
#5PSALMS

It's Time for Relationship



A New Year signals new beginnings. For many of us, this means embracing new goals (or re-kindling old ones). If you're like me, you can often find yourself creating a "spiritual" checklist, hoping that this next year will be the one that you really get with it spiritually. You grit your teeth and jump into January determined to change some things, only to find yourself frustrated and feeling guilty in February. I've got a word for you... "Don't".

Loving, worshiping—*relationship with God* is not just something we experience, it's a discipline.

I know technically “don’t” is a contraction, but go with me on this. Take a look at our biblical role models: Abraham, Moses, David, Nehemiah, Paul, etc. What they show us is that even through our human short-comings, our priority really needs to be relationship with God. And sure, just like any other relationship we have, a true relationship with God takes work on our part. But any work we put into it is with our hearts aimed at the prize (Philippians 3:12-14)—namely, Christ. Our primary objective is developing a relationship with God. Everything else is secondary.

In Matthew chapter 22 a teacher of the law comes to Jesus with a big questions that has heavy implications. “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Question answered. In a big way. And in a way that reframes everything that this man and—any other scholar of his day—might approach how to truly please God. But Jesus doesn’t stop there. He goes on; “And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”



“Jesus tore the veil of heaven and earth in a violent and beautiful expression to reconcile you to himself.”

“Develop a relationship with God. Everything else is secondary.”

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On the following pages you will find excerpts that I have gleaned from the Psalms which I believe should reflect our attitudes in worship-of and relationship-to God. I want to challenge you to take one a day and use it as a tool to posture yourself in your relationship with God. I believe cultivating the discipline of worship and relationship will not only draw you closer to Him, but will have implications that reach into every other area of your life.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. - Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)

PSALM 103

4. “Bless Your Name”

Your praise should be motivated by something, and not just be lip-service like the people of Israel described in Isaiah 29:13. Did you ever tell someone “I love you”, and find yourself surprised by them asking you ‘why?’ Look at the heart of David when he writes this Psalm.

1 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

2 Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits- 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The LORD works righteousness justice for all the oppressed.

7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, great is his love for those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; 14 for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are like grass, flourishes like a flower of the field; 16 the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

17 But from everlasting to everlasting LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children- 18 with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven and his kingdom rules over all.

20 Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

21 Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

22 Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, O my soul.

PSALMS 103

PSALM 9

5. “Take My Life”

Being a follower of Christ means laying down ourselves. Every thought, action, motive, dream or passion—He asks for it all. When we “lose” our lives in this way, that’s when we truly find it.

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know Your name will trust in You, for You, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You

PSALMS 9:9-10

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

LUKE 10:41-42

Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

LUKE 9:23-24

One of the primary steps we can take to enhance our prayer life is to communicate with God. It sounds so simple, probably because on some level it really is. Let’s strip away every pre-conceived idea about what prayer is or should be and set our hearts to just spend some time with our heavenly Father. He’s been seeking you out and what He wants the most from you is to be with you. So wherever you are right now, take a moment and communicate with the one who’s been with you every step of every day, and let’s see what He brings in the days ahead, from the outflow of our *relationship* with Him.

