

## God Wants To Be Involved in Your Life

We can't begin to understand ourselves if we start by breaking ourselves up into pieces. We are not simply a body that has needs and desires; or a mind that produces thought, or a group of emotions that express feelings, or a will that makes choices, or a social creature seeking relationships.

Who and what we are – behind all these abilities – is that which unites all these functions of life and explains what is so obviously true – we are more than our functions and **have standards of value related to integrity and purpose.**

While recognizing the inadequacy of words – in seeking to understand ourselves – it appears to be going in the right direction to say that we are a **person** – and that our basic characteristic is that we are **spirit** – that we are a “spiritual person.”

By spiritual the reference is not to a quality of life – but to that human capacity to transcend the functions of body, mind, will, and emotions – in relating to other persons in holy love – and primarily to the person of God himself – who is infinite spirit and life.

Where do we begin in this nearly impossible task of seeking to understand ourselves? It is rather hopeless to begin within ourselves – we must look upon ourselves from another perspective – from that of our Creator.

Accepting for the moment the amazing truth that each of us has been created by God – in his image – so we can, as spiritual beings, have a relationship with him, let's step aside from our daily thoughts and functions and ask the question before us.

What kind of a person am I – that I can be involved in a relationship with God? Let's look at ourselves through the eyes and perspective of being a spirit person – related to God by his creative act – and the object of his love.

In order to understand ourselves it is important to realize that God is continually seeking to be involved in our life. It is an amazing truth but true it is – the Almighty God, Maker of heaven and earth – is seeking each one of us. For those who have acknowledged his presence and believed on him – he is seeking an ever deeper involvement.

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

Without a grasp on this unusual perspective – there is little hope of understanding why we are here, how to live correctly, and the purpose of life. To live without this insight will result in personal confusion and disappointment as well as frustration in life.

In reading through the Bible a couple truths become very clear – about how God relates to people – to everyone. First of all he makes it very clear that what he does is not done out of partiality.

*For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.*

*For God does not show favoritism.*

For most of us this truth comes to us as quite a shock. On the surface it seems very apparent that God has favorites. Choosing the family of Abraham and his descendents, banning certain people with physical problems from the Priesthood, telling the Disciples to preach only to the Jews – to name only a few instances – would indicate that he does.

One of our Lord's Apostles was sure that he was among a group of divine favorites. It was Peter. When the Lord showed him the vision of the sheet filled with unclean animals and told him to go to the house of Cornelius, who was a Gentile, it must have raised many questions in his mind.

When Peter and some of his Jewish friends met with Cornelius, and heard his story of how God had appeared to him, he made it very clear that it was against Jewish law *to associate with a Gentile or visit him*. But after he heard the story of why Cornelius had called him and explained what had happened to him a few days before, Peter realized

why God had given him the vision of the sheet of unclean animals. He made a startling statement (for a Jew at that time): *"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism."*

One of the common mistakes many people make – probably due to sin, and in large part, to the brainwashing of the enemy – is that they don't stand a "chance" (wrong word, of course) with God. Many believe God has never paid any attention to them, and will not, because of their gender, their sin, their lack of education, their inferiority, or they're too young or too old, or a part of a wrong ethnic group. Some even say they were not here when Jesus came to earth. *That's all irrelevant of course and must be rejected..*

A second truth, clearly taught in the Bible, is that God desires and actively seeks – to be involved with everyone – through his love and grace. While I cannot solve the problems of those who die without hearing of the Lord Jesus and why God directed the extermination of some of the tribes in Palestine, to name only a few issues – I have to conclude with Peter,

*"That God ... accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.*

Laying aside the problems associated with these issues, I do believe it is imperative to affirm that God has and does seek a personal relationship of love and grace with every individual he has created. A number of passages emphasize that truth.

*In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.*

*But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.*

*For in him we live and move and have our being.*

Do such verses push us down the road of universalism – that all rational creatures will be in Heaven? Not at all. Many other passages exclude that alternative. It is better not to draw conclusions that go beyond what the Bible clearly teaches.

The Lord Jesus brought all of these truths into focus in his reference to the sparrow.

*Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

To get the attention of the human race, Paul said, God made mankind with a type of blood making cross-fertilization possible across racial differences, establishing the seasons of the year, and determining geographical boundaries.

*God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'*

These passages emphasize how deeply God wants to be involved in the life of every person he has created. It is important to accept these truths although there are many issues that cannot at this time be resolved.

In reading the Bible and aware of how God may relate himself in ways we do not know to every rational creature – certain passages of Scripture – become quite significant. It would seem, to our limited understanding, to be what he would like to say to every person, and what he would like every person to “hear” from him. It is rather startling to ask: *“What does God want to say to me?”*

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

**We are a Person Being Addressed – We are Hearing: *“Here I am!”***

God is trying to get your attention. It may be subliminal, or nearly so, but it is there.

Most of us have witnessed a person at a sport’s event or in an auditorium – who has arrived early to save seats for friends. When the friends enter the area the person will stand up, wildly wave their arms and perhaps shout – by that to say, “Here I am!”

Is the Lord Jesus involved in just such an effort – attempting to get your attention and mine? We can only say “Yes he is.”

When a person considers such an amazing possibility a couple thoughts immediately surface that render its acceptance nearly impossible. One objection is simply – “If God is seeking me why haven’t I heard from him – and why do bad things happen to me?”

The answer is simply – “We have all heard – but do not recognize it.” We are like a blind man standing with some friends who are admiring a beautiful sunset. No one would doubt him if he said, “I don’t believe you because I don’t see a sunset.”

Something has happened to us as a human race that makes us nearly blind and deaf to God – and the supernatural in general. There is among us and within us the terrible destructive force that was unleashed when our original parents sinned. There is also the result of our own sin that has produces an acute embarrassment with anything really God-like – genuine love, purity, honesty and faithfulness. When we meet the rare person in whom these qualities are found – most of us hesitantly admire them – but also feel we want to shy away.

There is also, as a result of these two factors, a horrible presence among us to which every person is extremely vulnerable – the demonic. As a result no one is free from being more “at home” and attracted to error than truth, selfishness than love, dishonesty than honesty, unrighteousness than righteousness – and the list goes on an on.

*The whole world is under the control of the evil one.*

What is the result? Even though the Lord Jesus is saying to each of us in many ways, many beyond our personal comprehension – **“Here I am”** we have not only been rendered nearly blind and deaf by sin and Satan, we have an intuitive immediate response of “suppression” to the evidence of his call.

What is God’s response to such a blindness and suppression among us? Such a way of life has brought all of us under judgment. We are like the spoiled child who, in walking away from the parent, hears a parental warning – and gives no heed – until the inexorable day of reckoning.

No one is without that witness – the witness through all that is seen in life – and the witness of a standard of right and wrong within. All mankind is responsible for what we **should hear – not only for what we selectively hear.**

*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness,*

*Since what may be known about God is plain to them (everyone), because God*

*has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, **so that men are without excuse.***

*Indeed, when Gentiles (non-Christians), who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)*

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands*

What conclusion do these passages force us to accept? God has spoken and is speaking to every rational person and everyone is responsible to hear and respond. Our blindness, deafness and vulnerability to the demonic – is our fault not that of God.

*Why will you die? ... For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!*

If we are going to understand ourselves we must realize we are being addressed – that God is speaking to us.

**We are Continually Involved in a Presence – “*I Stand At The Door.*”**

This statement was primarily made to the Church of the Laodiceans. It was a wealthy, prosperous, and apparently successful Church – evidently in every way – a genuine article. The only problem is that the Lord Jesus was not involved with them personally or corporately – or at least not very significantly.

