

The Firm Foundation: A Caught Up Relationship with God
Level 1: Servant
by Pastor Nancy Atkins (GHOPE)

Roman 10:17 (Matt 18:10)

Focus Scripture: John 17:21-23

Introduction

Stand for the reading: John 17:21-23 *“That they all may be one; as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that you have sent me. And the glory (honor) which you gave me, I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and you in me, that they may be made perfect in one and that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them, as you have loved me.”*

In a relationship, there are things that should come naturally and there are things that require much work and cultivation.

To sail rough seas require an expert at the helm, not an amateur. To move from amateur to expert requires training and experience. Relationships require that same strong hold of tenacity to withstand storm. The well operated ship can only have one captain [God is the Captain of this Ship called Relations], but there is much room for many helpers.

What is your relations that keeps you connected. God explains relationship as a bride and groom (Isaiah 61:10). I wondered why bride and groom, not husband and wife (one is before the marriage, one is after the marriage – the marriage rides upon the rough seas of development).

Bride and groom relationship is one of excitement, joy of hearing his or her name, the joy of hearing the sound of their voice, the joy of making plans for a life together. The heart beats an extra beat when we think of the glow of a bride and groom relationship. God seeks to build this connected bond with us (man, woman, child) -- if we develop our primary love Ship with God, then may be other relations will operate more smoothly.

Amos 3:3-- Amos asks the question: “Can two walk together accept they be agreed?” It takes two to build a relationship. What are the consequences of not having a relationship with God/Jesus. Amos 8:11-13 explains that as well. “The days will come when I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.” Hear, heed, and practice while there is an overflow of the word of God. Build a relationship with Jesus.

James 1:22 James tells us to “Be you doers of the word and not hearers of the word, only deceiving your own selves.” We think just hearing and quoting are enough – WRONG! That process is head knowledge, not heart and soul, spirit knowledge. I don’t care if you

can quote the whole bible, verse by verse, word upon word, and you do not have a relationship with God as Jesus shared with us then you are just a scripture quoting...

Back to our Brother Amos: Can two (God and Jesus) walk/work together accept they be agreed.

In a relationship, for happiness, peace, respect to exist, there must be agreement, there must be communication, there must be mutual decisions made. For God and Jesus, it looked something like this:

1. God and Jesus had to agree on the order of entrance into man's world. (John 17:18 Jesus in his prayer to God reaffirms: *As you have sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world*). They had a relationship; Jesus wants in on it.
2. They had to agree on the order of his steps once he began to walk. (Psalms 37:23) The Psalmist David, the King, said, *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delight in his way"*. Without a relationship with God-Jesus, we miss the order of our steps.

A God-Jesus ordered relationship, in Brother Matthew's book, Jesus tells us the order: *But seek you first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things (house, health, wealth, wise) shall be added unto you.*" Jesus tells us I'm the servant of my Father; I came to this earth through obedience; I walk this earth through obedience to my Master Father.

Our Brother James 2:17-20 pours out this great advise: *"Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone. Yes, a man may say, you have faith and I have works: show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God: you do well: the devils [demons more than one] also believe, and tremble. But do you know, o vain man, that faith without works is dead."*

The point Brother James is making is that the Devils (demons) do not have a relationship with God. They know him so well that they tremble; they know his word, but **they do not and cannot have a relationship with God**. The demons can quote the word of God verse by verse, word by word.

3. They had to agree on the purpose of Jesus' coming to earth. Salvation, teaching, preaching, delivering the word of God, healing, deliverance...

In a cohesive or bonded relationship each person involved wants to look good not for self, but for the other. Oh, you really thought it was about YOU. I ask my grandchildren who do you represent when you walk out this house: they answer you. No, let's get the order straight: God and me.

Jesus said John 17:4-5 *I have glorified (honored) you on the earth: I have finished the work which you gave me to do*". V5. *"And now, Father, glorify me with your own self with the glory [honor] that I had with you before the world was."*

The work in faith; the work of faith; the work by faith: he bore our grief, carried our sorrows, wounded for our sins, bruised for our iniquities, he was oppressed (not depressed), he was afflicted; it pleased God to bruise him (Isaiah 53).

John 17: 9 Jesus tells our Father in Heaven about the relationship that he has with the Father on our behalf: *"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which you have given me;*

JESUS SAYS Father this **is our** relationship: *"for they are yours and all mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I am glorified in them."* I am honored in them. You can not honor what you are not connected to in a real relationship.

In closing, Jesus prayed a specific prayer to the Father. Just like us, Jesus expects an answer. (If you abide in me and my words abide in you ask what you will and it shall be done unto you – John 15:7). Jesus gave us this word; when our relationship is one with the father we can pray according to this word and expect an answer. What did Jesus Pray. Are you an answer to Jesus' prayer. Are you one with God?

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How close are you to the Father? How close are you to Jesus. I'm having so many heartaches and troubles where is God? Oswald Chambers wrote, "The things we are going through are either making us sweeter, better, nobler men and women; or they are making us more fault-finding, more insistent upon our own way. The things that happen either make us enemies-fiends, or they make us saints; it depends entirely upon the relationship with God."

Are you at Level 1 – A Servant Relationship? Are you working the "work" of your calling?

Stay tuned for Level 2

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