

Your Heavenly Father Is Still With You

I wish it was possible to put into words the importance of developing a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. For whatever reason, many Christians fail to grasp the value of such a relationship. There are those who find satisfaction in just being acquainted with Him, while others demonstrate a passion to truly know Him.

Having been born again for over 40 years, I am ashamed to admit that for many of those years I had no comprehension of the value of getting to know my Heavenly Father on a personal basis. I wanted to hear “the voice of God”, but I didn’t realize that relationship precedes distinguishing His voice.

Fortunately in 1989 somehow He got through to me and said, **“IF MY PEOPLE WOULD SEEK TO KNOW ME, THEN THEY WOULD KNOW MY VOICE.”** Even though I have not reached all I desire to be, I have found great joy in knowing Jesus. You will never know what it did for me when I began learning the difference between His voice and my emotions.

It has only been in the past few years that I have begun to understand and treasure my growing relationship. One experience in particular stands out most vividly in my mind.

In May of 1993 Linda and I were praying in earnest regarding our relocation to Statesville, North Carolina from Florida. We had been questioning whether or not we should put our plans on hold or continue making the necessary arrangements to move.

During lunch while at work, the Spirit of the Lord shared three things with me. The Lord instructed:

1. To remain aggressive in our plans to relocate to Statesville, NC.
2. There were troublesome days ahead.
3. Remember, ‘I AM STILL WITH YOU!’

My first response? I readily accepted the exhortation regarding relocation, and was grateful He would remain with me. However, to be perfectly honest, I immediately focused on the second point regarding the troublesome days ahead. I wanted some explanations. Troublesome days ahead, God, what do you mean by that?

Immediately the spirit of despair attempted to enshroud me. The Lord, knowing all things, promptly responded. "WHEN YOU START MOVING TOWARD MY PERFECT WILL FOR YOUR LIFE, SATAN IS NOT GOING TO JUST LAY DOWN AND JUST LET IT HAPPEN!" DIDN'T HE TRY TO STOP JESUS, ARE YOU ANY BETTER THAN YOUR MASTER?" That was all I needed to hear, I got the message. Because of His great love for us (and knowing that we were unaware of the events that would transpire in the days ahead), He knew I needed to hear what He told me that day.

That very evening, due to cutbacks, I lost my part-time job. This news was followed in just a couple of days by yet another notification that my full-time position with a government agency had been targeted for elimination. And following on the heels of that announcement, the hospital where Linda worked had merged with another hospital and her position was going to be eliminated. To this day I can scarcely comprehend my Father's love, knowing that He would go to such lengths to prepare us for what lay ahead. I could go on and on describing those "troublesome days", and to be honest, it was some time before those days ceased. Our enemy continued to throw obstacles in our path. But the overcoming power of the Holy Spirit caused us to sail over each one with renewed strength drawn from His personal word to me that day. "I AM STILL WITH YOU."

I realize that my personal experience may be insignificant to you, but you can be assured His word to you is the same. YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS STILL WITH YOU! Right now you may be facing the most trying circumstances you have ever faced. The storm may be raging in your life and the situation may look impossible. His direction may be eluding your steps as you attempt your walk in the Spirit. Even if you are in a place of emotional upheaval and not able to hear that still small voice; rest assured, your Heavenly Father knows how to get through to you and bring peace during your tumultuous times and HE IS STILL WITH YOU!

One of the most important aspects of your life as a Christ follower is to pursue a knowing relationship with Father God. As you pull yourself away from life's turmoil and enter the closet of quietness through prayer and fasting, you will find yourself being drawn into His presence. In His presence you will experience His power. When you experience His power, then His glory is manifested. And when His glory is manifested, every need is abundantly met by the provision of our gracious Heavenly Father.

There is a verse in the book of Revelation that has been "ear marked" for sinners on many occasions. In its proper context, the verse is addressed to born again believers and is a scriptural portrait of the longing desire of our Lord Jesus Christ to commune with us. Please allow us to share this heart-stirring scripture with you.

Revelation 3: 20 says,

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup (commune) with him, and he with Me."

He paid a great price to have fellowship with us. He desires to commune with us even more than we do with Him. Please, just open that door today and let Him in.

Pastor Jerry