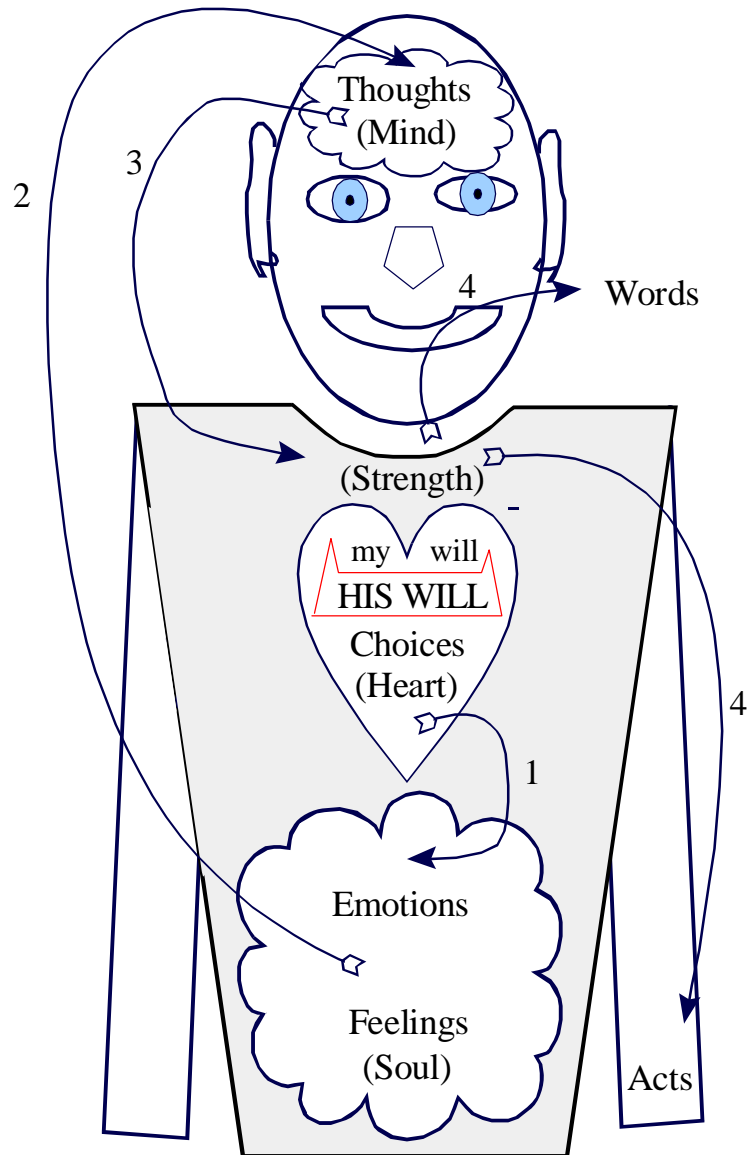


# GOD CALLING for My Utmost

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# **GOD CALLING for My Utmost**

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Introduction:

**Why this book was written --**

Over the years, I have observed and even experienced many things which have challenged and sometimes even broken relationships. I have suffered the loss of a marriage of 25 years. I have watched my son, the week after his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in an orange jump-suit and chains hear the gavel come down with the indictment that came with a punishment of 30 years to life. I have served God as diligently as anyone I have ever known. I have never been angry at God but have been more than confused about the circumstances He has brought into my life. I fortunately have a daughter who went straight into God's work, otherwise I might have thought I was a miserable failure as a father.

I spent the lion's share of my life as a good churchman with a resume of service that was pretty impressive. I have studied to be a pastor, been ordained to Christian ministry, and served in nearly every capacity in churches and para-church organizations for over 4 decades. And I have been very involved in community charitable organizations through the United Way, Red Cross, soup kitchens, homeless shelter ministries and rebuilding for months in Mississippi after the disaster of Katrina in 2005.

I believed that the difference between Christianity and all of the other world religions was that Christianity offered me a personal relationship (friendship) with God which the others did not. Yet once having been introduced to and accepting this offer of a relationship with God, I was immediately taught that the way to develop that relationship was to get involved in service, regular gatherings, giving money, and trying to live a life that was nearly perfect morally, ethically, and legally.

Yet after 40 years in this pursuit, I sat in church in the fourth pew where I had staked my claim wondering, “What meaning does this Christianity have and how has it made a difference for me and those in my circle of influence?” I determined that I had been wasting a lot of time and energy in this “fortress” we call church. And I may have made a point, but I had not made a difference. Yes I was caring and kind, and had tried to console myself with those deeds. But deep within me, my heart cried out to God, “This is it. I am not coming back to this building and wasting any more time with these people. I’m not giving up on Jesus, but otherwise I’m out of this place.”

Well, God did not just sit back in silence. His voice within me cried back, “Don’t leave your friends here. But I will show you what this ‘relationship’ is supposed to look and feel like. And, by the way, I have been waiting a long time for you to ask.” I was almost stunned. Although I did not hear any audible voice, the message was as clear as if I had heard it over the P A System of a large sports arena at a collegiate basketball game. And did I listen up!

The journey upon which I embarked is described in another book, published by RELIFE PUBLISHING, under the name of Rob Alan (pseudonym). But suffice it to say, the journey began with a shot to the heart on the floor of Phillips Arena in Atlanta, Georgia, in September of 2003. The journey included a retreat at The Cove in Asheville, NC. There was a trip to Athens, Greece with a cruise of some Greek islands. A video-taping of “The Patriarchs,” by Beth Moore and Lifeway, in Baltimore, MD, a personally appointed mentor from the country of Jordan in the Middle East, and last, but certainly not least, a mission trip to LaMisquithia, Honduras with my mentor (who was teaching the indigenous pastors, the chief elder of his Moravian Church, our indigenous missionary pilot who served

as our translator, and myself, serving as documentarian for the trip.

Probably the most profound affect on my journey of transformation was the prophecy which was spoken to me by one of the pastors of Honduras. As translated to me, the pastor prophesied, “You are standing in a meadow on a grassy hillside. You have tall meadow grass in your hands. People come from everywhere. You dispense the grass to all. And the meadow grass keeps growing larger in your hands.” Well none of that made any sense to me. But I remember the visions of Joseph and that he did not know what they meant when he received them. But later it became evident when the fulfillment of the vision saved Joseph’s entire family from famine. I knew that I would later discover what the prophecy to me meant.

During this three year transformation I learned that some things are taught and some things are caught. I was reminded that relationships are spontaneous and not intellectual. I learned that every relationship is a two persona choice, even a relationship with God. I was reminded that God IS love, not just has love. I learned that God, is the perfect relational being, that is: perfect father, brother, friend, and spouse and was not subject to the degraded forms of relationship which all humans experience. And among several other things about which you will read in this treatise, I learned that God’s love is unconditional and God’s grace (undeserved favor) is relentless.

During my journey, which ultimately inspired this writing, I discovered that there had been many false things which I had believed were true. I reflected on the teaching of Jesus that “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” And I came to understand that I would know the truth about myself, and the truth about myself would be what set me free. I learned that the expectations which I placed on others which they could

not meet, were the bars of my own imprisonment which kept me away from those I loved most. And in the process of clearing up the “lies” which I had been taught by well-meaning sincere people or just assumed on my own, I came to the truth and IT DID SET ME FREE.

So, in order to help you understand what radically improved every relationship I have, I have offered a hopefully plausible definition of intimacy to use as a starting point. Please do not discard it at face value, but modify it to make it the most beautiful definition you could give it, and then read on.

May the richest of relationships become yours and the joy of being set free and helping others gain their freedom as well as you read on.

Rob Alan,  
the number of whose name is 808

**Personal parables** -- Over the years I have read many stories. And as Eugene Peterson says, “Life is all about stories.” The stories which we tell or write, are about us and our circumstances. They not only reveal who we are, but also they reveal what is important to us. Above all, our stories reveal the sum total of our relational experiences with everyone in our lives.

Jesus, the ultimate story teller, told stories which we call parables. The parables were stories with fictional (or at least nameless) characters. And although they may have been fictional, they revealed truth. Now reality for each of us is that which we perceive or believe to be true. However, truth often times runs completely contrary to what we believe. But we operate in default mode where our perception is our reality. Even lunatics have the courage of their convictions. Unfortunately since their perceptions are far from true, their behaviors are not sane.

Now most of us are not insane or even close. Yet in the grand scheme of things, we operate from a reality which we have perceived based on what we believe. And all of us have changed what we believe over the years. We can point to the time when the earth was thought to be flat and that the atom was the smallest particle of matter. Yet now those thoughts are known to be based on insufficient information. At best these might have been partially true, but they still provided a basis upon which to build toward the whole truth of the matter. But, lest we become arrogant, let us admit that we may never know the full truth about anything.

As a result of insufficient data to determine the whole truth and build our lives upon that solid foundation, we are left to work with what we currently have or believe to be true. From there we embark upon the journey.

As we journey through life, our personal stories amass in our minds. These treasures of experience shape our existence and have a causal effect upon subsequent experiences. Yet all the time, we are pressing forward to hopefully a higher plane of personal experience. Many expend immeasurable amounts to energy to build financial castles. Others strive to become famous in some field of science or art or other specialty. Still others work diligently to become leaders of some noteworthy organization or cause.

All of these pursuits are generally believed to be a part of the search for significance which is one of the primary needs of the human soul. Yet as much as we might search diligently for significance, we would all agree that to love and be loved is a common desire which is a part of each of our journeys. For most of us, relationships are the very most important part of life. Just watch a man beam as he sports a picture of his youngest grandson or a mother bringing her new baby to show her off at a PTA meeting.

Seldom do we think of our own stories at all. Rarely do we write them down to pass them on to our progeny. Mostly we think that our story is unimportant and things just happen. But that, my friend, could not be farther from the truth. Because, you see, every episode in the story of my life not only affects me, but every one who is touched by my life or what I have done in life. So my story is not just mine. It is ours. And collectively, in community, we tell an even larger story.

It was not until a few weeks before this book began to form on these pages that I realized that God, as the ultimate story teller, was actually writing my story (and your story, and the stories of every living being) as I live it. However, the most useful insight which came to me about my story is that each episode (or story within the larger story) is actually a personal parable to me.



When challenged about this last statement by a friend who resisted the idea that my stories were personal parables, I explained how I had arrived at that conclusion. In playing back the recordings in my mind of a few of my stories, I discovered that what I had learned from these stories often had little or nothing to do with the events contained in them. I had been learning lesson after lesson by inferring or gleaning from these stories. And that is essentially what we do with parables.

Well for me the import of this discovery was that it enabled me to begin to see that the tragic or disastrous events had produced some of the most valuable of all insights and revelations in my life. It became evident that as God was weaving the fabric of my tapestry, my parables intersected with and interconnected to the parables and the lives of others. And I began to welcome each new parable with anticipation instead of trepidation knowing that in the end, I was richer after each one.

So as this collection of inspiring messages are read, contemplate your own personal parables. Reflect on how your understanding of truth has morphed through each one. And take inventory of the blessings which ensued. And as was once said, "...’tis an ill wind that blows no one any good." And so it is. But even more likely is this, "...’tis quite unlikely that any wind in my life blows with no positive result." In other words, give thanks in all things. You may not recognize the good right now, but it is most likely that you simply are blind to the good or that you prefer to reject that for which you might be thankful.

My wife and I built a house to use for ministry in several ways. One of these ways we called "Home Away From Home." This involved opening our home to one "live-in" house guest at a time. One of these was a gentleman whom I had known from many years before. We had not seen each other for over a decade. After 34 years, his wife shocked him one day when she

told him, point blank, that their marriage was over and told him to leave. The next day he arrived at our home, over 90 miles from his, and became our house guest for 18 months.

Day after day, he complained about the constancy of terrible circumstances of his life. He was angry about nearly everything. He even claimed that he felt like he was God's personal whipping post. I listened for hours, night after night to his venting. Then after a few months I began to challenge my friend to look for the good things which had happened which he had obviously overlooked. Fortunately, I had grown close to him in those years long since past and knew the good things. So when he faltered in those "good" memories, I gently reminded him of those things which I knew had been blessings in his life.

After several months, he began to see that a large part of his problem was that he had simply chosen to dwell on the bad things and ignore the good ones. To be sure his life was full of tragic and unfortunate events. (Can't nearly all of us say that?) But his blessings were also as great, or sometimes greater, than the rest of ours. The point is that when we rehearse or replay the parables of our lives with the specific intent of seeing the good rather than the bad in them, we find that some of our greatest pleasures and joys were wrapped in the same stories with the greatest pains and sorrows.

So as we explore together the possibilities and the realities of relationships and the ultimate kinds of relationships which we would call "intimate" ones, gather your parables and freshen them up as you look at them this time with a view to seeing the diamond from the top of the setting, not the bottom.

Enjoy!

Day 1      Popularity or Anonymity      [(424)]

As a Christian who desires to please Me, in doing My work, it is neither worldliness nor sin that hinders you. Rather, you are hindered by your own desire to be successful in **your work for** Me. And this success is based on the current culture of your own particular religious groups.

When you are seeking the approval of other Christians, your Christian leaders, or the people in your sphere of influence, even to the slightest degree, you will fall prey to your own pride. If you remember, Jesus Christ was made of "no reputation" in order to become your Savior, you can see that to be like Christ is going to cost you **your** reputation as well. Jesus made this clear. He told His disciples not to rejoice in successful service, and yet this seems to be the one thing in which you do rejoice.

You often look at your life and measure your spiritual success and your spiritual maturity in terms of how many persons you have convinced to become Christians. But since all are saved by grace through faith, that is, My grace and My faith in them, your service to Me is only to disciple them in the ways of my Son. Your work begins once My grace has laid the foundation.

Salvation (becoming rightly related to Me) and sanctification (being conformed to the My image) are the work of My sovereign grace alone. Your job is to disciple others, teaching them how to love like Christ (unconditionally other preferring) until they are completely surrendered to Me in their love affair with Me.

One life completely abandoned in surrender to Me is of more value to Me than hundreds of lives simply awakened by My Spirit unto salvation. Consider that the 12 disciples (including

Paul in place of Judas Iscariot) had an enormous impact on the entire civilized world of their day.

There is no standard of excellence in My Kingdom. There is only the standard of grace. Grace is itself a by-product of unconditional love. Discipleship then in turn is the discipline of the Master in learning how to love everyone, regardless of their lifestyles, which was demonstrated time and again by Jesus' favor for those when they were caught in the very act of their wrong doing.

Unless you live a life of anonymity in the eyes of man, while dwelling in My Holy Presence, you are likely to become an irritating control freak regarding the lives of others instead of the example of a true disciple. A true disciple's motivation is only, ever, and always encouraging and teaching others to dwell in My Holy Presence themselves. Although you often try to control other people and meetings, Jesus was never that way.

Jesus did not command His disciples to follow Him. He invited them to "Come." Jesus always used the word "IF" when referring to discipleship, "If any one will be My disciple, . . .". So it is with you right now. You are not required to be My disciple, but I have offered you that great opportunity and privilege. You can choose. Will you be a control freak or will you be abandoned to Me? Will you be a dictator or My disciple?

Day 2 Worthy of our Calling [(804)]

I might be considered brave for being willing to trust human beings to partner with Me in doing anything, especially doing My work! Jesus called 12 men to become His disciples. But you might sometimes say, "But You have been unwise to choose me, because I am not worthy of Your trust. I am not capable to do Your work. Or, I am certainly not the best choice in this particular situation."

Actually, I specifically chose you because you are not worthy or capable. This is to demonstrate My ability to do through weak and foolish persons, what only the Almighty God can do. If you are thinking that you are ready and able to do any of My work, I cannot use you. Your personal pride prevents Me from doing so. Yet if you go ahead and do it, and appear to have some success, it is your work and not Mine. And if there is any fruit for Me, it is only because My word does not return void.

You often consider **your** spiritual gifts and **your** basic talents and acumen to decide if you can be effective working for Me. But Paul was clear when I inspired him to write this "... in my weakness, then am I strong." This is because My Spirit which came into your being when you committed your life to Me, wants to do **His own work** through you. He does not need your help. It is only when you reach the "end of your own self-sufficiency" that My Spirit can live His own life through you. Gal 2:20

As John the Baptist said of Jesus, "...He must increase and I must decrease," so you will never be like Christ until you do as He did. Jesus looked at Me only, ever, and always to know what I was doing and to cooperate with Me in it. The same

Holy Spirit that comes into you actually conducted Jesus' life for Him. That Spirit is My Spirit.

Further, I do not have to discuss with you why I am taking you to a particular place at a particular time. I may or may not reveal it at all. Or it may be revealed when My Spirit ministers through you in the particular place and time. When you insist that I use **you** or **your** abilities in even the smallest capacity, your pride hinders My work. My word is clear on this, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

I am not interested in having a host of servants down there, working diligently to do My work. I have angels who do perfect work for Me. And I am not particularly interested in your forms of "worship" as My worship angels do this perfectly as well. However, I made you in My image, as the only beings of all My creation who can be in a personal and intimate relationship with Myself. That is why My angels become ecstatic when one of you steps into a love relationship with Me.

