

# Your Growth in God is not just going to Happen!

To many of God's people assume that their relationship with him in terms of growth is somehow just going to happen. No true relationship with anyone just happens, so how much more with God. **(The church helps, but ultimately, it's your job with the help of the Holy Ghost to mature your relationship with God)**

(Unfortunately, a lot of God's people are not discipled; many get saved and then they are left to their own devices; many are not taught on how to grow in their relationship with the one that saved them)

It takes joint effort from both parties to initiate and maintain a healthy relationship. **(James 4:8-Draw close to God and he will Draw close to you)**

In terms of all relationships, what do most relationships experts say contributes to a healthy relationship? Communication, communication and communication. So, do we think that this does not apply with God?

Again, no relationship just happens, it requires work, intentionality, and consistency. Let's define these terms:

**Work:** activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to achieve a purpose or result.

**Intentionality:** an attitude of purposefulness, with a commitment to deliberate action and

**Consistency:** regularity.

We have to engage and pursue God not to obtain righteousness because no man is justified by works (Gal 2:16), but after receiving righteousness through his son Jesus, then by the power of the Holy ghost we can grow in our relationship with God, but again; it's going to require effort on your part too.

We have to pursue God in order to grow and to know him. **Jer 29:12,-13 then shall you call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will listen unto you and ye shall seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.**

The word Search is a verb / an action word (again work and intentionality on your part you have to do something, it's not just going to happen by osmosis! Just like any relationship with anyone does not just happen. All good relationships require work, intentionality and consistency.

This is how a new believer that's hungry and pursuing God can be wiser than a believer that's been in the church for 20 years. What's the difference? Work/Effort, intentionality and consistency; that new believer is devouring the word, praying, seeking after God and as a result they are growing mightily in their relationship with him; they are putting in the work!!

## Your flesh will resist you from the drawing close to God

God is a father that wants to be wanted, he wants to be desired as well, he desires to be honored and respected. (Mal 1:6- “A son honors his father, and a servant his master, but if I am a father, where is my honor, and if I am a master then where is your fear of me. We have a God that wants a relationship with us, he has made the way for all humanity to have a relationship with him via John 3:16.

God set his love upon us first! In spite of the ongoing rebellion of the children of Israel, God says this in Jer 31:33-“but this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people. Even God work and moved with intentionality along with consistency in order to build a relationship with us. How?

First, he sent the great shepherd to redeem our lives from destruction (Psalms 103:4)

He sent the lamb of God to be slaughter for us (John 1:29)

He sent his son as a first fruit in order to harvest a multitude of brethren (1 Cor 15:20)

He sent his son so that we may be baptize with his HolyGhost and fire (Matt 3:11)

He sent his son as our high priest (Heb 4:15)

He sent his son that we may partakers of his Glory forever (John 17:24)

And finally, per John 17:20-21; he sent his son that we all may be one with him and God the father.

As believers, we understand that ultimately its God, that’s drawing us. He places the desire within our hearts to know him. John 6:44 “no man can come to me, except the father which have sent me draw him”

Yes, it’s the Lord that draws us, but there is a corresponding action that’s required on our end. The action is simply to come! Matthew 11:28 “come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Again, the corresponding action is to come.

So, God has been consistent in his pursuit of us and very intentional and likewise we must be consistent and intentional in our pursuit of him! We must be God conscious in an anti-God world and this will require effort.

We must discipline ourselves to see God in every area of our lives, we must simply pause. Sometimes the greatest thing we can do in terms of our relationship with God is simply saying no! No to the TV, no to the plate, no to the activities surrounding the kids at times and no to the things and tasks that keeps us busy.

We have to find time to nourish our souls and will only come by cultivating an ongoing relationship with God- the only lover and satisfier of our Souls.

Our souls need God!!! How is it that you can get 8 hours of sleep and still feel tired? How is it that you can get a brand new car and material wealth and yet feel empty? You accomplish a major milestone in life and yet seeking to accomplish another.

You possess all the worlds' good and yet still feel empty. It is a matter of the soul that is crying out to the God that it has abandon- he wants to return back home.

It's not enough to read about or listen to sermons about God; we must experience him. We have to get up close and personal with him.

James 2:17- Even so faith, if it has not works is dead being alone; yea, a man may say thou hast faith without thy works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (What you believe is visible) Paul is saying his faith is reflected and demonstrated by his actions.

Yes, the Lord has done all the work; however, he invites us to collaborate with him; this relationship with God is a joint effort; it takes two to tangle; no relationship is just going to happen, even your relationship with God. so, lets put in the work!