



FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

Foundation 8: Being in His Presence

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Being in His Presence

Draw Near!

God gave up His very own Life in order to be able to spend all of eternity with you!

Consider that... He died for you to be with Him. He gave His life for you to be close to Him. Do you know what that must mean!?! God, your Heavenly Father, *really likes you!*

You may have a good friend whom you know will avoid making plans with others so that they can spend time with you. We all prioritize time with certain individuals. God has REALLY PRIORITIZED time with you! He gave up His own life just for it! And He doesn't want to just spend a little bit of time with you, He wants to spend a lot of time with you -- an eternal amount of time with you. Clearly, God is never planning on getting sick of being around you!

Col. 1:21-22 says *"And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,"* (ESV) God reconciled you to Himself by the death of His Son in order that you would be holy and blameless and above reproach before Him! The work of Jesus Christ on the cross (and your acceptance of that work by faith) has made you absolutely above reproach before the Maker of the Universe! When you

stand before Him in Christ, He is not at all disgusted with you. In fact, your Heavenly Father is DELIGHTED with you!

This is so important to understand. In fact, understanding God's love of spending time with us is foundational to having a vibrant relationship with Him. If you know that a good friend of yours prioritizes time with you, you will not be ashamed or bashful in spending time with them. You will not be sheepish to call them up. The same is true with God. When we know He has prioritized time with us, and realize what a price He paid for it, it encourages us to come before Him with confidence. *"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **let us draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith"* (Heb. 10:19-22a).

There is nothing between you and God on His end! Look at James 4:8 "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." What a profound promise! How can it be so!?! Simple. There is absolutely nothing between you and God on His end. God is at peace with you. He is good with you. If you are born-again and sense any separation between you and Your Heavenly Father, that separation only exists in your thinking, not in His reality. Isaiah 54:9-10 prophesied the covenant of peace that we now live in with God:

“I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

The condition upon which God will draw near to you is not dependent on Him. He is completely willing and excited to spend time with you and is fully ready to do so whenever *you* are! The condition for God drawing near to you is so simple; it is simply *you* drawing near to Him! Check your heart right now, are you close to God? Really close? If not, you can choose to be! If you are born again, there is no separation between you and Him on His end. So, draw near! Tuck yourself up under his arm. Snuggle up next to your Papa. He’s the Maker of the Universe, infinitely powerful, infinitely wise, and completely eternal. And He wants to take this moment right now to spend time with you. Don’t withhold yourself from Him. By all means, put this book down and draw near to Him!

Spending Time in His Presence Changes Us!

The Lord IS light. He doesn’t have light, He IS light. (1 Jn.1:5) As we spend time in His presence, our heart is being illuminated by Him (by His light). Every second in His presence is a purifying moment. When we spend time meditating on The Word, our hearts are transformed. Likewise, spending time in His presence changes us! However, we must not fool ourselves. A few minutes a day

in His presence will not make a significant change in our heart and thus our life. But spending significant time before our Father (the Maker of the Universe who gave up His Own Life for us to be with Him) will naturally bring about significant change in our hearts and therefore our lives.

Here is a *short* list of the benefits of spending time in His Presence:

He affirms us: He builds in us the understanding that He truly and completely believes in us. This affirmation from the Lord makes us less and less dependent, and ultimately totally free from the need for others to affirm us ... making us just like Jesus. (Jn 2:24,25) Freedom from the care of what others think about us ... this is *true* emotional freedom. (See Jer.17:5-8)

He assures our heart of His love for us: This is different from affirmation, which deals more with who we are as a person. This assurance deals directly with our relationship with the Lord Himself, and thus becomes the bedrock of our faith. Knowing how much He loves us makes believing in Him and His word easier and easier until it becomes virtually second nature.

He develops our sensitivity to His voice/leading: this ensures our ability to walk in His will and plan for our life. This also makes us useful for the Master's use to bless others.

He quietly changes us (transforms our heart) to be more like Him: We are influenced by those that we spend time with. Spending time daily in His presence makes us more like

Him: more loving, forgiving, wise, gentle, joyful, patient, kind ... and without even trying.

He causes us to know Him intimately, innately, instinctively: By definition, this is what Jesus was talking about in Jn. 17:3, “*Eternal Life*.” This too prepares us to be used by the Master.

It blesses the Father and Jesus to be loved by us: There is no higher call than to worship and glorify the Lord. The Father desires this from us. (see Jn. 4:23-24)

It floods our heart with joy: Joy is far superior to happiness. Happiness is dependent on outside circumstances whereas joy comes from the inside. Joy remains, even when circumstances are not favorable. This joy in turn becomes our strength in life. “*In your presence is fullness of joy.*” (Ps. 16:11) “*The joy of the Lord is your strength.*” (Neh. 8:10) The joy of the Lord makes life a pleasure, consumes worry, attracts others to us and ultimately to Jesus.