As I inspired My disciple, Oswald Chambers to teach others, "The main thing about Christianity is not the work that I do for God, but the relationship that I maintain with Him and the atmosphere produced by that relationship!" I AM LOVE! And you are My lover. Let us simply be together in marital unity and bliss!

Luke 18:31 ... Matt...

DAY 3 Cooperation with God 1216

Sometimes you may tend to think that, like Jacob, you need to wrestle with Me. However, as My lover, you have a completely different relationship with Me which requires something altogether different with regards to wrestling. Your wrestling should not be "with Me." It should rather be wrestling "with life's circumstances and your experiences." I will help you do that wrestling! Your entire journey, as a sanctified believer, is about developing a passionate intimacy with Me so that we wrestle **together** against any and all things that prevent you from experiencing the fullness of your love affair with Me.

If you think that you are supposed to wrestle with Me to get any thing from Me, and attempt to do so, you will end up living life as a cripple or invalid. If I am treating you in some way that displeases you, and you decide to argue with Me or demand something different from Me, you actually invite Me to bring even more difficult and distressing circumstances into your life to bring you around to understand My way of seeing life and relationships. Don't be a whiney-baby cripple concerning My will. Unless you are in complete agreement with Me and My will, you are nothing but a hindrance to Me and My purposes for you.

The way you will become "more than conquerors through Christ" is to wrestle to the ground virtually anything that hinders your abandoned surrender in love to Me. Your "Highest for Me" is a perfect relationship with Me wherein My will is the only thing that matters to you. You become My pleasure as you live in a perfect marital union with Me. Your prayers for others will produce very little until you are completely satisfied in our marriage. Then and only then do your prayers prevail all the time. Until you take on My whole armor, which is My full protection for you, you will be defeated.

In short, you are your own worst enemy. It is your pride that wrestles against Me to try to get Me to do it your way or to let you do it yourself. Your pride is the only deterrent to complete surrender to Me as My lover. Therefore your wrestling should be against your own selfishness. And I will, at your invitation, participate with you in that wrestling to come to complete victory over your selfishness. In other words, I will help you develop your love affair with Me until you are so completely surrendered in love to Me that My will IS the joy and desire of your own soul.

I will permit you to either be in complete harmony and resonance with My will or follow your own desires, fulfilling your own will. My providential purpose remains constant. It is because I guard your free will with My power that you have to wrestle with your own desires to be self indulged, self affirmed, and self served. I will never force you to submit to My authority and desire for you. I am a perfect gentleman. I knock but will not enter into your situations and carry you through them without your invitation to do so. It is only when you are willing to wrestle your own will to the ground and submit your will to My providential will that our union in marriage will be completely satisfied.

"All things work together for good to them that love God." That is, when you remain true to My will, rather than insisting on your own way, that all things work for good. It is My calling that you be fully surrender to My Son Jesus as your groom. The evidence of your right relationship to Me, as sons and daughters, is whose will is being served in your daily experiences of life. To be actively involved in My will, you must avidly persist in the pursuit of releasing your control over your life to Me.

Ephesians 6:10-18



DAY 4 Obedience: Delightful or Difficult 111

If you obey Me, it will cost others in your circle of influence more than it costs you. That is where most people stop short of obedience to Me. If you are in love with Me, your obedience is actually delightful to you. It is never a chore. Since your loving obedience is a delight, it costs you nothing. However, your instant, spontaneous, loving response to what I have asked of you will cost many others, who are not as deeply in love with Me, a great deal.

If you obey Me, others in your circle will have their plans upset. When this happens, they will let you know how much you have been an inconvenience to them. They will likely even taunt you with, "How can you say you are full of the love of God, when you don't demonstrate that love by respecting us enough to consider our inconvenience or discomfort in making your decision?" You can diffuse the issue and prevent their suffering, but then you will hurt My heart. Obedience to Me in these difficult situations is a must. The cost to them must be paid. They may even begin to distance themselves from you.

It is only ever your pride that refuses to let others be inconvenienced by what you would do for Me. But I assure you that the cost to them, of your obedience to Me, is My problem, not yours. Your best choice is to humbly accept the cost to others as part of your gift of obedience to Me. To refuse to inconvenience other people because you are too proud to do so, results in disobedience to Me. You can also expect for Me to compel others to assist you without even asking for their help. Jesus' own ministry was supported in this same manner. Luke 8:2-3

You will stop growing spiritually if you insist on bearing the costs completely on your own without affecting others. You must not do this. Whenever you are absolutely abandoned to Me, fully desiring that My purposes, and not your own, are fulfilled, you cannot help but be immediately obedient to My every call. This immediate spontaneous obedience, always affects others, many times in a negative way for them.

Are you going to remain loyal in your obedience to Me even if it is humiliating to be dependent on others or to cause them distress, or are you going to say, "I will not cost other people suffering?" You can bring immediate relief to the suffering of others caused by your obedience by simply disobeying Me in the situation. But if you choose to placate people over doing what I have asked, I will be grieved.

In other words, either Me or others will be displeased in each situation you face. So you must constantly choose between pleasing Me or pleasing others. Bear in mind, however, that when ever you obey Me, I will use your obedience to teach others the same kind of obedience for themselves. It is only for you to instantly obey and to leave all consequences for yourself and others with Me.

Beware of your tendency to put conditions on your obedience to Me. Don't tell Me what you will or will not allow to happen if you obey Me.

I do hope you will choose Me always over others.

DAY 5 Holiness Is Everything in Right Relationship 901

When you think about holiness, you may think about your behavior. You may think that I am all about your life style having no sordid or abusive activities. But, quite frankly, I am not about behaviors at all. Behaviors are simply the overflow of the true desires of your heart. Behaviors are also the evidence of your affections. So I really do not expect your behaviors to be the best ones unless your affections in relationships are right. I made you in My image. My image is that "I AM LOVE." Love is other preferring. So when you truly have greater affection for others than for yourself, your behaviors will follow that affection.

