



Day One: Reason #6 Salvation IS Relationship

Sometimes it can be so easy to skip over the most obvious truths. Of course, it doesn't help that we've heard countless things preached about salvation, which are not altogether accurate! Any time we are tempted to believe that our salvation has anything to do with our good works, our obedience, or even the simple fact that we believe Jesus exists, we're missing the whole point because that was never what God was after in the first place.

His pursuit was always to share relationship with us. God wanted a family. He created us for relationship. And the simple truth is that every single thing wrapped up and contained in our salvation is there because of this intense desire for relationship that could be satisfied in no other way than bridging the gap between us and our God.

Ephesians 2:4 – 5 (AMP) *But God – so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us, even when we were dead by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ...*

It goes without saying that there are always two parties involved in a relationship – it is essentially the **connection** between two (or more) beings. This is so much more than just an acknowledgement of Jesus' existence! James 2:19 (NLT) even says 'You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.'

In other words, even the demons acknowledge that Jesus exists, but that doesn't put them in relationship with Him. It's not a privilege they have access to or desire, but for us it is the most incredible aspect of salvation. The God of the universe desires to relationship with every single one of us individually. How do I know that? Well, think about it. How desperately do you want to have relationship with someone that you would actually pay the price of the death of your own son to have it? And on top of that, the Bible is clear that God desires to have that relationship with every single person. One such place in which we clearly see this is in 1 Timothy 2:4 – 5 in which it says that *God...wishes all men to be saved ...(AMP)*. We could just as easily say 'God wishes all men to be in relationship with Him'. All includes you!



The fact that our very salvation is a function of relationship – not mental assent or performance – should be a very big key that God’s desire to connect with you in a relationship is the most important thing to Him in the universe. Just consider these scriptures:

Matthew 7:21 – 23 (AMP) *Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name? And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never **knew** you; depart from Me...*

Wow, wouldn’t you think that it would be God’s will for His people to prophesy, drive out demons and do mighty works in His name? Of course it is and we could prove that many times over in His Word. However, what He is referring to here is His will that they **know** Him and He **know** them - relationship! The Greek word used here translated as ‘knew’ is the same word used to translate the most intimate of relationships between a husband and wife! Spouses know each other in a way that no one else knows them. God desires this level of intimacy with each of us – that we know Him and are known by Him in a way that no one else does. Jesus died for this and intimate relationship is what our salvation is all about.

When you received salvation (which can only be offered as an individual exchange between your heart and Jesus’), you received God’s desire to relationship just with YOU.



What does the fact that you are saved tell you about God’s desire to relationship specifically with YOU?



Day Two: The Great Exchange

To reinforce the fact that Jesus died so that God could have an intimate relationship with you, consider this. If you study salvation and what Jesus accomplished on the cross for very long, you will quickly realise that salvation is far more than a ticket to heaven. Yes, He exchanged His life in heaven for our life on the earth, so that we could go to heaven. But He did so much more. In fact, by Jesus' death and resurrection, He exchanged His life for our life in every single way.

Righteousness: He exchanged His sinlessness for our sin, so that we could become righteous in God's eyes (having Jesus' sinless spirit replicated in us).

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Freedom: He took on the judgment that was ours, so that we would no longer have to be judged. If we are in Christ, we've already been judged – and He calls us righteous!

Romans 8:1 (NIV) *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

John 5:22 (NIV) *Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son.*

Healing & Divine Health: He exchanged His life which had never known sickness and disease for our sickness and disease, so that we could live in His Divine health.

Isaiah 53:4 – 5 (AMP) *...He has borne our...sicknesses, weaknesses and distresses...and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole.*

Peace & Joy: He exchanged His life which had never known sorrow for the emotional pain and sorrow of our lives so that we could have His joy.

Isaiah 61:1 (HCSB) *...He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners...*

Abundant Provision: He exchanged His abundant provision for our poverty and lack, so that we too could be abundantly provided for.



2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Isn't this incredible! Every price, every exchange was paid for by Jesus and orchestrated by your Father in heaven, whose desire was and is to ensure that you live as a citizen of heaven on this earth, filled with His power, life and provision. You might think this is as good as it can possibly get.

But wait, there's more...



Do you understand that you now have Jesus' very life in you? His righteousness, His freedom, His peace and joy, His Divine health and His abundant provision. How does this change the way you look at yourself and your life?

God orchestrated it so that every facet of sin and lack in your life (spiritual, emotional, physical, and financial) would be taken care of by exchanging it with Jesus' life. Jesus paid a huge price for this. How loved does it make you feel to know they have taken care of everything for you?



