

lives. Let's at last begin to give it to Him in some little measure as He deserves it, to Him who gave Himself for us even to the awful death of the cursed cross. Let the focus of our interest go from ourselves to Him. After all, we're the problem. He's the solution!

Let God draw our attention lovingly to Himself and His things from the false triumvirate god: the world, the flesh, and the devil, and their things.

Who Is Incomparably More Important than How

How can our attention, our interest, our affection, be removed from this false god to the one true God? Our rebel hearts don't want to recognize that the answer is God Himself, nothing less and nothing other.

The how is the Who. We simply begin to look to, turn to, and come to God. Come for all you need, even for His enabling to refocus your attention, your interest, and your affection from yourself and the usurping triumvirate god of this age to the almighty triune God, Creator and Sustainer of all things.

Never Quit

Now, there's no need for you to follow any particular path I suggest to encourage this transition. Let God Himself be your teacher and guide as well as your objective. As I suggested in the introduction, let Him be uniquely yours.

But please, I beg you in the name of our loving Lord, start seeking Him today and don't ever forsake your quest. No other purpose in life is worthy of giving your maximum life-long concern. No other goal should so engage your attention. By comparison, all other objectives pale into insignificance.

Beware!

Be warned once more. The danger is ever-present, even if you are the most sincere seeker after God that the focus of your attention will veer again and again from the Lord Himself. It shifts so readily from Him, not only to ourselves and our seen circumstances, but also to a means, a method, a concept, a doctrine, a feeling, or an approach to Him. God is not to be confused with anything less than Himself, not even with prayer or praise, worship or love, rest or peace. Our hope is in none of these. To settle for something less than the Lord, however delightful, helpful, or even necessary it may be, is to fail of our purpose entirely. Anything that stops short of Him, including the very road to Him, becomes no longer an asset, but a liability in the quest.

Failure to heed this warning may be one of the greatest deterrents to knowing the Lord in the practical intimacy that is your right as His child. My prayer is that God will enable us never to allow anything to deter us from seeking Him only; yielding to Him the loving, responsive attention He so seeks and deserves.

Know, also, that you respond to His drawing not for any benefit

you or others may receive. Know it isn't even for your joy in being close to the heart of God, but only for His pleasure and because He alone is worthy!

Recall it again: anything I urge you to do is in danger of becoming a work of your independent self. Anything done as a human work is not only without merit, it is hurtful. Now, we'll never love the Lord and respond to Him as we ought. So we're in danger of trying hard to force ourselves to be loving and responsive to Him, to give Him our attention, to get to know Him. How horribly counterproductive that would be.

Giving God our attention properly, so we come to know Him ever more nearly as He is, is simply our spirit enlivened by His Spirit responding to His calling work. God alone initiates and empowers every good thing, including our giving Him our attention. Nothing is of you apart from Him, most assuredly not your loving, responsive attention to Him in meekness, rest, and peace.

However, having said this, let's remember that we're still in the flesh and we must start where we are. If we can't start trusting Him, looking to Him, getting to know Him, receiving from Him in meekness, rest, and peace, let's start as poorly as we must, allowing Him to make the needed changes in our responses. This, too, is His work.

To our own eternal harm, we've neglected our loving God. Isn't it time we changed?

I Can't!

True! You can't change. The sooner you learn you can't, the better. The sooner you realize it's for us to rest at home in Him, content that He in us is all we need for the accomplishment of any good goal, the better. But it's doubtful if even a few of us can start here. So let's start where we can by turning our attention to the Lord, who alone is able.

"I have set the LORD always before me."

Psalm 16:8

Your God Is Too Small

I was trying to awaken a man with some deep-seated emotional problems to his need of simply letting go and trusting God to look after the supposedly massive problems he thought he had. Suddenly, I burst out one day, You've got a God that's too small and a you that's too big!