You can never do "loving" acts without love. You may do some "nice" things for people or things associated by your culture with the word "love." But without My love, which is the only truly "other preferring" love, your activities remain selfish. The reason this is true is that Adam and Eve invited My Spirit out of their hearts in the beginning in the Garden. Since you are their offspring, even if you try to operate in My image, you are unable to do so. You cannot operate in My image. You can only be a reflection of it. My image in you is My Spirit joined with yours.

Now that you have invited My Spirit into your life and embraced Me as your spouse, together our spirits in union can make love and produce that love again and again in others. Yes, I mean exactly that. All offspring are produced as a result of an act of intimate union of two beings. Thus, your love making with Me is the only thing that will produce My image in others. So, please stop trying to define holiness as good behaviors toward one another. Remember always that your behaviors are only a by-product of your true affections.

Keep reminding yourself that the purpose I intended for your life is not smooth circumstances, good health, or any other untroubled experiences of life or relationship. My purpose was and is and always will be holiness as I define it. "Holiness is everything in right relationship." You will also discover, if you have not already, that "The greatest deterrent to wrongful behavior is a deep affection for the one you might wrong." Right relationships begin with your right relationship to Me. What matters is that you will accept Me and My love as the only thing that will make you holy!

Do you really believe that I can come into you and make you holy? Unless the gospel, the story of what I did in sending My only Son to die in your place, awakens you to your selfishness and self focused living, you will never experience holiness. You might even resent My honesty with you about your selfishness. But without me you are and will remain unholy. I am not an eternal "blessing machine" for mankind. I did not send My Son to die out of pity for you. I sent Him so that I could make you holy. But I can only do that if you stop trying to be holy and let Me make you so.

Holiness is what I give you. But I have given it to you so that you will live it toward others. When your affections for even your enemies becomes as Mine, that you will die so that they might live, you will know that holiness is alive in you. Live loved! Love whole-heartedly. This is holiness!!!

"Ye shall be holy; for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16 (R.V.)

Day 6 HURT ENOUGH TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE?  
301

You mostly believe that it is others who hurt you. You expect that you will always have to suffer being hurt. You probably even think that if others would just stop hurting you, you would be alright and your behavior would improve. But the problem is that you misunderstand where emotional pain comes from. And until you discover that truth, you will never be free from pain.

My Son's disciple, Peter, thought that he knew himself well. He thought that he loved My Son. But Peter's actions, which might have looked to others like he loved Jesus, were really done because of his admiration for Jesus. In other words, Peter's love for Jesus, was not really unconditional as is Mine. His love for Jesus, was affection for one whom he respected. Peter's love for Jesus was only as deep as mankind possesses without any divine qualities, loving the lovable.

Many times you, like Peter, brag about how much you love Me. Because you do so many things "for Me," you think that you love Me. Many times, like Peter, you actually tell Me what I should or should not be saying or doing. And when I tell you that you really don't love Me, it may hurt your feelings. But the sad truth is that so long as your feelings are being hurt by what I or anyone else says to or about you, this is evidence that your pride has been wounded. This betrays your true affections. Your affections, naturally speaking, center in yourself by trying to maximize your pleasure or minimize your pain. Also, naturally speaking you can only be affectionate to those whose treatment of you makes you feel good toward them. What I ask of you, as I did Peter, is a selfless, unconditional love toward Me and all others. But unless you will admit that you do not love others, including me, without conditions, you never will.

It is your embarrassment that hurts you. And it is never anything else that does hurt you. "How dare you!" you exclaim, when your feelings are hurt. Yet the truth about you hurts, when it reveals that are not who you claim to be. Accepting this truth is the only thing that will bring you to ask Me to change your affections for Me and for others. My love, which is the only unconditional love in the universe, can only be in your heart if you surrender in love to Me. I don't want your works. I want your absolute affection.

True love never needs to be spoken. As a matter of fact the measure of your love for Me, or for anyone else, is the expression that comes from the center of your being, your spirit. When My Son says, "Whosoever will confess Me before men,..." He means the confession of the uncontrollable expressions of the living love in your soul for the unlovable and abusive. Any confession of love is merely empty words unless the expressions of your life match it.

Intimacy with Me is that state of being wherein you are so consumed by affection for Me that what you do is so spontaneously, selflessly, other-caring that others notice how enthralled you are with Me. It is like a honey-moon love one might have for another human being. Unfortunately, you have been so conditioned to say repeatedly with your mouth that you love Me, you have actually believed this to be true when it is not. Simple repetition of the phrase, "I love you." does not make it reality. Neither do actions which look selfless but are betrayed by your unloving reaction when there is no return of your kindness when you want or need it. This is why my Apostle Paul wrote, "... any kind or lofty expression, without unconditional love, is just making noise."

I will keep asking you if you love Me until the hurt in your soul brings you to cry out loudly in confession that you do not love Me. Every one can love in a temperamental and capricious way. Anyone can love another who treats them well. But true love, other preferring expressions in everything you do, never has even a thought of how that expression will be received or whether it will be returned in some way. True love, My kind of love, is ever, only, and always concerned solely for the well-being of others not even considering self. Bear in mind, as well, that My caring does not always result in smooth circumstances or pleasant experiences.

My caring is always that you will become the most like My Son Jesus that you possibly can in this life. So, until you are hurt until every deception about yourself has been dispelled, you are not fulfilling My purposes or desires for you. Running disobediently from Me into your sin to escape having to deal with the truth about yourself only makes the hurt go away temporarily so that it does not accomplish its divine purpose. John wrote, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." That is, the truth about "you" will set you free. Pain which I bring to you in various ways, when perceived as a kind of "life-saving" surgery of the soul, becomes the most joyous of experiences. My Son was full of grace and truth. He did not mince words or speak falsely to anyone in order not to hurt their feelings. Human feelings must be hurt in order to reveal truth about self that will ultimately result in an absolute abandon of self to My love. This is true freedom.

