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Our Fellowship With God

I can't tell you how exciting it has been over the last few months being a part of what God is doing in people's lives. The more I learn about how much Jesus loves each person, the more confident I am in ministry. Once I figured out that God will do everything possible to rescue someone, then I started to see myself differently as well. Like most of us, I saw myself as a problem to God and what He wants to do on this earth, and not a solution. I would find myself resisting the leading of the Spirit because I counted myself as unfit for God's use. Even now I catch myself questioning what God is wanting to do through me. It is obvious that He believes in us much more than we believe in ourselves. God never gives up on us and always sees more in us than we can see. There are things in you right now that God needs to help others around you. I am not talking about launching a world wide ministry over night, just that **you are valuable to the kingdom of God right now.**

The most important need that God has for you is relationship. His heart is for you to get to know Him as well as He knows you. Once you spent the time getting to know His voice you will be amazed to know how valuable you are to His work on this earth. Most Christians don't feel like they can hear His voice or be involved with His work. We never feel quite ready or even have enough self worth to be a partner with God in what He is doing in people's lives. The devil lies to us and reminds us daily of every weakness and failure in your life. These weaknesses God will help you get out of your life, if you will spend time with Him through prayer and worship.

I can still remember the first time I was asked to speak. I was serving God with all of my heart when the pastor of our church asked me to speak to the youth group. I was young and had never preached before in my life. I said I would do it, even though I was puzzled that he even asked me to minister. I said to myself, "Don't you have to be perfect before you preach?" I had thought that there was some mystical line that I had to cross before God would even consider using me. I knew my shortcomings and weaknesses and could not fathom God being able to use me to do anything for years to come. Most of us go through this experience. It is part of the devil's plan to discourage all of us from following God's will.

On the road to perfecting our life, we are still to be involved with the things of God. The problem I see is that many of us feel useless in the body of Christ because we can't believe that God can use us the way we are. So we sit and admire those who are spiritual and wait until God picks us. As if God one day just picks your name out of a hat and says, "Ok today I pick you." Through religious thinking many Christians today have become comfortable with going to church and allowing the "more spiritual" people to take care of the things of God. In the Old Testament we had some one called the High Priest represent God to us. History tells us that the Catholic Church also established the role of a priest to represent God for us. Through our history you always find a man standing between God and His People. But that is not His plan today. In our twenty-first century churches we have the same problem developing. The masses of people are looking for a representative of God to give them a word, a healing, and direction. I believe that one of the reasons we have continued to

allow a man to stand between us and God is that we haven't gotten to know Him personally. I believe the other reason is because **we are too lazy to break out of our comfort zone.**

The very reason Jesus went to the cross was to make a way for God to fellowship with **YOU**. Because of the fall of Adam the only fellowship that God could allow was through laws and rituals. Man's nature was turned into sin and God could not be our Father anymore. Once man fell God had to change the way He dealt with him. No longer was He able to look into the eyes of His children. Adam stood face to face with God and had no sense of weakness or fear. Adam was as pure as God was and was able to talk and fellowship with Him as Father and son. When Adam's very nature changed through sinning, so did his relationship with God. God was unable to be close to Adam anymore because of the change that had happened. God's purity and holiness would have obliterated Adam because of the sin in his heart. So because of His love for us He separated Himself for our own sake. God, who was still longing to be a part of our lives, was forced to fellowship from afar.

God our Father took His presence from walking side by side, to a room called the Holy of Holies. It was in this room where God was most able to be apart of your life. Mankind was no longer His children they belonged to their new father, the devil, now. Yet God loved us so much He still found a way to touch us from a distance. He took His personal presence and placed it in the Holy of Holies. He was still omnipresent meaning that He is everywhere at the same time but His glory had to be withheld to this little room in the Holy Temple. He was separated from us with His only recourse being to have another man talk to God for you and to you for God.

Once a year you and your family would come to the Temple and a priest would represent you. He would slaughter a lamb and take its blood into the Holy of Holies to show God's grace and forgiveness upon your family. It was through this ritual that your sins were covered and God was able to express His love toward you and your family. You would not get to meet with God's personal presence; only the priest could go in to the Holy of Holies for you. What a change this was from the Garden of Eden, where He walked and talked with Adam. This was as close as God would dare come to mankind and yet you can still see how much He longed to be a part of your life.

He has loved each person of every race and color who was ever born. He knew every one, who they were, and He longed for the time when He could once again be their Father. He wanted them to know Him and walk and talk with Him as Adam did. It was the sin nature of mankind that was passed down from Adam that separated God from man. Jesus solved every thing at the cross of Calvary. Through His blood Jesus, the second man Adam, purchased our redemption which allowed us to once again become sons and daughters of God. The very thing that separated God from man and Father from son was changed at the cross.

Satan stole God's family from Him and made them his own; God purchased us back with the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus. It was there, at the cross, where we were now able to switch families back from our father the devil to our Father God. (John 8:37-48) It was this sin nature which stopped God from having intimate fellowship with us. The book of Hebrews tells us that after the cross Jesus entered into heaven as our high priest and offered His blood for us just as the high priest did in the Old Testament. However this blood was enough to put away the sin that separated God from mankind once and for all. Jesus didn't need to return to offer Himself ever again because His sacrifice didn't just cover our sins but it allowed us to let go of our **sin nature** and take on His nature. We traded back into the **family of God**.

Hebrews 9:23-26 says; *“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another. He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, **He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**”* Jesus brought us back into the family of God our Father, «SALUTATION», you are now His child. **Jesus made His Father your Father.** What had separated God from you in the past was put away with once and for all. Your Heavenly Father couldn't wait to step back into the lives of His people. He wanted to walk and talk with His sons and daughters once again.

For four thousand years He loved us from a distance until the day that the final price was paid. Jesus cried out *“Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”* that is, *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”* (Matthew 27:46) Jesus took your place and in turn gave you His standing with His Father. Then something incredible happened! Immediately after Jesus breathed His last breath and paid the final price for our sin. Mark 15: 38 reads ***“Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”*** It was here where our Heavenly Father, who had separated His personal presence from mankind, stood up in that little room called the Holy of Holies and ripped that veil in two!

He then stepped forward out into this world because sin no longer could separate you from God. He was ready to walk and talk with His children once again. Hebrews 10:12 *“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.”* All of this so He could spend time with you. Let's not wait until heaven to get to know who God is. He wants to walk and talk with you right now, and He will meet with you just the way you are. The very thing that had separated you from Him in the past was done away with the moment you knelt down and asked Him into your heart.

He loves you, so don't ever let a man stand between you and your Father. He is your healer, your deliver, your provider, and your guide through this life. Yes, we do need to draw strength from one another and have our pastors pray with us and for us as we grow in Him. Yet, as we mature God wants you to establish a relationship with Him. This walk is not just for the preachers, it is for every born again Christian. We have a Heavenly Father who will walk and talk with us every day of our lives. He will lead you into other people's lives to minister to right now as you are. Then as you mature in your relationship with Him, He is able to lead you into more people's lives.

Quit waiting to be perfect. Quit waiting to be holy. If you will just take the time, there is nothing that will stop Him from meeting with you personally. Jesus has restored relationship between God and man once and for all; no longer do we need a priest or a representative to speak to God for us as we can go to Him all by ourselves. As you finish this letter take a little time and close your eyes. Tell your Heavenly Father how much you appreciate Him and all He has done for you. Out of your heart and your own mouth tell Him that you love Him and are thankful for Him.

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