Yes, he did, and so do we. So we always shall as long as we live here below. This will only significantly change as we trustingly yield to the Lord the loving, responsive attention He wants, so He can reveal Himself in His reality and fullness to us.

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By: Pastor Ron Marr

"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Psalm 91:1

"I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word do I hope. My soul waits for the LORD more than those who watch for the morning."

Psalm 130:5-6

Now, let's be sure we have our goal in clear focus. The Lord Himself is our hope. He is our objective, and even the way to that objective. (See Romans 11:36, Colossians 3:11, and John 14:6.) The Lord Himself loving, giving, and sharing Himself as the essence of all we could ever ask or need must be our aim.

Our part is simply to be at home in Him, responding to Him with calm, quiet hearts. In Him, He in us, we find ourselves being changed from within by His Spirit. We find ourselves becoming increasingly dependent, reliant, and receptive toward Him. This dependent spirit is evidenced by increasing abandonment to Him. Resulting in increasing trust and rest, meekness and quietness of spirit in Him, it leads to growing harmony and unity with Him and to the fruit of the Spirit being formed in us from which others may eat and live.

We may feel ourselves to be at an impossible distance from this goal. We may often feel we're making little or no progress toward it, wrongly assuming nothing good is happening just because we don't sense anything. In fact, God may sometimes be accomplishing most when He seems to be accomplishing nothing.

Let Him be in charge. Trust His working. Trust His promises. Trust His pace. Never give up looking to Him as your goal no matter how hopeless it may seem.

Now, how does a wonderful, practical, living relationship with our lovely Lord begin to develop and grow?

Our Relationship Is Already Established

The Spirit of God lives within us. We're His temples, His dwelling places. Christ in us is our hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27). We are complete in Him. (Colossians 2:10). He is in us, and we are in Him, as genuinely as ever will be (Ephesians 3:14-21). In other words, the relationship with God that we need was established in its essence the moment we received Christ Jesus as our Savior and became His. He Himself is gloriously present in us. We are wonderfully secure in Him. He is all we need.

So we don't run around looking for some thing we don't have.

THE WAY INTO THE HEART OF GOD

We remain content just being in Him, and He in us. We rest confident that Christ in us will increasingly fill and transform us. We rest more contentedly, more fully in Him, receiving ever more of His life for all our need, for all our life.

Our Way Opened

The way into the heart of God has been freely provided for every child of God by the blood of Christ shed in agony for us who are so unworthy (Hebrews 10:19)! He has established a genuine, open, and operative life giving relationship with us. Through the blood-sprinkled way and our resultant position in Christ, our access is assured, our relationship established. We who are so unworthy can freely find in Him the satisfaction of our every need.

All we really need to do to experience the development of His life in us is to rest content in His love, peacefully at home there in Him. What a relief! Resting contentedly in the blessed assurance that He is in us, we are in Him is enough! As we rest there and stop interfering with His work, He'll freely draw us to Himself in love.

Spiritual Laziness

However, let us not assume that this resting in Him is an invitation to be spiritually lazy or unresponsive. Far from it! What is the point of His drawing us in love if we remain unresponsive to Him?

Our Lord draws us in many ways, and to them all He longs for us to respond. When at last we begin to rest in Him, delightedly conscious that we are in Him, He in us, and that's enough, we'll find our hearts long to be responsive to His drawings. This is the nature of the new heart He gives us.

“Exercise yourself rather to godliness. Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

1 Timothy 4:7, 13-15

This Scripture isn't advocating the works of proud flesh. Rather, here we find some ways of responding in love to the good God who initiates every good thing in love.

God at Work!

Such a response to Him ought to be merely the evidence of His work within us. It ought to be the result of Him producing in us a desire to come to Him to live, walk, and rest contentedly at home in Him.

The glad response of the new man, created by God after the pattern of Christ Jesus, is a joyful abandonment to his loving God. The new man diligently and zealously responds by God's enabling to the inworking of His Spirit. Against all the combined efforts of the world, the flesh, and the devil to deter him, this new man simply cannot help inwardly longing for the Lord. He can't help longing for God in the new man, no matter how much outward appearances may claim he doesn't.

