



# Experiencing God





**I am the vine; you are the branches.  
Whoever abides in me and I in him,  
he it is that bears much fruit, for  
apart from me you can do nothing.**

**John 15:5**

Suppose you were dating someone you loved and intend to marry. What is the primary reason you would date (spend time with) that person?

- Because I would want to find out about their likes and dislikes.
- Because I would want to find out about their family background.
- Because I would want to find out about their knowledge and education.
- Because I love them and would enjoy being with them.



## 7 Realities of Experiencing God

1. God is always at work.
2. God pursues a love relationship with me.
3. God invites me into His work.
4. God reveals Himself, His purpose, and His ways to me.
5. God's invitation will lead me to a crisis of belief.
6. I must make major adjustments to join God.
7. I will come to know God by experience as I obey him.



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God pursues a love relationship with me.





“People who struggle to spend time with God don’t have a scheduling problem, they have a love problem.”

Henry Blackaby



“I keep that time alone with God, not in order to have a relationship but *because* I have a relationship. Because I have that love relationship with my Lord, I want to meet with Him and spend time with Him. Time with Him enriches and deepens the relationship I already have with Him.”

Henry Blackaby

# Matthew 22:36-38

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”  
And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with  
all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.  
This is the great and first commandment.

# Romans 3:10-12

“None is righteous, no, not one;

no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one.”

# John 6:44-45, 65

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him .... Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me ... This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.

# 1 John 4:8-10, 19

God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

We love because he first loved us.



God pursues a love relationship with me.

# Common poor relational approaches:

1. Gold diggers

2. Goody two shoes



# Common poor relational approaches:

## 1. Gold diggers

- Value benefits of the relationship over actual relationship
- Have a “what’s in it for me” mentality

# Common poor relational approaches:

**1. Gold diggers**

**2. Goody two shoes**

- Are more concerned about doing right than relationship
- Are convinced love is earned

# Luke 15:11-32

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold,  
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;  
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands,  
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.

Hymn by Rhea Miller

I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause;  
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;  
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame,  
I'd rather be true to His holy name.

Hymn by Rhea Miller

He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom,  
He's sweeter than honey from out of the comb;  
He's all that my hungering spirit needs,  
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead.

Hymn by Rhea Miller

Than to be the king of vast domain  
or be held in sin's dread sway;  
I'd rather have Jesus than anything  
this world affords today

Hymn by Rhea Miller



## Discipleship Cues

1. Do you tend to approach God in a “gold digger” or a “goody two shoes” way?
2. Why is it significant to understand God loved us first-before we could love him?
3. What’s keeping you from experiencing God’s love & spending time with Him?





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