

God Wants to Bless You!

God wants to bless all those who worship Him in spirit and in truth. Have you ever wondered about the process God uses to draw us closer to Him?

I want to begin this article by telling you a story about my early childhood and adolescent years. My father worked in some factories around Detroit, Michigan during and after World War II. As a child, I never saw my father much. About the only remembrance of him was at dinner time or when my mother reported to him my need of a spanking. Because I didn't know my father very well, I didn't like him very much.

But that all changed when I was about twelve years old. We sold our home and moved north about 300 miles to live on a farm. This was an ideal place for children to grow up. With cows to milk, chickens to feed, eggs to collect, stock to feed night and morning, and fields to plow, plant, and harvest, there wasn't much down time. Then, in our spare time, the firewood had to be stored up for the winter. There was always much to do; no time for a young person to become "bored."

But there was one miraculous thing that happened because of working with my father. I began to know him better! And I came to realize that he was a lot like me! Or rather, I was a lot like him! You see, as I worked with my father on the farm, we began to grow closer together. I will always cherish those years I had with my dad. They were years of much hard work, but some of the most enjoyable ones of my life.

I remember, after the evening chores, we would look up into the star-filled sky and muse about the awesomeness of our great God and Father. We would talk about His plans for us and for all mankind. Those were some of the most precious days of my life.

I have since found the same joy, and even more, by learning to work with my Heavenly Father. You, too, can find that joy if you are willing to spend time with your Heavenly Father!

But how do we get to know our Father better? The short answer is: **Work with Him!** If you learn to work with Him, you will get to know Him better!

Jesus said, "...My Father has been working until now, and I have been working" (John 5:17 NKJV). You see, the Father loves the Son so much that He shows the Son everything He is doing. And, in turn, the Son loves the Father so much that He is dedicated to doing exactly what the Father wants Him to do! (See John 5:17-20 NKJV.) Jesus went on to explain that, "...I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me" (v. 30 NKJV).

If we learn to be like Jesus, we too can experience the great joy Jesus had by doing the will of the Father. Let's examine this great, love relationship a little closer.

We can learn more about being a "son" in whom the Father is well pleased by reading John 15:8 NKJV. Jesus said, "...My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My

disciples.” The Father is pleased with all His children who learn to work with Him as Jesus did. By doing so, we can be Christ’s disciples.

So, we have learned the Father is happy and blessed when we are productive and produce much fruit. But we can’t produce anything unless we stay firmly attached to Jesus because, without that attachment, we can do nothing of spiritual value. Jesus loves us when we obey His instructions. We are then loved by the Father.

Do you see how this relationship is developed? It is produced from an obedient and respectful concern for one another. It means a willingness to obey and do the will of Christ and the Father. Jesus said, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. **You are My friends if you do whatever I command you**” (John 15:12-14 NKJV).

So many who call themselves Christians aren’t willing to follow any of the teachings and instructions of Christ or the Father! The greatest conflict Christians have is whether they will obey God or do their own thing!

Are we going to satisfy ourselves or do what God says?

Stop lying to yourself! Are you really willing to follow God? If so, **Start Obeying Him!** Go all the way. **Give Him all of your life!**

Christians are often like a person eating at a smorgasbord. We tell God, “I’ll take a little of this and a little of that. But I don’t like that doctrine and I don’t believe in this teaching.” When we act that way, we are our own god! We think we know better than God! We are performing as the god of our own life. That is just plain carnal mindedness!

Now, if we refuse to do the will of Christ, we are also rejecting the will of the Father! Jesus said, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46 NKJV).

If we are not willing to obey and do the will of Christ, we are none of His! We should stop kidding ourselves! **Don’t call yourself a Christian if you are not willing to follow Jesus Christ’s commands!**

But if we are willing to obey, then Jesus says, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love” (John 15:10 NKJV). This means, if we are willing to follow His instructions and do as He says, we will continue to have a close friendship with Him. If, however, we willingly disobey, the friendship is greatly strained. We can’t be friends unless we intentionally do as we are told! The way we can keep our friendship alive and well is to obey Him. Then the Father will also love us (v. 9)! This is how we get and hold onto a deep, personal relationship with the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If you truly want to be happy, continue in this respectful, obedient relationship with God in the Spirit! I have the greatest joy when I am willing to quickly do what the Holy Spirit inspires me to do! Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full” (v. 11 NKJV).

Remember I told you that I became closer to my father as I learned to work with him? The same is true as we discover how to work with our Heavenly Father. Relationships are built as we work together.

You see, if we obey quickly the commands we are given, then Jesus goes on to say, “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for **all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you**” (v. 15 NKJV).

Many call themselves servants of God and, in some respects, we are. But I want you to notice that **servants are not told the Master’s plans! To call ourselves servants, in essence, means we haven’t any idea what our Father is doing!** But by obeying our Father, we are friends with our brother Jesus Christ and He shows us everything the Father has revealed to Him! Do you want to know and understand the Word of God better? Doing the will of the Father and of Christ can give you that insight!

It is important to prove everything you hear about the Word of God. If you do not prove what you are taught, then you will assume the teachings to be true or false and will not respond in obedience!

Immediate obedience is the key to understanding the Word of God! If you don’t obey, you will never understand the deep things of God! Do you realize and understand the significance of that statement? You will remain in spiritual darkness as long as you continue to drag your feet and disobey! You will have little or no companionship with God if you do not obey!

God wants to bless all His children. But He cannot reward for disobedience. The fastest way to a close relationship with God, in the Spirit, is to determine to obey immediately His every word. A key to obedience is to take a marker pen and highlight the verbs in Christ’s instructions throughout your Bible; **do, go, watch, trust, obey**, and so forth. See to it that you carry out every instruction. Live your life that way. Then you will develop a rich relationship with God!

If you would like to learn more about how to work with God, please download our free booklet *How God’s Work is Accomplished*.