

Let's Fall in Love with God
Chapter 10: Dynamics of Intimate Relationship

(John Henry Alan, edited by Bob Clarkson)

{ Not too fast! }

I Cannot, Only He Can { 164 }

"I can do all things through Christ, which strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. The objective before us is *not* to do things in an enlarged personal strength, but rather to *let* the Spirit of Christ within me do the heavy lifting. To reword this verse might help you understand the dynamic. "I can do all things through Christ, whose Holy Spirit within me expresses Himself, while I withdraw from the scene so that only Christ and His powerful work can be seen." Whew, that was much longer, but it is the dynamic of abandon to intimacy with God. We are to learn of Him, that is, to become deeply intimate with Him. We are to be conformed unto His death, that is to be willing to die to everything selfish for the sake of others' salvation. We must count all things as refuse compared to an intimate knowledge of Him.

Release and Relax { 165 }

The objective is not to control but to relax. Enjoy the peace that surpasses all understanding. There's nothing more for you to do. God does not help those who help themselves. Quite the opposite. God only helps those who humble themselves enough to admit that they need His help and will let Him help. Through the experience of

intimacy with God, fruitfulness *will* happen. This is what the Gospel of John declares in chapter fifteen. *Abide* in the vine! You *will* bear fruit!

Sifting Out The Insincere { 166 }

God sifts out those who are unwilling to forsake all others to follow Him in order to lead on by grace those who truly want Him over anything else. Many may wax cold, but in every generation there is always a remnant of intimate believers. Many say they want to be intimate and fully surrendered to God but at the same time, they want to maintain a good reputation or get a little bit of the glory or to continue to live comfortably. Most of us want only a theoretical crucifixion. Hearing sermons about dying to self and selfish ambitions is commonplace, but actually taking the risk of losing control is quite rare. As Tozer put it, “Until we put ourselves in the hands of God and let God do with us. what ever He wants, we will be just what we are, mediocre Christians.”

We will not know what it is to be one with Him until, experientially, our hearts have been changed. And our true intent must be to perpetually love Him and desire to bring Him praise. Then we may be filled with His Spirit and become passionately in love with Him.

Marital Commitment { 167 }

You have no idea what it means to fall in love with God and then let Him be your most significant other. You are afraid of that or maybe you have never been told

that it is possible. You know that the Bible says, "God so loved," but still you are afraid that if you leave your life in God's hands, He may not handle your life well. He may change you such that you may be considered strange or even fanatical. Anyone who wants this deeper love for God can have it, but it requires a full marital commitment. Instead we sit around, get old and wait for the undertaker. We go to church and Bible studies week after week, year after year, and get nothing out of them. We listen to sermons year after year, without learning anything about how to fall in passionate love with God.

Marital Fruitfulness { 168 }

Fruitfulness is the product of intimacy. Simply staying connected to the vine will bear fruit. When we separate ourselves from the love of God, our fruit cannot come forth. Just as human birth follows human intimacy, so spiritual birth follows intimacy with God. You will find great joy as your life bursts forth with the fruit of transformed lives all around you as you live in the love of God intimately. Intimacy begets intimacy. I have never met anyone who did not want to experience a "honey-moon" love affair with someone. We crave love. Yet we find it difficult to love others. But living in an intimate relationship with God, in Jesus, His enormous capacity for love and compassion exudes from us and radically, positively impacts the lives of those in our presence.

Let Go { 169 }

It is time to let go of the controls of our lives and

let the ultimate Captain of the Universe take the wheel. When we are living in intimacy with God, Galatians 2:20 becomes a reality within us. "I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, I live yet not I, but Christ lives in me and the life, which I now live in the flesh. I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me." Being dead, but yet alive is one of the unique qualities of the life established for us by Jesus dying on the Cross. But what love, joy and peace these qualities bring! *A.W. Tozer writes, "Test everything against the unconditional love of God.* Christians should dispense grace without fail and introduce men and women to the possibility of loving relationship with God. The only means by which anyone can commit wholly to God is to become so passionately in love with Him, that doing what our Lover desires is a pleasure for us."

Uniqueness Not Conformity { 170 }

We are not to look like each other. That is, we are not expected to change our personalities. God has made us uniquely different in order to serve His larger purposes. But we are all to look like Christ, that is in His manner of loving and showing mercy and grace to everyone. We can get all caught up in the nuances of religion and miss the glorious joy of developing a deeply passionate intimacy with Christ.

Whatever hinders us in our journey must be eliminated. Fortunately, the only things which can hinder us and must

be eliminated are motives within ourselves. It is equally important to include in our journey those things that will promote our passion for God. A. W. Tozer wrote about the inclusion of the writings of intimate believers, “In my pursuit of God, I want to know what they knew of God and how they came to know him on such intimate grounds. This is not to say I agree with everything they wrote as I would not agree with everything anybody else would write. These grand old mystics of the church produced wonderful spiritual fruit. The fruit is what really matters, not the appearance. It matters not if the man wears a robe or a suit. It only matters that he is cloaked in love! Many of them were harassed and tormented by the established church. Some even were martyred because of this uncontrollable passion for God. They were only interested in pursuing intimacy with God.”

Simply Christians { 171 }

It matters not whether they were Protestant, Catholic, fundamentalist or evangelical. Nor does it matter whether we are of any particular theological persuasion. They were and we are all simply Christians. Hot pursuit of God is the ultimate for any man or woman. When we read their writings, we feel the fire of lives ablaze with love and adoration for God. Nothing ever extinguished the fire of their devotion. The fervor of their love for God has, in their writings, transcended time. A W Tozer states, “In reading these great works one is transported out of time and into the mystical wonder of pursuing God. It is hard

to read such material for long without feeling the heartbeat of the author's passion.”

