

# The Value of Dealing With God Personally

## PART 1

Message by Pastor A. Clark

S007 25 0511P

The pastor began by saying, "We will endeavor to bring out just what God would have us discuss, or look into, concerning the importance, or value, of dealing personally or directly with God Himself. He continued, "I think we have all experienced, and also discovered from the Bible, that man is averse to dealing with God; he will endure any hardship, suffer any danger in his own way and plans, rather than go to God and deal with Him directly and receive a quick deliverance. That is the result of the Fall. It is the natural condition of man."

Now man in the Garden of Eden was entirely different. He did not think anything of going to God and dealing with Him. It was just as natural for man to go and deal with God as a little child going to their parents. The first trouble a child finds themselves in, they go to their father or mother to find the way out, to seek help in time of need.

Why? The reason is because no one is as tender, kind, and loving as their mother or father. "Mother, I want something to eat." They go to their father when they want something for their comfort. Mother and father are first, last, and all the time. A child has the utmost faith and confidence in their parents; that is the normal condition of a child.

Man was exactly the same in the Garden of Eden. He was not reluctant to dealing with God; he was not reluctant to looking into His face. This condition which exists in the hearts of people today is exactly opposite to what it was or should be.

Jesus said, when He was on earth, that we would have to get back to that place where we would deal with God and act toward Him as our

first parents did in the Garden of Eden; just as a little child.

This lesson has to do with our getting to Heaven, and it also has to do with every blessing here; it is the sum and substance of this truth, and our hope of Heaven depends upon it. Jesus said: "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

In John 17:3 when He 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."

Knowing God is the first thought concerning eternal life. There are many questions asked as to who will receive eternal life; from this we see that only those will receive it who know God. What Jesus meant here was a personal knowledge of God, such a knowledge as to deal with Him freely and fully, having no reluctance to dealing with God. If we really know Him, it could not be otherwise; we could not do anything but run to Him for everything we need first, last, and all the time. What a farce the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to the average Christian!

We find professing Christians for twenty, thirty, and forty years who have not received an answer to prayer, or a deliverance because they do not know how to go before God and receive an answer to prayer for the things they need. They never receive peace in their home--probably we are all exceptions--have never received healing for their bodies, nor proven that the Lord can supply their needs financially. If you ask them, they will tell you they are good Christians but cannot receive an answer to prayer. They have missed the mark entirely.

"If a person has been converted and become a real Bible Christian; if they have consecrated their lives to God, they ought to be able to be in a position to receive answers to prayer for anything we need spiritually, physically, and financially; then our faith should be increased to help other people through prayer. People tell us: "We are good Christians, but we are in a heap of trouble; my wife is broken down in health, my children are unmanageable; I am financially embarrassed."

Well, Christianity is a howling farce at that rate; there is to be a vast difference between the Christian and the sinner. 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. If we get back on thoroughly Scriptural grounds, we will prove that God has victory for us along every line.

How few have gotten back to the attitude of little children, where God is first, last, and everything to them; where they go to Him with little troubles and great troubles, and troubles of every kind! There is an utter absence of this in this age, and it is caused by the fact that self will not have any dealings with God direct.

People wonder why people in the Bible received such wonderful deliverances, but instead of coming to God at the first sign of trouble, as Bible Christians did, they wait until the last breath is leaving their body. That is the way we deal with God today; the Bible teaches that God is to be first, last, and all the time.

The average Christian exhausts every measure of man to receive help for their body, spend their last cent and suffer agony, risk their lives almost to death; then they turn to God for healing. Then their nervous system is exhausted. and broken down, and they have scarcely sense enough left to intelligently grasp the truths of this Bible. Their actions say: "We have condescended now to let God try to help us." Beloved, it is really a wonder anybody received healing under such conditions; but praise God for the many hundreds of people, including children who are being kept by the power of God. It is a wonderful thing in this century of unbelief and ignorance of God's Word.

