



RAUL RIES

RELATING TO GOD

BIBLE STUDY #4

It's important to realize that the Christian life is not just a new way of acting toward people, or a new way of thinking, but actually a whole new relationship with the living God. Because of His love, and through Christ's death and resurrection, we now have the privilege of communication with, and getting to know the almighty God! The key to this relationship is our believing that He is there and that He does love us.

1. What does Hebrews 11:6 say we must have to please God?

2. On what do we base our faith? (Romans 10:17)

3. Second Corinthians 5:7 says, "we walk by _____ not by _____."

Our relationship with God is like a tree that is rooted and grounded in Him by faith. In Colossians 2:7, the ground represents the fact of God and His Word, the roots represent our faith, and the branches and leaves represent the feelings and experiences that we have. In beautiful summer weather, we rejoice in our experience of God's blessings. However, when a storm comes that breaks off branches, or winter comes where the leaves fall away, we see that it is being rooted into the Lord that keeps us going until the new growth comes. Likewise, it is faith that keeps you in contact with God, not feelings.

PRAYER

The Lord wants us to talk with him. That is what prayer is all about; it is communication with the Father.

4. What should we do in time of need? (Hebrews 4:16)

5. What important fact about God should we keep in mind when we pray? (Acts 4:24)

6. Read Philippians 4:6-7. Instead of being anxious or worried, what does verse 6 say we should do?

What does verse 7 say will take place?

7. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and list three things that God wants to see in your life.

8. What are two things that we should always do when we pray? (Mark 11:24-25)

9. James 4:3 gives us a reason why we do not always get what we ask for. What is it?

10. If our prayer seems to be unanswered, and we believe that we are asking in God's will, what attitude should we take? (Hebrews 10:35-36)

ABIDING

Truly, it is a wonderful thing to be able to ask God for needs that we encounter. Nevertheless, God wants our relationship to be much deeper and closer than just that. Many Christians get so caught up in the things of this life (even good things), that their interaction with God becomes almost like this: "Lord, I would like to place an order. Please give me peace of mind on Monday, physical healing on Tuesday, and financial help on Wednesday, Amen." Perhaps we might even send Him a Thank You note saying, "Thank You for that blessing you gave me last month." This can become our whole relationship with God.

Our heavenly Father loves us just as we are, and He wants His children to come and spend time with Him. Rather than being always wrapped up in our needs, we should take time to be with the Lord, to talk with Him and let Him talk with us. Jesus wants to be your closest friend.

Read John 15:1-15, and observe how Jesus describes this relationship.

11. What does He say to do in Verse 4?

a. What result will this bear? (Verse 4-5)

b. Why must we abide in Him to bear fruit? (Verse 5)

c. How will this affect our prayer? (Verse 7)

d. How do we glorify the Father? (Verse 8)

e. What does He call us in Verse 15?

12. In Galatians 5:22-23, what fruit will come from our abiding relationship with Him?

Do you have any questions, problems, or comments that you would like to share with us?

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