

Volume 1, Day 17: Performance? NO! Affection? YES!

Our desire to be rewarded by God causes us to focus on performance. Our religious obligations say that, “there are certain standards, certain expectations that God wants us to meet.” If I meet them, He will bless me. He will be with me. He will speak to me. And if I don't, He won't.

Here's the problem with that. When you're failing, you've got an excuse for God not to speak to you, not to care about you, to be disgusted with you, not to be involved in that with you, because after all, it's your fault. And that's where religion is so misleading and heinous. By religion, I mean man's attempts to earn God's approval. It's **what we try to do for God**.

What Jesus offered us was the ability to walk with His Father, alongside Him and the Son and the Holy Spirit. In other words, it wasn't about us doing things for them. God has always been active in the world. Jesus modeled that Himself. He said, “I only do the things I see the Father doing, and I only speak the things I hear the Father speaking.”

So we've lost sight of this journey, if we ever had it at all. We began to think that by performance, doing enough good for God or good for his kingdom or good for something, then my life is going to be blessed and all things work out well. But Jesus offered us something different. He offers us a relationship that allows us to walk **with** Him. Think about the things you do for your most significant others that might be inconvenient. You do it because you love **them** and want to please **them**.

“God is never disillusioned with you, because He never had any illusions about you in the first place. He knows that you are weak and foolish with a history of messing up!” Just let God love you and love Him back!