From the passages already considered it would seem correct that the statement of the Lord Jesus is being applied to every person and group – past and present – in some way.

It also seems correct that every person must accept the statement of the Lord Jesus with a personal application – that he is standing at the entrance of my life – all the areas of my life and seeking to obtain my attention and response of welcome.

One of the most obvious application of these words would relate to individual salvation. That is who and what the Lord Jesus really is – the Savior of the world.

The individual believer has, by the gracious invitation of God, responded to the Lord Jesus by way of acknowledgment of personal need, and belief. Such a response is top priority – as far as God is concerned – and also in regard to individual need. Personal destiny is dependent on it. That is underlined by what the Savior said when he was here.

*"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except*

*through me.:*

Even in the life of such a believer, however, there would be many areas where the Lord Jesus may be only remotely involved. Such areas may be priorities, thoughts, relationships and activities not yet surrendered to God – areas under the control and in bondage to the evil culture of the day and the one behind that evil. Pride, self-righteousness, and the despising of others – would top the list – even when done in the name of religion.

In all such areas the Lord Jesus is clearly on the outside. He is “Standing at that door and saying ‘Here I am.’”

To surrender to him and invite him in would begin a powerful change for good – whether for the individual or a group. Only he can break the bondage of sin and initiate the processes of love, righteousness, and truth in personal integrity. His presence brings every good.

*It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

*In whom (the Lord Jesus) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

If we are going to understand ourselves we must recognize we live in conjunction to a divine presence.

**We are Involved in a Supernatural Activity – “I Stand at the Door and Knock.”**

Consider a facet of genuine reality in your life. You live in the presence of God --  
*“For in him we live and move and have our being.”*

The only way to deny the way God – in the person of the Lord Jesus – is knocking at the door of every person’s heart and life would be to totally reject all belief in him whatsoever. And that is extremely hard to do. The testimony of many world leaders, scientists, philosophers, as well as “common people” make that very clear. The awareness of the supernatural, described in a variety of concepts, is manifestly with us.

Even when there is an attempt at denial, everyone, except those impaired – would have to acknowledge some of the effects of this divine “knocking.” The evidence takes on many forms. Consider a few of them.

The rise of a monotheism from the days of Abraham – when the surrounding nations were worshipers of many gods.

The irrepressible and feisty nature of the Jewish people – in spite of constant attempts of extermination. In some mysterious way they are still God’s chosen people.

The design in nature that has led many scientists and philosophers to acknowledge that there must be a supernatural “Designer” to account for it.

The undeniable reality of a consciousness of right and wrong among all people.

The recognition of life after death – evidenced in burial rites – even among primitive people unaware of other ethnic groups.

The awareness of the supernatural in the life of primitive people as evidenced by their rituals, totems and taboos.

The existence of the Church – in spite of the failure of most of its leaders and the repeated attempts to stamp it out.

The powerful influence of the Bible with its prophetic and archeological confirmation.

The undeniable religious character of the human race.

The recognition that personal and corporate success are related to the virtues of honesty, faithfulness, and compassion – virtues taught in the Bible – and reflections of the character of God. .

The near universal belief in a transcendent being.

The humanitarian benefits that follow the proclamation of the gospel as evidenced in schools, orphanages, hospitals, relief organizations, banning of child labor, and betterment of the status of women.

If we are going to understand ourselves we must realize we cannot escape the evidence that the Lord Jesus is knocking at the door of our heart and life.

**We are Receiving an Invitation – “If Anyone Hears My Voice and Opens the Door I Will Come In.”**

These words, along with the passages already considered remind us that we are being given an invitation – a very personal invitation to receive the presence of a person – a divine person, the Lord Jesus Christ, into our daily life.

Could there be a greater invitation? Could it be more reassuring – given to everyone – without exception? Divine grace has not only provided the equipment in our creation to hear the invitation but also there is grace to enable us to respond and open the door.

