

ARE YOU ACQUAINTED WITH GOD?

"Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee." Job 22:21.

Acquaintance with God is something that is very needful in every life. The acquaintance with God which is mentioned in this verse does not imply a mere personal knowledge, but rather that intimacy and familiarity which subsist between good friends.

1. Acquiesce in God.

Surrender your will and make it subservient to God's will. Do not arraign God before the bar of human reason, but acquiesce in His will. It is possible for people to give their time, their money and their faculties to God, and yet to retain a rebellious will towards Him. Sometimes it takes a lot to make us bow our stubborn wills and acquiesce in God. The most effective aid to this achievement is a sight of Christ crucified. When the sentence, "He gave Himself for me," sinks into the heart, it causes a person to acquiesce in the will of God.

Have you acquiesced in the divine plan of salvation or God's method of saving people from their sins? Until you do this you cannot be a Christian. A person must surrender or yield to the divine will, if he expects to receive salvation.

Two friends, neither of whom could swim, were walking along a river bank. One of them fell into the river, and the other turned around and observed a man very near. He cried, "Come here! Come here! My friend has fallen into the river! Can you swim?" "Yes," said the man. "Jump in then, and save him!" cried the other. But the stranger stood there, calmly watching the struggling man as he sank, while the other, in terrible alarm, thought he was allowing his friend to drown. The man stood quietly on the bank until the other rose to the surface; until he sank a second time, and came up a second time. Then he leaped in and rescued him from drowning. "Why did you not jump in at first?" said the friend. "Ah," said the stranger, "If I had jumped in before his strength had gone, we should both have been drowned; but when he was powerless I could save him." That is just how God does. Until you realize that you do not have any power to help yourself and surrender to Christ, you need not expect Him to save you. But, as soon as you realize that you are powerless to help yourself, then you are in a position to trust the Lord and be saved, after which you shall be able to say, "He took me, he drew me out of many waters" (Psalm 18:16). Acquiesce in God.

2. Attach yourself to God.

Join yourself to God, and fall in with His ways. Apart from God you are helplessness itself; you are absolutely powerless to accomplish anything. But, when your powerlessness is connected with God's omnipotence there is no limit to the possibilities of your success and usefulness. You cannot attach yourself to God except through a living faith. Attach yourself to Him and make Him your friend.

I. The Requisites For Acquaintance With God.

What are the requisites for such an acquaintance with God? It is a well-known fact that nature teaches us some things about God. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handy-work" (Psalm 19:1). The majesty, wisdom, skill and power of God are seen in the material universe which we observe about us.

Among the requisites for a true acquaintance with God are the following:

1. God's Word.

It is through His Word that we come definitely to know God as the Creator and Governor of the universe, as the Preserver and Benefactor of all, and as the God of all grace.

2. God's Spirit.

The Holy Spirit reveals to us the mind, the purpose and the will of God. He convicts us of our sins and persuades us to trust Christ as our Saviour.

3. Faith.

When one believes on the Lord Jesus Christ the Saviour saves him. As he exercises faith in God from day to day, he becomes the recipient of numerous blessings and grows in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Prayer.

Frequent and regular praying to God in the name of Christ will produce real and precious intimacies with God. There cannot be any real acquaintance with God unless there is communion between the eternal God and the believer.

5. Study.

A believer in Christ can grow in his acquaintance with God through a faithful study of His providences. God is made known to His people by His acts, as well as by what He says in His Word.

II. The Reasons For Acquaintance With God.

1. He created us.

2. He has sustained us.

3. He has preserved us.

4. He has provided salvation for us.

5. We will have to render an account to Him.

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31). "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

Men sometimes make appointments but, due to their inability or lack of desire, fail to keep them. But God never fails to keep an appointment which He makes. God will see to it that we shall stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and give an account of our lives here -- our thoughts, our motives, our desires, our words and our deeds.

Are you personally, intimately and affectionately acquainted with God? Get to know God intellectually, for this knowledge is the pioneer of all other blessings. A man must know something of God in his intellect before he can trust Him in his heart. Get acquainted with God morally by yielding your heart to Him. Let your rebellion against His will cease and give yourself to Him as His child. Get to know God socially by walking and talking with Him.

III. The Results Of Acquaintance With God.

1. Inward peace.

"Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace." If you will fulfill the condition, the result will be certain. Peace is what most people are seeking, although they may not be fully aware of it. Nobody can have true peace unless he is acquainted with and knows God. A man is not at peace with God unless he is on speaking terms with Him. Are you afraid of God? If so, let your rebellion against Him cease, and the differences between you and God be healed. Be agreed with Him and then you can walk with Him.

The man who knows that in God he has all he needs to meet life's difficulties has peace within. That assurance gave Christ peace as He faced the ordeal of the cross. He seeks to pass that peace on to others. Peace comes from knowing God as a friend. Knowing God brings peace in the face of a troubled world, and even in spite of our unanswered questions.

2. Temporal good.

"Thereby good shall come unto thee." A Christian not only has salvation, peace and a good hope, but also has many other blessings which are good for the body, mind and spirit. "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (I Timothy 4:8).

3. Eternal good.

Heavenly or eternal good will distinguish the people of God from those who refuse to become acquainted with Him in this their day of opportunity. To be "at peace with God" is the noblest, safest and happiest of all the states in which one can be. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). "There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1).

IV. The Royalty Of Acquaintance With God.

Some people think it is wonderful to know earthly beings of prominence politically and socially, but I can tell you something that exceeds that tremendously, and that is to be a member of God's family and on speaking terms with Him. That is real royalty.

Those of us who are children of God are in His family because "Christ died for us." "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (I Peter 3:18).

If those of you who are not Christians are ever to be saved, it will be because of the ransom price which Christ has already paid. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:18-19). If you ever come to know God, it will be through Christ, Who was the ransom for our sins at Calvary. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24).

V. The Responsibilities Of Acquaintance With God.

1. No longer live for self.

2. Live for Him Who died for you.

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again" (II Corinthians 5:14-15). Because Christ loved me enough to die for me and save me from hell, I certainly ought to love Him enough to spend the balance of my life in service for Him. We are saved to serve and we ought to make our lives count for Him Who has saved us.

The time which is most suitable for getting acquainted with God is now. "Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee." It is right, wise, safe and profitable for you to do so now. It is the right time, the best time, the easiest time, and might be the only time. The only way in which you can become acquainted with God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth and the life. You can come to the Father through Him. Do so now.