

How do I Develop a Relationship with God?

III. Communication



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



What is Communication?

a giving or exchanging of information, signals, or messages by talk, gestures, writing, etc.



Communication is Critical to Relationships

- A relationship cannot begin without communication
- A relationship cannot continue without continued communication



The Depth of Relationships



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



The Depth of Relationships

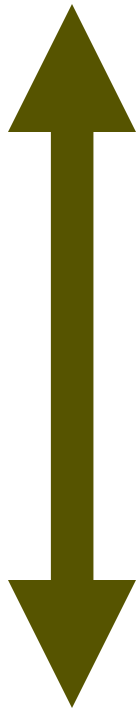


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The deeper relationships
involve more
communication



The Depth of Relationships



- Foreign
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- Fellowship
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The deeper relationships involve communication about more significant things



Levels of Communication

- Clichés



Levels of Communication

- Clichés
- Facts



Levels of Communication

- Clichés
- Facts
- Thoughts or beliefs



Levels of Communication

- Clichés
- Facts
- Thoughts or beliefs
- Feelings and emotions



Communion

- the act of sharing; possession in common, participation
- the act of sharing one's thoughts or emotions with another or others; intimate converse
- an intimate relationship with deep understanding



Communion

- the act of sharing; possession in common, participation
- **the act of sharing one's thoughts or emotions with another or others; intimate converse**
- an intimate relationship with deep understanding

**Communion and Communication
are closely related**



How We Communicate with God

- From God to Us – Scripture
- From Us to God – Worship



God's Communication in Scripture

- God's word is TO US – Deut. 29:29



Deuteronomy 29:29

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but **the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever**, that we may observe all the words of this law."



God's Communication in Scripture

- God's word is TO US – Deut. 29:29
- He communicates at the most significant levels - Eph. 5:25-29



Ephesians 5:25-29

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,



God's Communication in Scripture

- God's word is TO US – Deut. 29:29
- He communicates at the most significant levels - Eph. 5:25-29
- For the message to be received, we must hear his voice



How We Hear His Voice

- Like a sheep hears the shepherd
 - John 10:1-5



John 10:1-5

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."



How We Hear His Voice

- Like a sheep hears the shepherd
– John 10:1-5
- Like the seeker of truth hears the truth
– John 18:37



John 18:37

Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?"
Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king.
For this purpose I was born and for this
purpose I have come into the world--to bear
witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the
truth listens to my voice."



How We Hear His Voice

- Like a sheep hears the shepherd
– John 10:1-5
- Like the seeker of truth hears the truth
– John 18:37
- Like the host hears the welcome guest
– Rev. 3:20



Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.



Our Communication in Worship

- God wants to hear back from us –
Deut. 4:7,29; Psa. 50:12-15; Isa. 55:6;
Jer. 29:11-13



Deuteronomy 4:7 "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason **we may call upon Him?**

Deuteronomy 4:29 But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and **you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.**



Psalms 50:12-15

"If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness. 13 Will I eat the flesh of bulls, Or drink the blood of goats? 14 Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High. 15 **Call upon Me** in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."



Isaiah 55:6

Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.



Jeremiah 29:11-13

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12
Then **you will call upon Me** and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And **you will seek Me** and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.



Our Communication in Worship

- God wants to hear back from us –
Deut. 4:7,29; Psa. 50:12-15; Isa. 55:6;
Jer. 29:11-13
- Failing to seek Him is an offense to Him –
Psa. 14:2-4; 1 Chr. 28:9; Heb. 11:6



Psalms 14:2-4

The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, **To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.** 3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one. 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, **And do not call on the LORD?**



1 Chronicles 28:9

"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. **If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.**



Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**



Our Communication in Worship

- God wants to hear back from us –
Deut. 4:7,29; Psa. 50:12-15; Isa. 55:6;
Jer. 29:11-13
- Failing to seek Him is an offense to Him –
Psa. 14:2-4; 1 Chr. 28:9; Heb. 11:6
- We seek God through worship, and primarily
through prayer – 1 Chr. 16:8-12; Dan. 9:3



1 Chronicles 16:8-12

Oh, give thanks to the LORD! **Call upon His name;**
Make known His deeds among the peoples! 9 Sing
to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous
works! 10 Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of
those rejoice who seek the LORD! 11 **Seek the
LORD and His strength; Seek His face
evermore!** 12 Remember His marvelous works
which He has done, His wonders, and the
judgments of His mouth,



Daniel 9:3

So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.



A Communication Checkup

- How much time do I spend communicating with God? 1 Th. 5:16-18



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



A Communication Checkup

- How much time do I spend communicating with God? 1 Th. 5:16-18
- Is my communication with God balanced?



A Communication Checkup

- How much time do I spend communicating with God? 1 Th. 5:16-18
- Is my communication with God balanced?
- Are there any hindrances to my communication?



Hindrances to Communication with God

- Disobedience – Dt. 1:45; Isa. 14:37; Isa. 28:6
- Holding onto sin – Ps. 66:18
- Indifference – Pr. 1:28
- Being Unmerciful – Pr. 21:13
- Despising the law – Pr. 28:9
- Sin – Is. 59:2; Mic. 3:4
- Stubbornness – Zec. 7:13
- Being Unforgiving – Mat. 6:14-15
- Wavering – Jam. 1:6-7
- Self-Indulgence – Jam. 4:3
- Unresolved marital issues – 1 Pet. 3:7



A Communication Checkup

- How much time do I spend communicating with God? 1 Th. 5:16-18
- Is my communication with God balanced?
- Are there any hindrances to my communication?
- At what level do I communicate with God?



Levels of Communication with God

- Clichés – Matt. 6:7



Matthew 6:7

"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.



Levels of Communication with God

- Clichés – Matt. 6:7
- Facts – Matt. 6:8



Matthew 6:8

"So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.



Levels of Communication with God

- Clichés – Matt. 6:7
- Facts – Matt. 6:8
- Thoughts or beliefs – Matt. 6:9-13



Matthew 6:9-13

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11
Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us
our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do
not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the
evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.



Levels of Communication with God

- Clichés – Matt. 6:7
- Facts – Matt. 6:8
- Thoughts or beliefs – Matt. 6:9-13
- Feelings and emotions – Psalm 9:1-2



Psalm 9:1–2 (ESV)

1 I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

2 I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.



A Communication Checkup

- How much time do I spend communicating with God? 1 Th. 5:16-18
- Is my communication with God balanced?
- Are there any hindrances to my communication?
- At what level do I communicate with God?
- Is the goal of my communication communion with Him?