*“All that the Father gives me will come to me; and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”*

*“I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.”*

Many people will acknowledge, and I am one of them, that they have known a near subliminal “drawing” or “indefinable seeking” that surfaces in their life on certain occasions. It may take on the character of being “addressed” or “invited” or “drawn” toward a presence or relationship that seemingly would transcend anything presently knows.

There is a solution to such an awareness. It is to accept the truth of a clear Biblical explanation and invitation and act on it – to **open the door**.

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

Almost everyone will face that decision with one thought in mind: “What will it cost me?”

Our inherent fear of the unknown, our selfishness, and our determination to be in control clouds and distorts what could be the most important decision one could ever make.

Perhaps the word “mistrust,” “unbelief,” and “suspicion” would characterize our response to such an invitation. When we stop to think about it we realize all such thoughts are irrelevant.

Consider for a moment who is standing at the door of our life and knocking – none other than the second person of the Trinity – the Lord Jesus Christ. It is his character that stands behind his invitation.

Our unbelief and suspicion is irrelevant because of the **kind of a person he is.**

He is the infinite fullness of love – compassionate and caring in all his activity.

He is the infinite fullness of holiness – righteous and just in all his activity.

He is the infinite fullness of truth – faithful and consistent in all his activity.

In summary: God is good and what he does is goodness. He is not responsible for the evil in our life and the world. He did not create evil, does not approve of it, and suffers because of it. He had to create angels and humans with the free will to choose to love him

– or love would be impossible – and the free will to not love him. Angels and humans have chosen the option to not love him – and by that choice activated what was only a potential in original creation. We must confess, with the fallen angels, that it is we who have brought evil into existence.

All our unbelief and suspicion is really groundless because of the character of God and what his presence in our life will mean.

We are not going to understand ourselves without accepting the reality of the damage our sin has done to us as well as the inner “knocking”

**We Are Invited to Participate in Daily Fellowship with Jesus Christ – “I Will Come In and Eat with Him and He with Me.”**

An understanding of ourselves will lead us to the realization that we were made for God – and for a relationship of personal fellowship with him. Every other attempt to define an angel or human can only result in some kind of a talking and rationalizing animal. Angels and humans have dignity – a dignity given to us in our creation and defined and explained by the invitation to fellowship with our Creator.

When the Bible was written – sharing a meal – was the common practice of reaching out in friendship, and if possible establishing a personal relationship. It is that personal relationship that God had in mind in creating us, and the reason he is knocking at the door

of our heart and life. It is one of the important ways of defining our humanity and self-worth.

When the Lord Jesus is invited into a person's life – he brings every good with him. His presence, as Savior and Lord, brings a radical reversal in the most important area of a person's life.

Before he came we were guilty – now we are forgiven

Before he came we were unrighteous – but now we are righteous.

Before he came we were spiritually unclean – but now we have been cleansed.

Before he came we were dead to God – but now we have been made alive.

Before he came we were owned by Satan – but now we are owned by Jesus Christ.

Before he came we were in the kingdom of darkness – but now the kingdom of light.

Before he came we were enslaved to the evil world – but now we are free.

Before he came we were without hope and helplessly lost – but now we have hope.

Before he came we were on our way to Hell – but now we are on our way to Heaven.

Before he came we were enslaved to self-love – but now we can love God.

Before he came we were devoid of God's presence – but now God lives within us.

Before he came we were without a true goal – but now we can live for God's glory.

The list could go on and on – God has “class” and when he is invited into a person's life – every area of life can take on new meaning, motivation, clarification, and strength.

The fellowship into which we are invited is an ongoing and developing relationship. God has our best in mind and he knows how to bring it to pass. If we are willing to cooperate with him he has promised to take every good and bad element in our life and circumstances and work with to achieve “*Good*” out of it.

### **Summary**

We will never begin to understand ourselves until we respond to the call God has given and invite the Lord Jesus into our life.

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”*

The following chapters are an attempt to make that relationship more clear.