

## Lesson 5: What Does God Want from Me?

Most believers today, instead of learning of what Jesus accomplished and of who they are in Him, are taught how to be “good” Christians. They go immediately from grace to law and their growth is stunted. When believers reawaken to the grace of God, sometimes after many years, they usually have a long list of things they did that defined them as a Christian such as daily Bible reading/study and prayer, giving a certain amount, attending church “each time the church doors open”, getting involved in church ministries, evangelizing, and this list never ends. When they learn that being a Christian is not about following of list of do’s and don’ts, they feel liberated, but then logically ask, “If God is not asking me to do all of those things, then what DOES God want from Me?”

### I. BACK TO SQUARE ONE: Relationship with God

#### A. “This is NOT a religion<sup>1</sup>, it’s a relationship.”

##### 1. From the beginning, God has wanted relationship with man.

a. *God did not want man to be alone, so He gave man a “helper” suitable for him; someone who could have a relationship with him.*

**Genesis 2:18**

*Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”*

##### 2. In the New Covenant, God Himself now wants to be our “Helper”.

**John 14:16**

*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.*

#### B. God has always wanted a relationship with man, and that relationship is typified through the dearest human relationships: marriage, friendship, and sonship.

##### 1. Just as the marriage relationship is the closest human relationship, God wants a similarly close relationship with people.

**Ephesians 5:31-32**

*“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”<sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

##### 2. Jesus is our friend and brother.

**John 15:13-15**

*Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

**Matthew 12:50**

*For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”*

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<sup>1</sup> “Religion” in this lesson refers to man’s attempt to be made right before God by his own efforts.

**3. We are children of God.**

**Romans 8:15-17**

*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

**II. WHERE DO WE GO WRONG?**

**A. Religion replaces our relationship with God by declaring that we can lose His presence, that He is not our friend, and that even though we are sons we should fear God instead of relating to Him as our "Abba".**

**1. Sin is what separated us from God with the corresponding penalty being death. He sent His Son to remove the sin barrier between himself and man.**

**Isaiah 59:2**

*But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,  
And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.*

**2. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin at the cross.**

**Isaiah 53:5-6**

*But He was pierced through for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,  
And by His scourging we are healed.*

*<sup>6</sup> All of us like sheep have gone astray,  
Each of us has turned to his own way;  
But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all  
To fall on Him.*

**3. In doing so, HE made us righteous (right with Him) by gift.**

**Romans 5:17**

*For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

**B. Relationship reverts to religion when the relationship is dependent on what WE do instead of on what HE ACCOMPLISHED.**

**1. We are already as close as possible to God, but we still come up with ways to be close with Him.**

**2. We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21), but we endlessly teach that we need to become holy and righteous by "getting right with God".**

**3. God doesn't want us self/sin-conscious because it prevents us from being conscious of Him.**

**Hebrews 10:1-3**

*For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.<sup>2</sup> Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?<sup>3</sup> But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.*

- a. The law/religion can never make a person perfect before God, and can never take away the consciousness of sin. This is precisely why Jesus died FOR us. He MADE us perfect before Him, and HIS sacrifice was so good that we should no longer have a consciousness of sin.

*Hebrews 10:14*

*For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

### III. WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM ME?

- A. God wants you to ENJOY and be thankful for the relationship with Him that He purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ. He has done everything possible so that you can do nothing but respond in faith to His grace.

*Philippians 4:4*

*Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

*Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

*John 6:35*

*And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

*John 4:14*

*Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

*Romans 15:13*

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

1. We cannot "abound in hope" when we are focused on fixing ourselves.

- B. God wants you to be transformed.

*2 Peter 3:18*

*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

1. Grow in Grace

- a. We WALK the same way we got saved: BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

*Colossians 2:6-10*

*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <sup>10</sup> and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*

- b. We are taught by GRACE not law.

*Titus 2:11-14*

*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

**Galatians 3:24-25**

*Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.<sup>25</sup> But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

**c. He perfects the work HE started in us.**

**Philippians 1:3-6**

*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,<sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,<sup>5</sup> for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,<sup>6</sup> being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

**d. We are transformed by beholding Him.**

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

**2. Grow in the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**a. Discover what God accomplished for you through Jesus.**

**Ephesians 1:15-22**

*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,<sup>16</sup> do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:<sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,<sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,<sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power<sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,<sup>21</sup> far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

**C. God wants you to know and believe the love He has for you.**

**1 John 4:16**

*And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

**1. Beloved Children of God**

**1 John 3:1**

*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!*

**2. Rooted and Grounded in Love**

**Ephesians 3:14-19**

*For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>15</sup> from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,<sup>16</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,<sup>17</sup> that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,<sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—<sup>19</sup> to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

### 3. God's Love for Us Constantly Demonstrated

**Romans 5:8**

*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

### 4. His Love for Us vs. Our Love for Him

**1 John 4:10**

*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

### 5. God is for Us

**Romans 8:31-32**

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

## D. Under the Old Covenant loving God was a command. Under the New Covenant, it is assumed that those who believe in Jesus love God as a result of being loved.

**1 John 4:19 (NKJV)**

*We love Him, because He first loved us.*

**1 Corinthians 8:3**

*But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.*

**Romans 8:28**

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

*But as it is written:*

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,*

*Nor have entered into the heart of man*

*The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

*<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

## E. When Jesus gave His commandment, he did not say, “Thou shalt love ME with all you heart and souls and strength.” He knew that all those who believed in Him would not NEED to be told to love Him. We would love BECAUSE He loves us. What He wants from us is to love each other.

### 1. Christ's New Covenant Command

**John 13:34-35**

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

**1 John 3:23**

*This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.*

**1 John 4:7-8**

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.<sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

**2. When we love each other we are showing our love for God.**

**Matthew 25:35-41**

*For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; <sup>36</sup>naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? <sup>39</sup> When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ <sup>40</sup> The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’*

**John 21:15-17**

*So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?”*

*He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”*

*He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”*

<sup>16</sup> *He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah ,do you love Me?”*

*He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”*

*He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”*

<sup>17</sup> *He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?”*

*And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”*

*Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.*

- a. The way we show our love for God is by loving our brothers and sisters, especially those in need. God so identifies with His sons and daughters that when we demonstrate our love for them through spiritually feeding them and meeting their physical needs He receives that ministry as though we were ministering directly to Him.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:9-10**

*But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you,*

*for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;*

<sup>10</sup>*and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia.*

*But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more.*