In fact, all the fruits of the Spirit are stirred up and made strong in us as we spend time with Him. Again, Ps. 16:11 states “*In your presence is the fullness of joy.*” Joy, a fruit of the Spirit, is actually observed in its fullness in His Presence!

How to Enter His Gates

Psalms 100:4 tells us to “*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.*” This gives us a very helpful model for how to approach God:

Thanksgiving: This is where we give thanks to the Lord for all his wonderful provisions in our lives. Thanksgiving is a time **to express our gratitude**. An attitude of gratitude is no small matter to the Lord. The Lord considers an ungrateful or complaining heart as an evil heart and dangerous to the spiritual growth of the person who possesses it and to those around them. (see 1 Cor. 10:10, Phil. 2:14, 1 Thes. 5:18, 2 Tim. 3:2). Taking time daily to give sincere thanks for even the most basic of provisions cultivates a grateful heart (e.g., a roof over our head that keeps the rain out, a soft bed and covers to lie in every night, food in our refrigerator, the fact that we have a refrigerator, shoes for our feet to protect them, clean water to drink, etc.).

Praise: This is where we offer to the Lord more exuberant thanksgivings (praises) **for His goodness, His Greatness and His good works (past, present and future)**. We can offer Him praise for all His good works both in our lives and in the lives of others. This is similar to offering thanksgivings, but is done mostly in song and with much more exuberance and often with raised hands. Though thanksgiving is part of praise, thanksgiving is based more on your present provisions, whereas praise is focused on what He has done, is doing and will do in the earth as Almighty God.

Worship: **This is the most important of them all!** To worship is to **love on the Father for who He is and what he means to us**. This is generally a much calmer time of expressing our love, adoration and giving homage to the

Lord. It is generally directed to the Father (Jn.4:23, Mat.6:9), but it is absolutely appropriate to worship Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is our time to love on our Lord with ALL that is within us. With all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Though praise is a part of worship, praise is based more on what He does, whereas worship is based more on who He is. Another powerful reason to worship, is to combat the number one enemy of our souls: PRIDE. Worship is like a poison to our pride. The very act of bowing and worshipping another requires an acknowledgment with our will that He is greater than we are. This cultivates humility, which prepares our hearts to be used by the Master!

Tongues: This is a supernatural gift of a **spiritual language** given to us without our having learned it through the normal cognitive channels. This gift is received after we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. (see Mk. 16:17, Acts 1:5,8, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 8:17, Acts 10:44-46, Acts 19:1-6, and 1 Cor.14:2,4 ... and also chapters 12 and 13 of this book). We pray in tongues (in the Spirit) for several reasons, including:

- To pray special prayers (mysteries) to God (1 Cor.14:2)
- To edify (charge up) ourselves (1 Cor.14:4)
- To build ourselves up in Faith and to keep ourselves in the Love of God. (Jude vs. 20-21)
- To give us rest and refreshing when our souls are weary. (Isa. 28:11-12)

Waiting & Listening: Though you would think that this would be easy, this may prove to be the most difficult thing

to do in drawing near to God ... nothing! Due to living in such a sensory overloaded time as this, our souls are receiving and acting on so much information at any given moment, that to stop and quiet our souls to do absolutely nothing but listen to our inner man (our heart), will prove to be quite challenging. But by doing this daily, you can and will train your soul to do just that. Start with 5 minutes, and then build from there. This will be one of your greatest ways to receive spiritual blessings and direction from the Lord. We don't want to do all the talking, but to be still for a time and give Him a chance to speak to us. Ps. 46:10 communicates this beautifully *"Be still and know that I am God."*

Scriptures

"And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him," (Col. 1:21-22, ESV)

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith" (Heb. 10:19-22a)

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

"I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace

shall not be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.
(Isaiah 54:9-10)

“...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” (1 Jn.1:5)

“But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.” (Jn. 2:24-25)

“Thus says the Lord: ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit. (Jer.17:5-8)

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (Jn. 17:3)

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (Jn. 4:23,24)

“In your presence is fullness of Joy” (Ps. 16:11)

“The joy of the Lord is your strength” (Neh. 8:10)

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.” (Psalms 100:4)

“nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed

by the destroyer.” (1 Cor. 10:10)

“Do all things without complaining and disputing,” (Phil.2:14)

“in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thes. 5:18)

“For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,” (2 Tim.3:2)

“In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.” (Matt. 6:9)

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;” (Mk.16:17)

“for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now ... But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:5,8)

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

“Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:17)

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon

all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.” (Acts 10:44-46)

“And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.” (Acts 19:1-6)

“For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries ... He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.” (1 Cor.14:2,4)

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” (Jude vs. 20-21)

“For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” and, “This is the refreshing”; yet they would not

hear. (Isa. 28:11-12)

“Be still and know that I am God” (Ps.46:10)