

Volume 2, Day 1: Loving Into Greater Living

Trying to perform perfectly before God is a bit like learning to play the piano. If you're not going to play the piano until you can sit down and play Beethoven's Symphony to absolute perfection, you'll never play the piano. Same thing's true about learning to follow God. If you have to get it right, if every note has to be in tune, if you've got to play on the right tempo, on the right beat, you'll be exhausted. God doesn't invite us into a relationship by acting as in our performance of a role in a play.

God invites us into personal relationship because He wants us to know Him intimately. He realizes that for Him to connect with humanity will include both joy and misery, tranquility and struggle and many other opposite emotions. So start with something simple. What can you trust God with? Then listen for the smallest voices and gentlest emotional nudges He puts into your heart and soul.

Be aware of this. There are going to be things that make Him seem more gracious to you and make you more gracious to other people. I know that many claim that listening to God is only by reading God's Word. That cannot be so since over 99 percent of all human beings have never seen a single written word from scripture. So listen up. He's talking to you right now.

People are worried about God telling them to shoot their neighbor or cheat their business partner. If you hear that, it's not Him. God is love not hatred. God leads us into a gracious way of living with Him and with each other. It might be more about apologies to other people, not confrontations with them. It's inviting them into a greater life, not convincing them that they suck. And when you can learn to live in that space, you become more loving and engaging in the world of your influence.