But watch out! The evil one will do his best to sell you a phony bill of goods right at this point. On the one hand, he will try to convince you that you can't be a child of God because you haven't this hunger for the Lord. If that doesn't work, He will do his best to convince you that seeking after the Lord is somehow unspiritual, a work of the flesh. He will try to catch you coming or going. Just give him no attention. Seek the Lord in spite of him and every fear He can generate in you.

Nothing Half-hearted

Let nothing deter you from your quest to come close to the heart of God, neither your place of rest in the Lord, nor the devil's tricks. Let there be nothing half-hearted about it. On the contrary, be willing to be obsessed with Jesus, Father God, and the Spirit and to be maligned by those who aren't.

Ours must be a God-given intensity of spirit that demands that all else give way to the work God is doing in us. It must refuse to be derailed from seeking Him, the things of His realm of the eternal and spiritual, and His glory and praise. Ours must be a determination born within by the Spirit to know Him in glorious intimacy, a Spirit-born determination never to stop seeking Him, no matter the extent of our failure to find Him as we would like, a determination never to stop until He reveals Himself in us, us in Him, in present peace and joy in spite of the surrounding terror.

Who Is Going To Be Your God?

The world, the flesh, and the devil are the triumvirate god of this age. They have usurped the place and role of the almighty triune God as the god of mankind. To their call, man responds and offers his homage.

To our surprise and chagrin, this doesn't stop entirely when we're born again of God's Spirit. But it must stop. It must change. The question is: how?

How is this translated into practical God-approved, God-inspired, God-directed, God-empowered action? How is it translated into action neither dictated nor controlled by the old man of the flesh but by the new man of the Spirit in love? Where do we begin?

My failure to know and live the right answer to this question condemned me to thirty years of carnality as a minister of the gospel. The rest of the blame lay largely with my willful unyieldingness and my never getting to know anybody who lived close to the heart of God whose godly example I could follow.

Getting Acquainted

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are

above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

Colossians 3:1-3

Where do we begin? Upon the answer to this question, indeed, hangs everything. But, thank God, the answer is so very simple, even the youngest child of God can understand it.

Come to Jesus. Look as trustingly to Him as you may be able. Turn to Him from the attractions and distractions of life. Come to Him. Yield to your great Father God and Christ as much loving response to His drawing as He will enable.

Let Him teach you increasingly to see Him, know Him, worship Him, long after Him, praise Him, and fellowship with Him as He really is. Come to Him. As He teaches you how, come in rest and peace in Him rather than in destructive self-effort. That's all. Allow Him to teach you little by little to let go and let God.

A Conflict?

“Let us therefore labor to enter into that rest.”

Hebrews 4:11 KJV

The meaning in the original is to make haste to enter into that rest. This labor of love is simple application of our hearts to come to Him in response to His call of love. We give ourselves diligently to responding and coming to rest in Him. There we get to know Him as He is and learn to relinquish everything that would detract from our doing so.

Why, then, do we have to endure so much instead of just entering into His rest? Because we don't come to Him as we ought in response to His love call, we don't learn to know Him as He is. Thus we fail to realize that we really can trust Him and rest securely in Him.

Our own self-centered attempts to come to rest in Him are so very unproductive even counter-productive! Our underlying problem still is our resistance to Him, our inner, sometimes hidden, rebellion against Him. But why, after so long, are rebellion and resistance still so characteristic of us? Because we don't yet know Him in His love and truth, we cling to our misconceptions of Him.

This, then, is where we start: coming to Him and getting to know the true, loving Lord of the universe.

“What things were gain to me, those I have counted loss for Christ. But indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my LORD, that I may know Him.”

Philippians 3:7-8, 10

Focus on the Lord

He has been trying to get our loving, responsive attention all our