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Relating and Responding to God, Now and Forever

By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #367 ~

In the previous post, we talked about knowing God, specifically knowing who He is, His identity – what He is like, His character – and what He does, His purpose. Jesus told us, *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent"* (John 17:30). Eternal life is knowing God, it's knowing Him personally, spiritually, and eternally. It's relating and responding to God, it's having a continuing relationship with Him. It's experiencing God's divine life and power, it's being loved, encouraged, and satisfied, and it's fulfilling His purpose, now and forever. 2 Peter 1:2-3

Knowing God is foundational, it's the heart and soul of your life on earth and in heaven. Luke 10:38-42 says that Mary *"was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word"* – and Jesus said, *"only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken*

away from her." Mary was experiencing the good life – she listened to Jesus, was loved by Him, and learned from Him – and this is what God wants for you. He wants you to know Him, to experience His love, joy, and peace, to have a growing, ongoing relationship with Him, and for your life to have present and eternal value. John 15:16

Enoch and Noah walked with God – they had a close relationship with Him. What resulted, what flowed from their relationship with God was that they fulfilled His purpose. He wanted them to carry out His plans, and they listened to Him and did exactly what He wanted. Enoch was a prophet (Jude 14-15), and Noah built a boat, the ark of salvation. *"Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God... Thus, Noah did, according to all that God had commanded him"* (Gen. 6:9, 22). Their lives are examples to you, for you too are to know God, walk with Him, and obey His word.

David was also righteous, and he had a close walk with God. He wrote a good portion of Psalms, most of it focusing on his relationship with God. The Psalms make it very clear that David and others who helped write it knew God – who He was, what He was like, and what He did. What is also clear is their response to God, their love for God, and their desire to do His will. Without question, Psalms is the book that best explains how you can have a quality relationship with God, and He wants you to learn from it. In this post, I give many examples of how its writers related and responded to God.

* **I know You are my God.** *"O God, You are My God"* – Psalm 63:1.
* **I am Your servant.** *"O Lord, surely I am Your servant"* – Psalm 116:16, 119:25.
* **I will bless You, I will honor You.** *"I will bless You as long as I live"* – Psalm 63:4, 113:2, 145:1-2.
* **I call upon You.** *"I have called upon You, for You will answer me"* – Psalm 17:6, 18:3, 86:7, 116:2.
* **I hold on to Your word.** *"I cling to Your testimonies"* – Psalm 119:31.

* **I confess my sins to You**. *"I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"* – Psalm 32:5, 38:18; Ps. 51.
* **I cry out to You.** *"I cried out to You, O Lord"* – Psalm 142:5, 3:4, 27:4, 57:2.
* **I am excited about obeying You.** *"I delight to do Your will, O my God"* – Psalm 40:9; Ps. 119:35, 47.

* **I gladly worship You.** *"I will extol You, O Lord"* – Psalm 30:1, 66:17, 145:1.
* **I delight in You.** *"I will be glad and exult in You"* – Psalm 9:2, 5:11.
* **I revere You, I respect You.** *"Fear the Lord, you His saints"* – Psalm 34:9, 110:10.
* **I hope in You, I rely on You.** *"Hope in the Lord"* – Psalm 131:3, 42:5, 71:14, 130:7.
* **I am a faithful follower.** *"I will keep Your laws continually*" – Psalm 119:44, 4, 9, 17, 33.
* **I glorify You.** *"Magnify the Lord with me"* – Ps 34:3, 35:27, 40:16, 69:30.
* **I know You.** *"Those who know Your name will put their trust in You"* – Psalm 9:10, 91:14.
* **I want to know Your ways.** *"Make me know Your ways"* – Psalm 25:4; 119:33, 15, 27, 32.

* **I learn from You.** *"Teach me, O Lord"* – Psalm 119:26, 33, 64, 108, 124; Ps. 32:8.
* **I lift up my whole being to You.** *"To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul"* – Psalm 25:1, 86:4, 143:8.
* **I will live with You forever.** *"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever"* – Psalm 23:6; 27:4, 84:1-4.
* **I truly love Your word.** *"O how, I love Your law"* – Psalm 119:97, 14, 16, 24, 159.
* **I really love You Lord.** "*I love You, O Lord, my strength"* – Psalm 18:1, Ps. 116:1.
* **I love Your commandments.** *"I love Your commandments above gold"* – Psalm 119:127, 6, 32, 47, 48.
* **I meditate, I think about Your works.** *"I meditate on all Your doings"* – Psalm 143:5, 111:2, 145:5.

* **I meditate on Your word.** *"I love Your law, it is my meditation all the day"* – Psalm 119:97, 15, 99.

* **I praise You, O Lord.** *"I will praise Your name forever"* – Psalm 145:2, 9:2, 103:1-2; Ps. 148.
* **I pray to You, I cry out to You.** *"To You, I pray"* – Psalm 5:2-3, 3:4, 57:2, 69:13, 86:6.
* **I rejoice in You, O Lord.** *"I will rejoice and be glad in Your love"* – Psalm 31:7, 13:5, 21:1.
* **I remember Your word.** *"I have remembered Your ordinances, O Lord"* – Psalm 119:52, 16, 109.
* **I am kept safe in You.** *"In the Lord I take refuge"* – Psalm 11:1, 2:12, 7:1, 18:2, 71:1.
* **I see You, O Lord.** *"I have seen You in the sanctuary"* – Psalm 27:4, 63:2.
* **I seek you, O Lord.** *"Your face, O Lord, I shall seek"* – Psalm 27:8, 34:4, 105:4.
* **I sing to You.** *"I sing praise to Your name, O Most High"* – Psalm 9:2, 13:6, 33:1, 47:6, 105:2.

