

Volume 3 – Day 22: Do It Yourself

There are countless self-help resources (books, videos, audio tracks and so forth) to which we can turn which claim to show us **how to** be better Christians. We think it is our duty to become more like God. It is evident that most Christians bury themselves under piles of these resources or myriad religious activities in an attempt to do it themselves. That is, to **get right with God**, by their own efforts.

Yet, the more helps we explore, the farther from intimacy we get. And the quest for **righteousness** can only end in a personal and **deeply affectionate relationship with God**, in Jesus. The ways and means to human intimacy are identical to those needed to develop intimacy with God. It is one thing to be educated by the history of the Biblical records. It is altogether different to establish and nurture a deeply personal relationship with Him. Unfortunately we fail to realize that we are doing the exact same thing as the original couple in the Garden of Eden.

Partaking of the fruit of self-effort in an attempt to be more like God **is evil!** Instead of mutual affection between ourselves and God, we try to become God. The objective is not to become any other person than the one God created us to be. The objective is to deeply love one another by becoming intimate. Intimacy is that state of being where I know fully who you are and accept you “as-is.” To love you is to desire your satisfaction over my own.

Although education is useful and knowledge is power, there is no greater power in the universe than true love for another. To be properly educated in the Holy Bible, the context of loving others more than self must be applied to every story, parable, metaphor, analogy and other language device. Seek transformation, not just information. Love Like Jesus Loves! That’s how God loves! You can’t do it yourself. Simply surrender yourself to Him in every decision you make.

My Confirming Scripture: My Aligning Experiences:

Volume 3 – Day 23: It's Your Fault

To a large degree, nearly everything is your fault. By this I am saying that **your current circumstance** is likely the result of one or more **choices you made**. Obviously, this is not completely true, as children have little or no say in what their parents do or say to them. Yet, when we become adults, we are responsible for our choices from then on, regardless of whoever did or said whatever they did or said to us. To continue blaming others for what you choose to do is certainly of no value to you. And, quite frankly, no one else gives a rip. They are consumed by their own sorrows and pleasures.

When we blame others for the way we are, we somehow think that justifies our actions. But, that is not the case. When we blame others, somehow we think that if they would simply shape up, our problem would go away. This is not the case either. As soon as someone else whose similar idiosyncrasies come into our presence, so does our wrongful attitude and expression. If you are offended by anyone, consider this. They have likely bumped into a tender bruise in your ego. They did not create the bruise. They simply and unwittingly bumped it. And you lashed out at them.

If you are stuck in a shallow relationship with God, or anyone else for that matter, it is completely your own fault. God's Word is clear. He desires that we develop unconditional love for those around us, especially those who aggravate us. To this end, God has placed His Holy Spirit within a Christian (Christ-In) in order to teach you God's ways and affections. The Holy Spirit is the ultimate teacher of time and eternity. But, unless and until you desire to learn from Him, you will remain ignorant and dissatisfied emotionally and spiritually. It is **your choice**. No one else is responsible for your decisions.

Vol. 3 – Day 24: Be the Wind Beneath Their Wings

“It is an ill wind that blows no one any good.”
And ’tis an ill person who has nothing good to say about another. You and I know that some people just get on our nerves. Often we can’t explain why. But we express our displeasure to them or to others behind their back. The nature of human nature is to promote one’s self, often at the expense of someone else. Many of us have been told, “You have to look out for yourself. No one else will.” To always look out for the good of another is reserved for the ‘mothering’ instinct.

The good news is that we were created to be lovers not fighters. Yet, we lapse into a selfish pursuit of our own life, liberty and happiness. At the same time we desperately grope about for someone, anyone, to love us. We are also engineered to want to be desired by another. Many times we clutch one with whom we are infatuated. Yet when they do not return the love we seek, our feelings are hurt. (our feeling of **love** is hurt.)

Worship is best defined as any expression which demonstrates the high value we place on the object of our worship. The human heart is engineered to worship and to be worshipped. We actually worship many others who never worship us in return. But when we worship another and that person worships us, we have an opportunity to develop an intimate relationship.

The secret of deeply affectionate relationships is contained in this pursuit: “desiring the pleasure of the object of my worship over my own pleasure.” Instead of being the ‘ill wind that blows no one any good’ become the wind of encouragement and good will as you become the wind beneath the wings of everyone in your path. God is more than willing to help you be this!

My Confirming Scripture: My Aligning Experiences:

Volume 3 – Day 25: Know God, Not Just About Him

Most religious people, even Christians, accept the doctrines of others rather than making up their own minds about God. We tend to become faithful to the religion of our parents. If we were treated badly by our parents, we might adopt anything other than their particular brand of religion. We seem to choose the *safety in numbers* over the narrow lonely road to life. The Bible is clear that the road to destruction is wide and heavily travelled. I suggest you abandon the *safety in numbers* theory in favor of the safety of God and His truth.