Share the Love

This passionate desire for God is what is missing among Christians today. And it is impossible to pass on to others a passion which we our selves do not possess. When and only when our pursuit of God is only matched by our desire to share the object of our love with any and all who will listen, have we become true lovers of God. Hopefully some of the writings of these men and women contained in the Spiritual Teasers will light a fire in your heart.

Spiritual Not Academic { 172 }

I have observed over several decades that many Christians do not understand that such passion for God is attainable or even desirable. The problem is not with which translation of the Bible you read. The problem is not academic. The problem is purely spiritual. Tozer sums it up this way, “It is a problem with the relationship with the author of the Word, God Himself. One important point many fail to understand is that the Bible was never meant to replace God. Rather it was meant to lead us into the heart of God. Too many Christians stop with the text and never go on to experience the Presence of God. It has always been “the Spirit Himself, bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” Romans 8:16. If you will wait for the Holy Spirit quietly, He will reveal the experience of the Presence of God.”

Magnificent Imagery { 173 }

In order to more fully understand relationships in general and especially a relationship with God, we must consider just how much like God we truly are. I am not suggesting here that we are actually gods, as it were. But God had a specific purpose for making creatures in His own image. And to properly relate to such a God it is essential that we understand just how it is that we are made **in His image**. Obviously, we cannot all look like God physically, nor does that matter in any way. However, apart from our physical appearance, we are a spitting image of our Creator, in similar ways that we are like our parents. As we explore the image of God in the next chapter, consider this:

God is a spirit and has no need of a body. We have a body (shell) as a vehicle (physical person) in which to house our spirit as well. Being made in the image of God, we are like Him in a spirit sense, that is, the unseen inner being. The following diagram is used to depict the various aspects of the Spirit in Whose image we have been crafted.

Think our image as having a spirit (personality) which our body uses to express us to each other. We see and we are seen. But the true essence of our being is the spirit within our body which desires to be in relationship to other beings. Our relationships to each other are created by a desire to be loved (accepted) by others as we present our emotions, thoughts and wants to each other using our physical (body) senses.



We are spirit (heart), emotions (soul) & thoughts (mind) which are communicated with our strength (body). We express our 'convictions' with various measures of strength. The more importance something has for us, the stronger the expression of the communication.



Continuing with the same diagram, let me reveal a more robust understanding of the IMAGE of SPIRITS (which in our case are personalities that need bodies.)

You can see from the diagram starting with the innermost circle (white) the **spirit** is that which **chooses** (decides or defines all things). The next circle or ring (purple) is the **soul** which **feels** (compassion, kindness, love, hate and so forth). Our feelings are very much affected by what we believe. And when others' beliefs contradict ours, we have conflict. When theirs agree with ours, we have harmony. And this all happens almost autonomically once we have determined that our belief is the **most right** one.

The next circle or ring (green) is the mind. And the **mind** is what **thinks** about how to **respond or react** to the conflicts or resonance of expressed beliefs. And the outer circle or ring (orange) is the **body** which uses many and diverse ways to **express our rightness**. This included body language, facial expressions, words, actions and aura to **communicate** to the other person what is in the first place.

Incidentally, most of what we believe is relative truth because we have received it from our relatives and their cultural friends. We have chosen their beliefs to be ours.

This is important to understand as it explains everything from intimate personal relationships, to friendships, to acquaintances, to strangers, to enemies and all other possibilities in terms of relationship. It explains cuddling and nurturing babies. It also explains wars.

Not shown in this diagram are the 4 primary attributes of the spirit being. These are: Compassion, Rationale, Will and Expression. (God can express Himself without a body. This is true of all beings in the spiritual realm which cannot be seen with the naked eye. We, too, have these four attributes and these become evident when we use the strength and means of our expression to communicate with each other.

This diagram was designed to expose how the concept of the **new birth** (being born again of the Spirit of God actually creates a two spirit or two life person or personality. With only **our original self-preserving and self-serving spirit**, we cannot ever **love our enemies**.



It is the joining of the Spirit of the creator with the spirit of each man {who asks Him to do so} that creates the new man also known as the Christian. [The term Christian comes from the description given to the first believers in Jesus in the city of Antioch: Christ-Ins]. Thus Christianity is a two-spirit model as opposed to all other world religions or atheism. Bear in mind that God, who breathed life into every person and loves them all as His children, designed the two-spirit model as a means of enabling every human to become '**spirit 2.0.**' The best news is that no one is forced against their will to make the upgrade. It is optional. And it is optimal. It is the highest pinnacle of spirit (spiritual life.)

Just like a good father in human terms never tries to force his adult children to do anything, God in His wisdom refrains from ever crossing the line of any person's right to their independence. A tremendous amount of conflict in the world today is caused by a person or persons **forcing their will (rightness)** who are not of the same desire. Unfortunately many 'so-called' Christians try to force their beliefs on others. I suppose this is also true of Muslims, Mormons, Atheists and on and on it goes.

A unique characteristic of spirit beings is that with effective communication of one's beliefs there is a good chance that others' beliefs might eventually change. But you cannot force belief. Belief is developed as naturally as corn stalks grow from a single planted

corn seed. It is the spirit of life in plants and animals as well that creates new life from old life. It is only after a seed dies that it become a new life form for the next cycle of life.

In summary, I recommend that you develop skills in learning to believe new things which improve your chances of establishing and developing as many healthy relationships as possible. Community is the abundance of good relationships of spirit beings encouraging and cooperating with each other. Let's develop many relationship pairs. This builds character and personal strength.

Love On!