The pastor said, "I was in the jaws of death, but I turned to God, and that life was saved. I did not deserve it at all; how God got the victory in, I cannot tell. The great love of God and the virtue of the Cross of Jesus Christ can never be fathomed, and I do not wonder that Paul said: "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!" (Romans 11:33)

That is a positive fact. This Bible does not half reveal the love, mercy, wisdom, and power of

God; however, it does reveal in a wonderful manner the character of our God, but we could never fathom the hundredth part of the love, mercy, and power of our God. The picture portrayed in this Bible is a very poor one, and yet it is wonderful.

We have two Illustrations of this reluctance of man to dealing with God. Adam's fall into sin changed man's attitude toward God entirely. Adam had been accustomed to dealing with God, used to flying into the arms of God, and getting hold of Him for all they needed; but after the Fall he ran away from God, ran for his life.

The Lord said: "Adam, where art thou?" If he would have answered exactly as he should, he would have said: "I am doing my best to get away from Thee." 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.

The nominal Christian never knew less about God, or His Word or about how to receive deliverance for what they need. This is because of the old carnal self-life prevailing; hence, we are running away from God as we would run from a lion or a snake, That is what sin does and that is what makes sin such a desperately wicked thing, because it leads to this sinful, personal aversion to God. That is the root, the foundation of sin.

Now this was Adam's answer to God: "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." (Genesis 3:10)

We should ask ourselves, is there one thing about God to be afraid of? Has there ever been anything about Him to make the weakest child afraid? It is a worse form of idiocy, spiritually speaking, for man to be afraid of God than any insanity--the worst form--in the world from a human standpoint, as it makes man exactly opposite to what he should be. Afraid of God! How could anyone conceive such a thought 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.

Just consider the children of Israel, for a moment; they had realized what the Blood meant, the Blood of that little lamb had protected them; they had discovered what God would do at the

Red Sea, and they had seen that miracle performed by being able to go thru that body of water on dry land; still their old, evil natures had not been cleansed out and God's Spirit take the place; they were blind and ignorant.

They (a million and a half people) got over the Red Sea and discovered there was no water for them to drink, and they were very thirsty. They would have walked themselves to death in the quest for water, rather than trust God and deal with Him directly for that need; 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.

If ever we walk three days hunting for water, we will be able to appreciate what it meant. It is something dreadful to endure; worse than being deprived of food. Finally, they did find a stream of water, but upon discovery they found the water was bitter.

Now God permitted them to find the 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, saying: "You are the man who is responsible for all this for ever bringing us out of the land of Egypt; just look at my children, we have no nourishment for these babies; you will be responsible for the death of these children."

Moses did not try any self-effort; but he went to God and got before Him in prayer, began to deal with Him personally--I do not know where he went, the pastor said, probably in the woods, or in his tent--laid the whole matter before God. After that they did not have to wait three days for water, as 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.

The pastor said, "I tell you, the commands of this Bible put you and me alone with God in everything; it takes the Christian right out into the wilderness with no one but God for their help, for their spiritual life; it takes them away from all doctors and drugs. 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 their Helper, a genuine land of milk and honey, the wilderness of Canaan, or Heaven.

We sing: "Where Jesus is 'tis Heaven there" and where God is there is a land of bliss. The Israelites were brought to such a place, as they learned to communicate with God.

"And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and three-score and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters." (Exodus 15:27)

So, 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, and until we see that, we will think such teaching is very narrow.

We expect to take up some of the blessings which come from dealing with God directly, and we need to consider this carefully, 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. What a valuable thing it is to have hindrances 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. He will reveal just what is the matter with us, why you are not delivered, and how you may be delivered. There is no power on earth that can expose it but God; He is the only One; and beloved, He can make it plain, so plain that you cannot get away from it.

Just let us consider that case in the 4th chapter of John, that man came with a request, for healing for a dying boy. He began to deal with God through His Son, 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."

You would be surprised what a hindrance that is in the lives of most people; they are praying

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