

Volume 6, Day 11: Relationship or Business Deal

When we declare that we have left everything and everyone to follow Jesus, He reminds us that abandonment is not about what we are leaving behind, but Whom we are abandoned to. This can be seen in essence in our relationships with our most significant others. It is not about our sacrifice. It is about our devotion to another's interests above our own.

True relationships are forged, not by extracting what we want from the other. True relationship is 'other caring' and doing what we do to please the other person. Be careful not to make a business transaction out of friendship or any other personal relationship. This is especially important when we engage in relationship with God (Father, Son or Holy Spirit). If we think that "we are going to give ourselves to God" because we want to be delivered from sin, we are on the wrong track.

"Being made holy or righteous" is the result of being right with God. But that spirit is not of the essential nature of Christianity. Abandonment is not for anything at all. We have become so self indulgent that we only go to God for something from Him, and not for Himself. It is like saying, "No, Lord, I don't want You. I want myself. But I want myself to be full, comfortable, happy, respected and influential. I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I want to be on display in Your showroom so that I can say, 'Look at me!' This is what God has done for me!"

If we only give up something to God in order to get more back, it is only miserable self-interest. That we gain heaven, are delivered from sin, are made useful to God - these things never enter as considerations into absolute abandon to God. Abandon is a personal preferential choice for Jesus Christ to be sovereign over us and abandoning our own sovereignty.

When we come up against the barriers of natural relationship, where is Jesus Christ? Most of us desert Him in order to please our human significant others. Most of us know abandonment in theory or vision only.