* **I will tell of Your deeds.** *"I will declare Your mighty acts"* – Psalm 145:4-6, 9:1, 26:7, 40:10, 105:1.
* **I thank You, O Lord.** *"I will give thanks to You, O Lord"* – Psalm 57:9, 9:1, 69:30, 111:1.
* **I thirst, I am hungry for You.** *"My soul thirsts for You"* – Psalm 63:1, 42:2, 84:2.
* **I prize Your word.** *"I have treasured Your word in my heart"* – Psalm 119:11, 37:31.
* **I depend on You.** *"I trust in You, O Lord"* – Psalm 31:14, 21:7, 33:21, 56:11, 62:8, 143:8.
* **I wait for You.** *"I wait for You"* – Psalm 25:21, 27:14, 40:1, 62:5, 119:81, 130:5.
* **I walk with You.** *"I will walk in Your truth"* – Psalm 26:3, 86:11.
* **I know You are my King, now and forever.** *"O God, You are my King"* – Psalm 44:4; Ps. 2:6, Ps. 47.

God created you, saved you, loves you, and cares for you far more than anyone else. And He wants your best, most important relationship to be with Him. God wants you to know Him, praise Him, love Him, trust Him, and obey Him, and to have a great relationship with Him. And these verses are instructive, for they will help you grow in knowing and loving God. I encourage you to think about them, and how you can apply them in your walk with God.

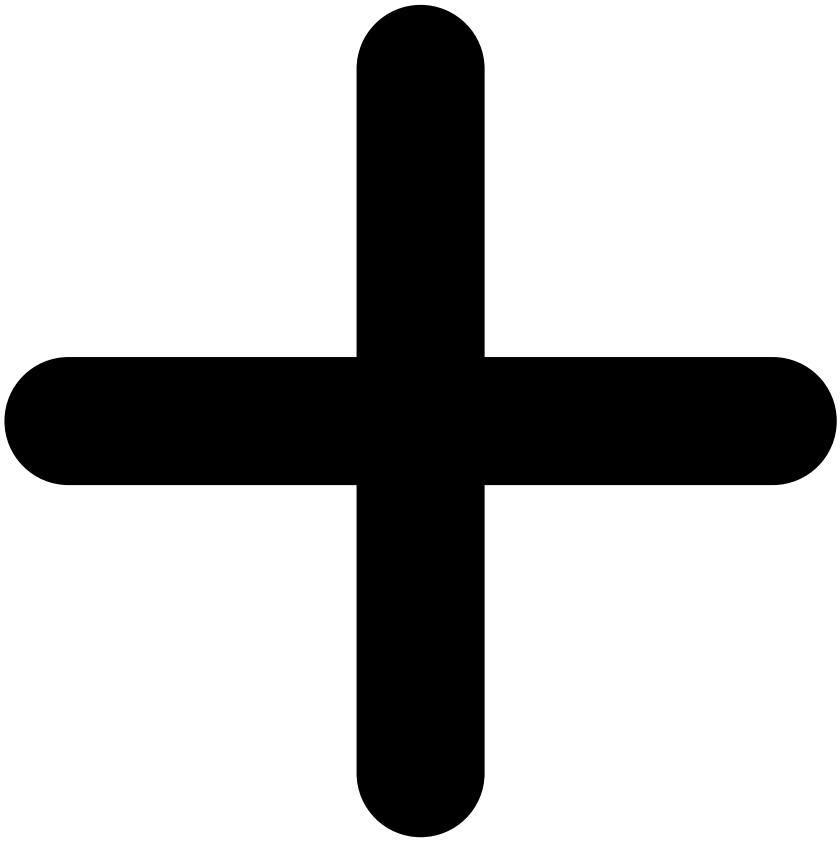
I know you spend time with people, but are you spending time with God? He is your Father and you are His child, and getting with Him is essential, is what you must do. So don't ignore Him, or say you are too busy, or think you don't need Him. You must get quality time with God, and in a quiet place where there are no distractions, no interruptions. When you are with Him, thank Him and praise Him; be open with Him; tell Him you love Him; read His word and learn who He is and what He is like, and who you are and what He wants you to do; and ask for wisdom, strength, courage, direction, protection, and for the lives of others. And don't be in a hurry with God. Ps. 42:2, Ps. 100, Phil. 1:9-11

This blogsite is about the future. And God wants you to know **what** occurs in the end-times, and when the Antichrist is ruling the earth and persecuting believers like never before. He wants you to know that Christ is returning to rapture the church, save a remnant of Jews, judge the world, and rule for 1,000 years. But today I am focusing on **how** you are to live, and this subject of knowing God and growing in your relationship with Him is critical, foundational, more necessary than understanding all the details of the future. Having a close relationship with God is the key to being holy and fruitful, to being an overcomer, and to persevering, whether it's at this time or in the last years before Christ's coming.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want... Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me... Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23:1, 3, 6). *"Behold, I*

stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20

P.S. One of the most important subjects in the book of Psalms is God’s love for you, and you need to experience and be satisfied by His love. So I encourage you to read this article, *“The Eternal Love of God.”*



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