John 21:17; John 8:28

Day 7 WHAT IS THE GREAT COMMISSION? 201

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel."  
1 Corinthians 1:17

I gave you the commission directly from the lips of my Son, Jesus. That commission is not to convert people to "The Way," but to teach them "The Way" so that they can choose it for themselves. Then the Apostle of my Son Jesus, Paul, declared that the call of God is to preach the gospel. My gospel is the Redemption of the human soul as the purpose of the Cross is realized. That purpose is to bring to justice every wrong in every man. .

Since all relationship crimes (sin) result in separation from others and Me, separation is inevitable for every human. There are only two persons who can pay the penalty for your wrongdoing. Those two persons are yourself or My "innocent" Son, Jesus. You have come to redemption by one and only one way. You have believed that Jesus is my only Son, that He lived a completely innocent life, and that He died by way of the most inhumane death ever suffered, so that He could be the substitute victim of the punishment which you deserved (separation from relationship with Me), and that through His resurrection you were restored in relationship to Me, (new life).

Satan has treacherously and craftily deceived many to believe that I am interested in right behavior. While the truth is that I am only interested in right relationships. When your affection for another is very great, your behaviors toward them are most likely to be right. I am the most emotional being in the universe, filled with absolute affection for you. I proved this by sending My Son, Jesus to take your punishment so that you could be in relationship with Me. So, as you lift up and proclaim this message about Jesus, you fulfill My commission.



Keep in mind that it is the Spirit of Christ alone dwelling in you that can be truly selfless and other preferring. You, My child cannot aspire to nor achieve unconditional love toward all others. Only My Son's Spirit within you can do this. So, what John the baptizer spoke of Jesus, "He must increase and I must decrease" is the means by which you will experience the abundant life I promised you. (John 10:10)

I have commissioned you to lift up Jesus Christ (John 12:32). In other words "love like Jesus loved." It is a travesty to say that Jesus Christ travailed in Redemption to improve your behaviors. Jesus Christ travailed in Redemption to redeem the whole world and place it unimpaired and rehabilitated before My throne. The fact that you have personally experienced Redemption is the evidence of the reality of Redemption. But that is not the end of your Redemption.

If I were human, I would have long since grown weary of your repeated requests for your salvation or behavior changes. You tax My energies and patience from morning until night for things for yourself or some thing for you to be delivered from! When you fully realize My Gospel, you will not bother Me again with little personal complaints or requests.

The only passion of the life of a true disciple of Jesus is to proclaim My good news about My love for all. This passion is that everyone you know might hear of your great affection for your groom, Jesus. When you are living in a honey-moon love affair with Jesus, you will welcome heart-breaks, troubles, disillusionments, tragedy and travesty, for one reason only, because these things keep you in unmoved devotion to, and bring you to even greater love for, Jesus, Who is the center of My Gospel, relational redemption.

Day 8      ARE YOU READY TO BE EXPENDED?      206

2 Tim 4:3 You're going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food--catchy opinions that tickle their fancy. 4 They'll turn their backs on truth and chase mirages. 5 But you--keep your eye on what you're doing; accept the hard times along with the good; keep the Message alive; do a thorough job as God's servant. 6 You take over. I'm about to die, my life an offering on God's altar. (MSG)

"I am already being poured out as a drink offering." 2 Timothy 4:6 (R. V. Marg.)

When you tell Me you are ready to be offered because you desire to be used by Me that is one thing. But for Me to be able to pour you out of yourself, you must turn your desire into an all out commitment to let Me do so. Any reservation on your part renders you useless to Me. I have never, nor will I ever, share My glory with you. However, you will be overwhelmed with euphoric delight when your surrender to Me for My purposes to be fulfilled through you is absolutely complete. As you watch Me glorify Myself through the expressions I make through your person, you will be mesmerized and delighted. Any time you watch Me glorify Myself up close and personal, you receive the blessings that I have promised.

Tell Me you are ready to be offered. Then let the consequences be what ever they may be. You will not complain or even think about complaining, no matter what I choose. I will repeatedly put you through crisis that is personal and private. No other person can help you through. Your circumstances may not change in the slightest, but your reaction to the calamity will. When your choice to be made an offering is genuine, you will

have no thought of the cost to you of your current circumstances or state. If your choice is not genuine, you will begin to feel sorry for yourself and your situation. You will either consider yourself to be a martyr or sink into self pity.

To be a living sacrifice has nothing to do with your misery. It has only to do with allowing My Holy fire to burn to ashes every affinity that I have not started in you and to detach everything from you that is not an attachment to Me. Remember, you cannot destroy these things, only I can. And I will, if your choice to be the sacrifice is true. When I light the fire on the altar, do not let yourself fall into self-pity when you feel the heat. To be sure, My fire is those very grievous circumstances in which you formerly groused and complained. When you stay on the altar until My fire has consumed all of your self promoting and self serving affinities, there is nothing that can oppress you or take you into depression. When each subsequent crisis arises, you realize joyfully that things cannot touch you in the ways they used to.

This is the process by which you can be so up close and personal with Me that even your dire circumstances and experiences bring happiness and joy. You will begin to see how these very things, about which you used to complain, are the very things I have brought into your life to help conform you to the image of My Son. His image was to always be at peace, never agitated by difficult circumstance or difficult people, and ever loving every one without conditions or requirements of changed behaviors. Remember as well that My Son asked Me to forgive those who were crucifying Him as He breathed His last!

Tell Me you are ready to be offered as expendable, and I will prove Myself to be all you ever dreamed I could be; more than you could have dreamed up in your wildest imaginations.

Luke 18:1 “Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.”