There is only safety and security in the love of God. So, until you seek God alone as your trustworthy life partner, you will be in danger for most of your life's journey! The great news is that when you become intimate with God, not only *will you know* it, but also *others will testify* that they see the love of God in you.

There is no limit to intimacy. Keep on seeking deeper and richer affection for God. Let me qualify the limitless nature of God's intimacy. His offer and supply is unlimited. However, **we can and do** limit the measure of His intimacy with us when we fail to return it. And we fail to receive it by crowding it out with selfish indulgences, applause and self worship!

The ultimate intimacy is mutually desiring to please our lover more than ourselves, while our lover possesses the same "other-preferring" motives toward us. Instead of asking God in prayer to satisfy your needs and wants, ask Him how you might bring Him pleasure in the situation in which you are praying. Listen! He will respond. Remember, prayer is a dialog with God, not talking at Him or begging Him to indulge you (or do *what you think is good*).

My Confirming Scripture: My Aligning Experiences:

Volume 3 – Day 26: Control Freak or Stress Free

Having been born to be control freaks, we have great difficulty letting God be in control, or anyone else, for that matter. Yet, control issues are the predominant ones leading to stress and unbecoming behaviors. One of my own pastors once said, “The comfort of God is wrapped in my release of my control over my life.” Later God added to this, “*and the lives of others.*” So a major element of a life abandoned to intimacy with God is the release of all control to God.

The comfort
of God
is wrapped
in my release
of my control
over my life
& the lives
of others!

As long as I tried to maintain control over this or that, I lived with a pretty great measure of stress. This stress turned my concern for matters into worry, anxiety, guilt, shame and sometimes even fear. So I began to equate *comfort* with *peace* and reworded my pastor’s statement. “The **peace** of God is wrapped in my **release** of my control over my life and the lives of others.” This one phrase has been a daily practice for me ever since.

Many pray for peace. We pray for peace among family and friends. We desire peace with those in our communities. We strive to bring peace to the whole world. Yet, peace eludes us, both locally and globally. The reason for this is most of us want others to be at peace with us, while we refuse to be at peace with them. The starting point for all negotiations for peace is to disclose our unique points of view in a respectful manner. But peace only ever comes when both parties are willing to accept the other without any conditions for change, when compromise is not an option.

When I can accept you without expecting you to change anything, I have peace. Even if you choose not to accept me in return! **My peace is not dependent upon anyone else. It is my choice!**

Vol. 3 – Day 27: Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired

When you get sick and tired of being sick and tired, of a less than satisfactory experience of God, is the very moment when God is most likely to begin revealing Himself in the most intimate ways! God is always passionately in love with us. He is simply waiting for any who will join with Him in a passionate love affair. Intimacy cannot be achieved by thought or imagination. Intimacy only ever occurs by way of desperate desire to be intimate in any relationship. If you are serious about becoming abandoned to intimacy with God, you *will*, at times, experience a desire to be with other people who want to pursue the same for themselves. But when complete intimacy with God becomes a reality for you, there will never be a lonely moment for you! God's presence is enough. I speak from personal experience. I have not experienced a single moment of loneliness in over 15 years!

The point is not to **fully comprehend** God,
but to **fully enjoy** what I do comprehend
about Him. — J H Alan

Every experience in your life has the potential to teach you or others some valuable lesson. If you will search for the revelation each trial or difficulty may bring, you will be amazed at how much more God can teach you. Seize each moment (decision point), ponder its meaning with God, discover His purpose in it, and do what His Spirit directs you to do about it. "Seek and you will find." applies to every event in your life. Look for God in each one and you will see Him right there with you in it.

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan

Vol. 3 – Day 28: Forgiveness Is A Choice You Make

written by one of my favorite song writers

Holding on to a grudge forever
You hold it in, and you think you'll never
Find a way to ever let it go

The mask you wear is an illusion
It only leads to more confusion
And causes pain and heartache in your soul

The pain you've carried for so long
Is a heavy load, and you're not that strong
So lay it down and give it to the Lord

Forgiveness – is an act of faith that God is in control
Forgiveness – is a choice we make of truly letting go
Forgiveness – is obedience to what we're called to do
Forgiveness – the choice is up to you!

Forgiveness – release your guilt if you're the one who
sinned
Forgiveness – release the hurt if you've been sinned
against
Forgiveness – is a miracle that only God can do
Forgiveness – the choice is up to you!

Forgiveness – is a miracle that only God can do
Forgiveness – the choice is up to you!

song entitled: 'Forgiveness' - © Doug Meeker 2021

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan