

NURTURING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

Everything that happens in our lives has some lessons to be learned woven in. I'm thinking about the season in my life when our daughter Noelle had to search for a new job. Her company closed down her department and everyone was either laid off, had to relocate, or apply for a different position within the company. This not only affected her, but it also affected me since I had been the babysitter to three of our grandchildren for the past ten years. We knew God would provide a job for her. It's just the waiting period that was difficult. My days were usually quite consumed with the activity of taking care of the kiddos so the days were different for me until she was back in the "employed" category.

As I meditate on the difference, I can see how God must view us as His children. If I treasure my time with the grandkids and am saddened when they are not here, how much more must God's heart ache if I busy my life with everything except HIM. I long to hear the kids call my name just as God longs for me to call on Him. I enjoy hearing how the boys' day at school went just as God wants me to talk to Him about my day (even though He already knows..."communication"). I'm blessed to be able to comfort a grandchild when they get hurt just as God wants me to lean on Him when I am hurt or sad. I love it when our littlest grandson Elliott reaches out his little arms for me to pick him up. God also wants me to reach my arms out to Him in worship, in praise, in thankfulness, and in surrender completely to HIM. It's pure joy when our 3-year-old grandson Gavin wants to ride with me in the truck or come to our house. My Heavenly Father likewise wants me to hunger to be in His house and "ride" with Him to the place where He wants me to serve and minister.

Just as I desire a great relationship with all our grandchildren, God desires to have a great relationship with me. The choice is mine. I must be the one to cultivate it. The same is for you. God wants you to desire and to cultivate a relationship with Him. It's not just about saying "Yes" to salvation. It's about your daily walk with Him. You would not get married then live in separate houses and never communicate with each other. No, you would spend time together, make plans together, and make decisions together. Being a follower of Christ is about your one-on-one relationship with Him.

I liked a phrase our pastor quoted for the past several Sunday's, "What you feed grows. What you starve dies." If you feed your soul with God's Word, prayer, and intimate fellowship with Him, it will grow. If you starve your life of a relationship with Him, your spirit man dies. How about you? How do you want your life to be? Would you like a thriving, full, and close walk with Him? I can tell you then, you must nurture your relationship with HIM!

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