I may from time to time urge you to intercede in prayer on behalf of another saint. Or you may be one who I have called to be continually interceding for one or more persons. But I will never expect you to create the words of any prayer. When you try to conjure up a prayer for another, your tendency is to pray for what they have asked you to pray. But when you let Me actually use your lips to express My own prayer for them, both they and you will be blessed by My glory.

Instead of asking Me to do something for you or someone else, let Me pray for that which I desire to affect in the life, yours or theirs. I am not a candy man, Santa Claus, or one who caters to the selfish whims of My children. I am, however, a Perfect Father whose every expression (word or deed) is consistent with whatever it takes to make the very best child out of each of My children.

You cannot intercede if you do not believe in the reality of the Redemption because it is Redemption that changes everything about you, including your prayers. What your spirit will pray for will turn intercession into futile sympathy with human beings and their selfish desires. These selfish desires include but are not limited to health, wealth, comfortable circumstances, and easy relationships. This will only decrease their submissiveness to Me. Your prayers will not even take into account what I want.. Only My own prayers uttered through your “available” lips will be according to My will.

When I ask you to intercede, it is that you will bring the person, or the circumstance that impinges on you before Me until you are moved by My attitude towards that person or circumstance. Intercession means filling up "that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ," and that is why there are so few 'true' intercessors. Your attempts at intercession are generally to "Put yourself in the other person's place." Never! Instead try to put yourself in My place. Most often what I want to happen is not the same as what you might want to happen.

When I dispatch an infirmity or calamity into your experience, it is with the sole purpose of changing your heart to be more like Mine. My blessings are received in and through your reaction or response to whatever I bring your way. I measure attitude by how you react or respond to what I have purposely sent you. Attitude is an autonomic response, not a planned one. And your attitudes will spontaneously erupt from the deep well of your affections. If your affections are for yourself so as to minimize your pain and maximize your pleasure, your attitude will erupt with selfishness. If, on the other hand, your affections are for Me and My pleasure, your attitude will erupt with joy unspeakable.

As a disciple, be careful to live in the reality of human experience, not the fantasy of what you wish it would be. If you lose sight of the reality of what My intentions are toward all men (to bring them to repentance and right relationship with me) you will be crushed by the myriad maladies about which you pray. If you always pray for me to remove distress or pour out pleasurable things you will find that the condition of the people is so crushing that you cannot get through to reality.

Let everything you do be connected to Me and My will about everything, otherwise you will shirk it by busying yourself with what you think are activities that would please Me. You do the

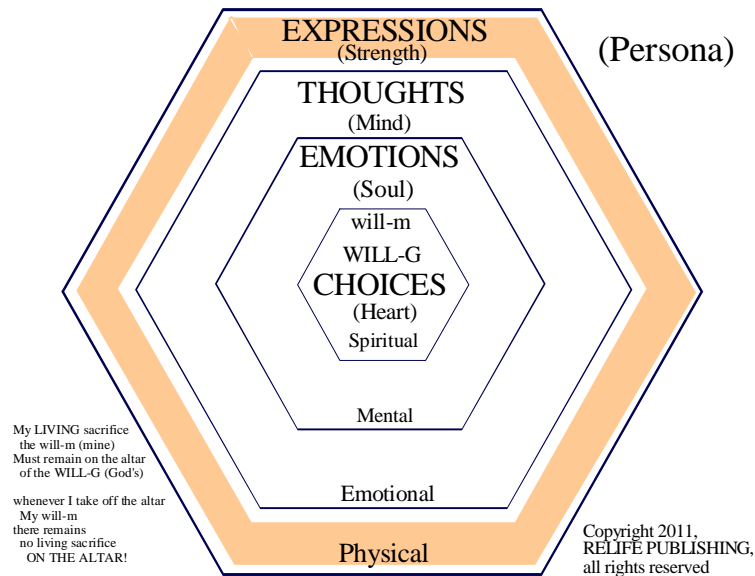
things that can be tabulated but you will not intercede with My words. Intercession is the one thing that has no snares, because it keeps our relationship with God completely open and honest.

The thing to watch in intercession is that no soul is simply patched up. To be truly healed, a soul must get through into contact with the life of God. Think of the number of souls God has brought your way that you have hindered by praying selfishly. When you pray with the specific desire and intention that a relationship with Me will be improved, I create something I can create in no other way than through intercessory prayer.

Stop praying for me and let Me pray through your lips. You can be sure that when I do the praying, My expressed will stated in that prayer will be accomplished. My word never returns to Me without accomplishing exactly what I said.

Day 10     ??? new topic ???     ocd day

**Anatomy of the persona** -- The parts of the persona, either divine or human, collectively make up the “image of God” in all of its fullness. As the highest of the created beings, humans are given these essential elements of life, which enable them to either be “god” to themselves and worship themselves, or to let “GOD” be their God, and submit every part of their being to Him.



As it says in scripture “...the Spirit (of God) Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God...” This clearly connotes that the will of man remains intact when the Will of God is introduced into man’s “heart” at the point of salvation. The point of salvation is when a person invites the Will of God, through Jesus, to reside in his “heart.” As in Jesus’ summation of the Law and the Prophets as, “Love the Lord your God with all your HEART, SOUL, MIND, and STRENGTH,” He is actually creating the picture of the anatomy of persona which is reflected above.



Most teaching about the persona either defines it as a single integrated entity, or a two part entity of body and soul or as three parts of body, soul, and spirit. In meditating on the statement of Jesus above, it suggests that there are FOUR PARTS which interact to create the persona in the image of God. Heretofore, as with all of my theological instructors, I was inclined to think of the persona as three parts and as a reflection of the trinity in heaven, Father, Son, Holy Spirit. I even assumed as they did, and taught me as well, that it was the Father who said, “Let us make man in our own image...”

