

Volume 1, Day 10: Love Fully and You Will Behave Well

At some point in our journey we cease to be satisfied with just the taste of this thing. We actually want to go deeper to participate more fully in this life. Many of us have been taught that it's all about praying the sinner's prayer, being baptized, affirming a certain creed and then suddenly we're saved. That means we've got our get out of hell free card. But Jesus didn't talk about salvation as a get out of hell free card. Jesus talked about salvation as knowing the Father and knowing Himself. It's a genuine relationship we are invited into. My misunderstanding happens not only at the beginning, but every day of my life, no matter where I get confused, distraught, perplexed, upset, angry, even at God! If He is **not doing what I think He should**.

Where my relationship gets back on track is when I have that moment of just surrender to Him and I say, "Okay, God, not what I want, what You want! I want to follow your way. I want to know you intimately." I realize I can get pretty messed up and think some pretty wrong things. I have discovered that surrender is **not just the first day I got into this relationship**, but every day that I walk this journey. Surrender is what keeps opening for me greater opportunity to know him in a deeply personal way. That is why Jesus said, "If you want to come after Me, you must take up your cross, deny yourself and follow Me."

Isn't that like you do with your most significant other much of the time? What Jesus means is that we can't keep living life our own selfish way and ask God to bless it or ask God to invade it. Instead, we want to begin to live the way that pleases Him. And His **asks** let us know what He wants. And to be sure, it is not to behave well. It is to love fully the other person.