

The Staff and The Sword Ministry

Relationship Reports

RELATIONSHIP REPORTS February 1984 to January 1985

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RELATIONSHIP



PART 4 THE HOW EXPLAINED

MORE ABOUT THE “HOW”

There is a lot more to know about the HOW. Frankly, I only scratched the surface on the HOW in the last report. So, let's continue and let me discuss things in more depth.

BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN

“VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, EXCEPT YE BE CONVERTED, AND BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN, YE SHALL NOT ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.” (JESUS in Matthew 18:3).

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Childlikeness is a quality that contains humility, trust, innocence, and obedience. There is more, but here I will focus on trust and innocence.

If you would come into a deeper and more real living relationship with Jesus Himself, TRUST, and INNOCENCE are essential. The church system of man teaches just the opposite, for fear abounds in much Church doctrine, fear of deception which is trust in Satan's power as greater than God's, fear of failure which in one disguise is given as "humility" but it's "false humility".

I point this out, not to be critical of the church system, but that we are all made aware that as we pursue a better relationship with Jesus, that "fear" in all of us is something we have to contend with and overcome by simply placing all our Trust in Jesus to care for us, keep us, no matter what.

DESIRE OF YOUR HEART

As you desire and seek a closer walk with Jesus, you need realize that Jesus Himself desires the same and has quite literally given you this "desire of your heart."

In my experience, I've found that while Jesus tempers and determines the rate at which we grow in Him. Even so, the main hindrance that would stop us, slow us, turn us away is not so much Satan (although he is always willing to toss his dirty two cents in) but our selves, primarily our SELF and our SELF NATURE.

UNDERSTANDING OUR SELF NATURE

PART of the HOW of entering into a deeper walk with Jesus personally has to do with understanding our SELF NATURE, and either then getting around it, until we learn how to overcome it in Christ. Again, as we draw near Jesus day by day, we come to see and understand parts of this SELF NATURE, and although you are likely to try and "beat it down" if you will learn from my errors you will find that you cannot "beat it down" only suppress it, and then it's like pressing down a coiled spring with your hand, you will "hold it down" until you tire, and when you tire it will recoil and throw you for a loop. As you prevail seeking Jesus' help, you will learn to let go and give it to Jesus—and although Jesus doesn't move as fast as we would like Him to (that is our SELF NATURE again—in a hurry, instant holiness), Jesus does a thorough job to the point, months or years later you will hardly be able to remember ever having that problem.

From little acorns grow mighty oaks, but we are not "Jack in the Beanstalk" seeds. We grow at a rate (usually slow) set by Jesus, who know what's best. If we try and speed up the process, we will be determining the rate (not Jesus), and that outcome is sure to be far short of the potential if not a disaster.

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CHILD-LIKE QUALITIES

AGAIN, being CHILD-LIKE is the essence of how to approach a deeper relationship with Jesus Himself—a child doesn't think about growing (until taught) but simply IS what he or she is, and is not worried about what tomorrow brings but enjoys and lives in the day. There is no fear of drawing close to loved ones, dad or mom, and a child will come when called or will call or seek out a parent whenever they want to, and never be ignored or turned away. You cannot approach Jesus with head knowledge of His Word, with intellect, or with what you have done—tho many try, it's best to seek Him from the heart, and from love.

The qualities of being like a child we were taught to lose, and it is in us to re-gain what we lost, if we are willing to “let go” and Trust Him more than ourselves, or the system of man.

DISCIPLINE OF DAILY FOCUS ON JESUS

I will give you the basic how of drawing close to Jesus, you may begin to practice it, finding what is most suitable for you, and begin learning a discipline of daily focus on Jesus. Meditation is another word for “focus”; pondering is another word for focus. The word “meditate” scares many because of the connection to eastern religions, but it's entirely Biblical, just look at Psalm 1:2, “**BUT HIS DELIGHT IS IN THE LAW OF THE LORD; AND IN HIS LAW DOTH HE MEDITATE DAY AND NIGHT [emphasis added].**” And what is His Law?

“THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND . . .” (Matthew 22:37)

So the Law you meditate or focus on, or ponder, or study—day and night—is the Love of Jesus Christ, and His Law is Love. And note, you meditate or ponder or study, or focus “IN” His Law which is Love, and “IN” means abiding IN Jesus' Love, In Jesus Himself.

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Matthew 18:3, you're converted (Believe in Christ), you will try to re-learn to be child-like (Jesus will help), so next you enter INTO the Kingdom of Heaven. Where is that? How?

Jesus spoke much of the Kingdom of Heaven and of the Kingdom of God, but in Luke 17:21 Jesus told us where it's at: **“NEITHER SHALL THEY SAY, LO HERE; OR, LO THERE; FOR, BEHOLD, THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU.”**

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When Jesus says “BEHOLD,” He means, “PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT I’M SAYING”—He is EMPHASIZING SOMETHING. In our day, men are busy looking for outward signs of Jesus Coming Again, but I have learned that outward signs are only reflections of events IN THE SPIRIT and if you don’t see IN THE SPIRIT you have no real way of understanding the outward signs, they can be very complex and most that are honest, admit this.

The child-like Christian that enters INTO the kingdom of Heaven, does so in meditation. It is not indwelling in One’s Self, that is the eastern religions version and a major ingredient is missing there. What? CONVERSION, being born again (conceived) by receiving and believing on Jesus Christ, a new life is within you, the Christ-Life. This is why Jesus referred to the Church version of born-again like conception, for as you read thru Matthew and Mark, and Luke and John when Jesus speaks of the kingdom of Heaven (or God), you will find repeated references to the kingdom of Heaven as a “seed” thus growth is involved, then a “marriage feast” a place you “enter into.”

DYING TO SELF

It’s all within the converted believer in Jesus Christ. And, that life within us, is Christ, the Mind of Christ, and along side of it is also the former life, the SELF nature, which Paul called the “Old Man”, and is also the Adamic nature. This fundamentally is the battle ground in drawing close to Jesus, for within us is an old nature, Self, that will seek to block, distract, draw us away from Jesus. This battle goes on all the time, only in meditation will you begin to get a keen and sharp view of the dimension of this resistance. What you will find is that there are two selves within you, one in Christ, one very SELF Nature that Satan influences in many ways. It’s been there all along, only now as you draw near to Jesus, you will see a sharp distinction between one and the other. John the Baptist had said, “I must become less and less that He (Jesus) become more and more,” this again speaks of the SELF Nature gradually becoming less and less the control influence in our lives, and Christ becoming the more and more.

The battle, ultimately, is drawn to a single issue, dying to self—this is the battle, because we have an inner fear or resistance to giving up our selves for fear of losing ourselves—it seems that we are losing our true identity, but in fact the fear is false, for what we are losing is the lie and what we are gaining is our true self in Christ Jesus.

NOTHING CAN STAND BETWEEN YOU AND HIS LOVE

It is Scriptural and I have experienced it. Where the darkness of Self, and Satan the power of the air, would try to keep me from entering INTO Jesus’ Love but each time I did anyhow. It’s His Love for us, and our Love for Him that makes it impossible for anything to stand between us—even though

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things will try, they cannot succeed unless we allow it to succeed.

MY EXPERIENCE

I began by reading the Bible, and praying hours each day. I would pray a time, interceding for many, would repent of my misdeeds as they came to mind, would then read aloud (Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God) a chapter of the New Testament, then settle down in a chair, and meditate on what I'd read in the Bible. Then I would draw my focus to Jesus and let go of every concern and thought I had, and filled my mind with Jesus, of what He looked like, of His Love, and gentleness and sweetness, and by daily practice I had to learn the discipline of filling my thoughts with JESUS CHRIST. When you first pray, it takes practice and time to be able to learn a discipline of prayer to where you can flow in prayer. Likewise, it takes time to learn the discipline of quieting your mind and filling your thoughts with and of JESUS, and please note, you DO NOT empty your mind and yourself, you turn off the mind-machine and fill yourself with JESUS!

How do you fill yourself with Jesus? The technique I used (and I tried or experimented with a number till I found those I was comfortable with) was to follow an order of activity:

1. Prayer-Intercession: half an hour or more, this breaks the “busy-mindedness” we get into in each day, our focus shifts in prayer towards God through Jesus Christ. It's proven a necessary preliminary “filling.”
2. After prayer, give up prayer concerns to Jesus, forget them now, you have prayed, trust Jesus for the answer now.
3. Read the Bible: a chapter (your choice) and Psalms (your choice)—I especially like reading Matthew 5 aloud, and it is wonderful because it is JESUS speaking in that chapter!
4. Sit down, settle down comfortably, and now focus on Jesus, sing a hymn or sang about Jesus you like, or speak His name over and over, or favorite prayer group song (I like singing the “Jesus, Jesus” song).
5. Now quiet yourself like a child at its mother's breast—you sit quietly, and cease to speak, close your eyes—all designed to lower as much as possible (you get better at it with practice) your normal physical sense (sight, hearing, voice, motion of body)—but again, you mentally think JESUS, of His Love and now abide in Him.

Now all of this is both practical (a time of prayer, Bible study, hymns) and serves to draw your mental focus away from worldly concerns, and onto Jesus.

ABIDE IN HIM

ABIDE IN HIM. It means rest, and more, you are Trusting Him to keep you safe in every respect,

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a child-like faith and trust counts much here, and a confident love of, for and in Jesus Christ. At first you will find yourself tending to be distracted by the smallest things—you need resist being distracted and keep your focus on Jesus.

THE MIND MACHINE

Our carnal nature minds are shut-down (not turned off, but shut down to a minimal level of operation) and you will find your mind operates like a machine. It does not like being turned down, and for days, even weeks, while in a Jesus focus-meditation, you will remember things you have forgotten for many years—anything to get you to draw on the mental machine and re-activate it. Or, you will get an itch—try to ignore it and if it doesn't work, then tend to it and go back to a Jesus focus. Or you may wonder suddenly if you turned the gas off on the stove top, or “did I close the back door?” I used to be amused by what the mind came up with to get me to re-activate it or get me up and moving about.

You will experience this in varying degrees, but it's normal and you will realize that you very easily can tune the mind down in a time but it takes practice, but once you learn the discipline (it takes time) it is easy.

The first time around I did experience Jesus' presence, but I didn't see Him, or hear Him, it was just a very living deep feeling of love and light and peace. In a time I began to sense (actually discern) movement when I made Jesus my focus, it seemed I was traveling and it was super fast.

SATAN—PRINCE OF THE AIR

So, what about Satan? Let me explain . . .

It was after I actually saw Jesus face-to-face in meditation, and shortly thereafter that I began to see things IN THE SPIRIT on a scale that amazed me. Then as I began to meditate, I began to realize that, as I drew close to Jesus, that devil-like creatures tried to block me, but they never could stop or touch me. One time a bunch of them interposed themselves in front of me and I saw Jesus ahead, and Jesus said, “**COME—IGNORE THEM**”. So, I came to Jesus through them and ignored them. There was no battle, as a matter of fact that's what they wanted me to do was fight them, as this would distract me from Jesus. Ah, ha!

In getting to know Jesus personally, getting close to Him, I came to know His Love in such a way that though demons tried to imitate Him (some pretty good jobs too) they could never remotely imitate His Love, and thus never fooled me IN THE SPIRIT.

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When entering into the kingdom of Heaven, in Jesus' Love, I learned and saw and knew things by the Spirit of God that I would find very difficult to express IN THE WORLD. Here I would find was a major hindrance, the effect my soul and SELF Nature had on what I saw and knew in Christ. In the next reports I will speak of these various hindrances, to equip you that you be able to deal with them more easily than I did (for me it was the school of hard knocks).

NOW YOU HAVE THE BASICS

Now in these first . . . [parts of the RELATIONSHIP REPORTS], I have basically told you the whole of it. And, as you have a prayer discipline (with the N.O.P.—Net of Prayer) and read the Bible and Love and Trust Jesus there is no reason why you cannot begin to put into practice the HOW and to begin to draw closer to Jesus yourself. He is one fantastic teacher and more!!!

As you do, and as you have questions, write me, and I will try and reply in these reports, as I am able. *[NOTE: PLEASE SEE THE **CONTACT US** PAGE ON THIS WEBSITE FOR A MAILING ADDRESS.]*

I am not trying to write this as a teaching. Head knowledge is not the key here. If you have the basics (salvation, prayer life, discipline, Love of Jesus, familiarity with the Bible), then you can start to apply the HOW. More, YOU CAN BEGIN RIGHT NOW!

*God Bless,
Chuck-JOHNEL*