way. He softly said, "What is your name?"

If we used as much divine commonsense in dealing with our family as Jesus teaches here, there would be some real conversion in the home. When the devil gets in, we get that impression that we must use our tongues to complain or admonish someone. But with Jesus, there was not a word of complaint, not a word of upbraiding; He was just as pleasant as He could be. There was a Heavenly calm about Jesus, and as the man looked at Jesus, he saw the love of God shining in His face; he saw love, pity, and compassion. Jesus dealt with the power that made that man act as he did.

The Son of God surely knows how to deal with fallen humanity; He never scolds us, He says in Isaiah 1:18: *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."*

The woman who was caught in that terrible sin in the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of John, who the Pharisees brought to Jesus for the sake of proving His doctrine; they desired to prove that He was a faker; they claimed to believe in a dead Moses and rejected a living Christ; Jesus was master of the situation, and He fixed this little affair up without any trouble and when He was through this poor woman had something to live on, while the Pharisees clung to their dead creed, upon which their religion was founded.

Jesus Christ always offers something of life and power; and He never scolds anyone under any circumstances. God tells us how we are to deal with Him, Philippians 4:6,7, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Tell God all about your trouble; open your heart to Him without reserve, a real personal dealing with Him. As we do this, the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep us in union with Jesus Christ. It means we are made a branch of the Vine; Jesus Christ; in reality and truth and every prayer is answered.

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*\*Be on our free mailing list—contact:*

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

[info@fcqchurch.org](mailto:info@fcqchurch.org)

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