

How do I Develop a Relationship with God?

II. Desire for Relationship



“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”
– James 4:8



Desires that Interfere with Relationships – Luke 15:11-32

- The Younger Son Desired...
 - Benefits without responsibilities (v. 11-12)



Luke 15:11-12

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. 12
And the younger of them said to his father,
'Father, give me the portion of goods that
falls to me.' So he divided to them his
livelihood.



Desires that Interfere with Relationships – Luke 15:11-32

- The Younger Son Desired...
 - Benefits without responsibilities (v. 11-12)
 - Unrestrained access to life's experiences (v. 13-14)



Luke 15:13-14

And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. 14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.



Desires that Interfere with Relationships – Luke 15:11-32

- The Younger Son Desired...
 - Benefits without responsibilities (v. 11-12)
 - Unrestrained access to life's experiences (v. 13-14)
 - To avoid humbling himself when in the wrong (v. 15-19)



Luke 15:15-19

Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. 17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." '



Desires that Interfere with Relationships – Luke 15:11-32

- The Younger Son Desired...
 - Benefits without responsibilities (v. 11-12)
 - Unrestrained access to life's experiences (v. 13-14)
 - To avoid humbling himself when in the wrong (v. 15-19)
- The Older Son Desired...



Luke 15:25-28

"Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' 28 "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him.



Desires that Interfere with Relationships – Luke 15:11-32

- The Younger Son Desired...
 - Benefits without responsibilities (v. 11-12)
 - Unrestrained access to life's experiences (v. 13-14)
 - To avoid humbling himself when in the wrong (v. 15-19)
- The Older Son Desired...
 - To put his father under obligation to him (v. 29)



Luke 15:29

So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.'



Desires that Interfere with Relationships – Luke 15:11-32

- The Younger Son Desired...
 - Benefits without responsibilities (v. 11-12)
 - Unrestrained access to life's experiences (v. 13-14)
 - To avoid humbling himself when in the wrong (v. 15-19)
- The Older Son Desired...
 - To put his father under obligation to him (v. 29)
 - To have first place or exclusive regard from his father (v. 30)



Luke 15:30

But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fattened calf for him.'



Unrealistic Desires that Damage Relationships – Luke 15:11-32

- Benefits without responsibilities
- Unrestrained access to life's experiences
- To avoid humbling himself when in the wrong
- To put others under obligation to us
- To have first place or exclusive regard from others



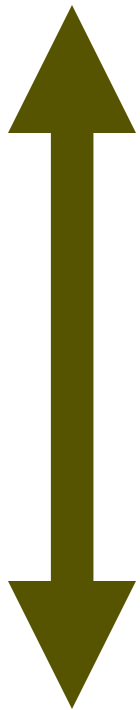
The Depth of Relationships



- Foreign
- Familiar
- Fellowship
- Friendship
- Family
- Fundamental



The Depth of Relationships

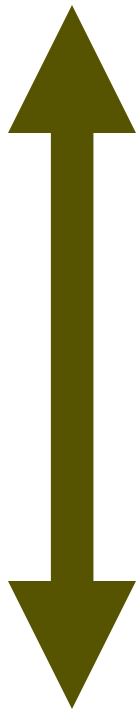


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In shallow relationships, what we get out of the relationship is more important than the relationship itself



The Depth of Relationships



- Foreign
- Familiar
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In deeper relationships, what we get out of the relationship is more closely related to who the person is



John 6:26-27

Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.** 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to **everlasting life**, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."



John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they may know You,
the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom
You have sent.



The Depth of Relationships



- Foreign
- Familiar
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Ruth 1:15-17

And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. 17 Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."



The Depth of Relationships



- Foreign
- Familiar
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In the deepest relationships, who the person is becomes primary, and the relationship itself is much more valuable than any benefits we receive from the relationship



A Deep Personal Relationship with God

- David – Psa. 42:1-2; Psa. 63:1-8



Psalms 42:1-2

As the deer pants for the water brooks, So
pants my soul for You, O God. 2 My soul
thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall
I come and appear before God?



Psalms 63:1-8

O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. 2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. 3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. 4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. 5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. 6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. 7 Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. 8 My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.



A Deep Personal Relationship with God

- David – Psa. 42:1-2; Psa. 63:1-8
- Moses – Exo. 33:11-23

Exodus 33:11-19



So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. 12 Then Moses said to the LORD, "... 13 ... I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." 14 And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ... 18 **And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."** 19 **Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you.** I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."



A Deep Personal Relationship with God

- David – Psa. 42:1-2; Psa. 63:1-8
- Moses – Exo. 33:11-23
- Paul – Phil. 3:7-8



Philippians 3:7-8

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ



Comparing My Desire for God with these Men...

- Do these men have a greater or smaller desire for God than I do?
- Is it because I am closer to God and am more satisfied with Him that they seem to be hungrier than I am?
- Or is it that the more we know of God, the more we want to know of Him?
- Do David and Moses and Paul know something about God that I don't know?

Hymns



“Jesus, Jesus, How I trust Him!
How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er!
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus,
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!”

“We taste Thee, O Thou Living Bread,
And long to feast upon Thee still:
We drink of Thee, the Fountainhead
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.”



The more a person knows of God, the more they want to know of God.

- David knew this
- Moses knew this
- Paul knew this
- Do I know it too?
- Do I want to know it?



Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.



God's Desire for Relationship with Us



God's Desire for Relationship with Us

- God DOES WANT this relationship!



God's Desire for Relationship with Us

- God DOES WANT this relationship!
- He is pictured as the father in Luke 15
 - Toward the younger brother (v. 20-24)



Luke 15:20-24

"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.



God's Desire for Relationship with Us

- God DOES WANT this relationship!
- He is pictured as the father in Luke 15
 - Toward the younger brother (v. 20-24)
 - Toward the older brother (v. 31-32)



Luke 15:31-32

"And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. 32 It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "



Matthew 23:37

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often **I wanted** to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!**



James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.



Revelation 3:19-20

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.
Therefore be zealous and repent. 20
Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If
anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I
will come in to him and dine with him, and he
with Me.



My Desire for Relationship with God

- How deep is my relationship with God?
- Is there anything that I desire more than God Himself?
 - Do I desire His blessings? Or Him?
 - Do I desire to live forever?
Or eternal life with Him (John 17:3)?
 - Do I desire help from God? Or God Himself?
- Is God satisfied with the level of desire I have for relationship with Him? Or does He want me to want Him more?