Since it is the Spirit of God which wills (desires / chooses) things to be done as in the person of Jesus, then it would likely have been the Holy Spirit who “willed” the creation as we know it. It might also bear out that the Father is the “doer” as Jesus said, “... I only do what I see My Father doing.” So if the Holy Spirit is “willing” things to be, the Father is doing them in heaven and Jesus replicated on earth what He observed the Father doing, Jesus acts as the transfer agent of the activities of the Father at the choosing of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, when we at salvation invite the Holy Spirit (WILL OF GOD) to reside within us, we become the direct representation of God’s will fleshed out here and now, provided that we submit always to His Will.

Notice that the four parts of the persona include at the center the will. For a person who does not receive Jesus and by Him the Holy Spirit, there is only one will. That is the will of the man (human nature). He does not have the conflict described in scripture since there are not two wills working against each other. On the other hand, the single-willed persona can be nothing but self-centered and worship itself. It is not until the will of human nature is somehow convinced by faith to invite the Will of God into the heart that salvation occurs. Even the person whose actions and words drip with apparent

“selflessness,” might be surprised or even appalled at their underlying motivations for those expressions. Likely for most of us, most of the time, our inventory of words and deeds would include many “selfless, other-centered” ones. However, there is a test which, when applied to these expressions, will betray even the most noble personality. (See: litmus test of motivation)

Most of the teachings about this phenomenon try to express the change as a “dead” spirit being replaced by a “living” spirit, or that a soulless man who has no spirit is imbued with the Holy Spirit and the dead persona comes to life. While this may be the prevailing thought aloft today, it does not best fit what is described in the scriptures just quoted. This teaching has grown out of the experience of fruitless lives of the vast majority of Jesus’ followers around the globe. There is a distinct and almost universal disconnection from the truths that set Jesus apart from all others. And this is largely due to theological babble which is learned from the logical approach (human nature - carnal) rather than the divine approach to Scripture.

The progression of every activity of every persona is this. There is a willing or choosing in the spirit (heart). The belief that is spawned creates feelings (in the soul) about that belief. This leads to thoughts (mind) that stimulate or generate an expression. These thoughts are actually the affectors of actions and words (strength) expressed by the physical body. Unfortunately when the actions of a particular persona are not acceptable at one level or another, the predominant way to cope with this is to try to modify those actions. Since the action began at the core of the persona, in the first place, would it not seem most productive to begin there in order to change the behaviors? So instead of trying to correct the symptoms, we would then be correcting the disease.

Most missionary work around the globe is focused on making the actions of those who are converted to match the actions of the missionaries who present their message to them. This cloning process creates the proliferation of not just an activity set, but also a system of beliefs closer to the core. Even if the missionary has successfully introduced someone to Jesus and the person comes to salvation (that is right relationship to God), there is the process that ensues to make that “believer” look like a member of that particular missionary’s denomination or sect. In the process, the Will of God is replaced with the will of the denomination and its whole belief system.

So to be sure this four part diagram of the anatomy of a persona quite accurately shows how the relationship dynamic actually works. Now it is important to understand here that all relationships are two persona choices. This whole matter is discussed elsewhere in this treatise. Albeit in order for a persona in relationship with God to relinquish their “self” will to the “God” will within, there must be an absolute trust that God’s will only, ever, always has my best interest at heart (His Heart). Then and only then will I purposely choose to capitulate to God’s will over my own. And it is equally essential that I know beyond any doubt that God can and will do anything He pleases and is not limited in any way to the ways of human nature.

This depiction of the persona helps us see that the relationship with God which is birthed at salvation in us is a union of the highest order. It is no wonder, when we look at this diagram from the perspective of marriage that there is major conflict in many marriages. When we meet at the altar to commit our lives to one another, our individuality (will) remains in tact. As we discover the distance between what we will and what our significant other wills, there is no doubt that conflict is inevitable. The only way to resolve the conflict or close the gap

of distance between the wills is for both to submit to the Will of God as that alone creates congruency of wills.

Imagine one more thought along these lines. When I choose to subjugate “my” will to the will of God, His will evokes the feelings in the soul (emotions) of God, which stimulates the mind (thinking) of God, which produces the action of God (as Jesus lived over 2,000 years ago). So, if I let God’s persona express itself through me to my bride, she can’t help but be touched by God. And God’s touch has a much greater capacity for compassion, empathy, forgiveness, mercy and grace toward her in every respect. He alone knows the heart of every person, therefore He alone can treat her as she needs most to be treated. And I don’t need to guess any more. The “read my mind game” is over for good.

One other significant aspect of knowing my persona is to be able to distinguish between the symptom and the disease within my soul. Anger for example is a symptom of an underlying disease. So to attempt to control anger, or anger management as some call it, is to work on the symptom. Since symptoms keep recurring until the disease is cured, it makes almost no sense to deal with the anger without finding out its causal emotion. Granted, to temporarily manage the anger is appropriate until the underlying emotion can be identified. Once the emotion which has triggered the anger is traced back to the belief that spawned it, we can uncover the lie which we have believed and exchange it for truth. Knowing the truth is the cure.

Insecurity for example, rises within us when we believe that we are in a situation that we cannot control and may result in our harm or loss. The insecurity leads to anxiety or fear. These produce an overly strong reaction to things that are mostly unrelated to my fear. This expression of anger splashes the acid

in my soul on those near me. Then both I and they sustain emotional damage that was neither intentional nor appropriate. Anger is basically an exacerbated delivery of the underlying emotion, it is not necessarily an emotion in and of itself. If fear is driving the expression of anger, then deal with the fear. To do so requires that we go an additional level deeper to the belief that fuels the emotion.

An interesting thing about beliefs is that they are what we “choose” them to be. So once we discover what belief has triggered our fear, which was expressed in anger, we can “choose” to change that belief, thereby eliminating the fear. Many of us have experienced this kind of change with respect to a fear of the dark as a child, when we became old enough to “choose” to believe that there was nothing in the dark to be feared.