Day Three: The Greatest Exchange

Yesterday we looked at many of the incredible exchanges that Jesus made for us through His death, burial and resurrection on the cross. There are many more we have not yet mentioned, and no doubt many other exchanges we've yet to receive revelation on as a body. But of that which we do know and understand, many of us are aware of and greatly appreciate these incredible exchanges!

However, there's one exchange that doesn't seem to be so commonly noted. And it is that Jesus exchanged His intimate moment-by-moment connectedness and relationship with God for our disconnection with God, so that we could enjoy intimate relationship with God and would never have to be disconnected from God ever again!

What do we think was happening when Jesus was on the cross and cried out, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46)? 'Forsaken' is also translated in some translations as 'abandoned'. Forsaken is defined by the dictionary as 'abandoned or deserted'. In other words, the intimate, moment-by-moment connectedness and relationship that Jesus had enjoyed with His Father since before the foundation of the world, was no longer available to Him. It was in this moment – and in the days following where Jesus suffered in hell totally disconnected from God – that Jesus paid the price for us to have relationship with God. **He became disconnected from God so we could become connected to God.**

And I believe that to Jesus, this was the greatest sacrifice He made! Of all the things He went through during His 33 years on the earth – of all the persecution and of everything He went through before and during the cross, never was there a word uttered in desperation from our Lord. There was no 'I can't take this poverty!', or 'God, this sin is too much for me!', or 'Father, the burden of all this sickness is more than I can take.' No, He bore it all and indeed, without the life which flowed from God through Him as a result of their connection and relationship, He could not otherwise bear it. Yet, the very last price that He paid in the exchange – the ransom to save and redeem us from everything sin and satan had brought into the world – was disconnection from His Father. And at this, He could not help but cry out for it was the greatest burden of everything He had carried.



What a price to pay! And what a treasure we have available to us because He paid this price! He exchanged His connectedness with God so that we could have connectedness and relationship. When we realise the magnitude of what this cost Jesus, we will also realise the value of what we have available to us every single moment of every single day – paid for by His blood!

Soak Time

How do you now feel about the value of the relationship offered to you by Christ Jesus?

In what ways will your life change as a result of this understanding?



Day Four: Reason #7 He Communicates One-on-One with You

One of the most beautiful aspects of relationship is simply being able to communicate with one another. Communication shows that someone else cares enough for us, to stop what they are doing and listen to us or to share their heart with us, and by communicating with them we show them the same honour and love.

Essentially, the desire to communicate intimately is the desire to love and be loved. This is exactly what God wants to share with each and every one of us, each and every moment of the day. He demonstrates His desire to communicate one-on-one with us in so many ways:

God desires your prayers

Prayer is a most special way in which we can communicate one-on-one with God. God invites you to prayer, and desires that you constantly be in communication with Him.

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) *So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God...*

Notice that there is no clause to say that you have to book in at a special time, wait your turn or be timid about it. Come boldly, you are told. Which means God is willing to receive you at His throne at any moment, and desires for you to walk in as though you expect His communication, because He's already promised it.

He is never too busy for you

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV) *Pray without ceasing.*

When God instructs us to pray without ceasing, that tells us that He is willing to communicate – listen and respond to us – without ceasing. Have you ever encountered a time where you went to speak with God, and you got a busy tone. No, and it won't ever happen! He will never be too busy for you, regardless of what is going on around the earth at that moment in time, because He has already committed to be available to you at every moment. You are that important to Him!



Not only that, but Jesus is at every moment hearing your prayers and continually interceding for you at the right hand of the Father.

Romans 8:34 (NLT) ...Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

He is never too busy to listen to you, nor is He too busy to pray for you.

He speaks individually to you

Oh the precious gift of being able to hear His voice in our hearts! How many times have you asked the Lord for direction or encouragement and He has spoken a specific word, scripture or counsel directly into your heart that you knew was from Him? Or you might have felt an impression or a leading to go a certain way or choose a certain path. How incredible that God knows and cares about the intricate details of your life, and is there at any and every moment to guide you through to the best path that He has planned for you!



What are you feeling about God's desire to communicate one-on-one with you?



Day Five: He Communicates One-on-One With You (more)

He speaks messages to you through others

If you have ever received a prophetic word spoken from God to someone else on your behalf, you will know that it is one of the most special feelings you can ever experience.

There have been countless occasions in which I've been unsure of whether or not to do something, or felt like my destiny would stay forever out of my reach, or that a desire and secret petition of my heart would never come to pass, and God has spoken to me through prophetic words or visions given to other people, to share with me. In many cases, thoughts, concerns and longings that no one (or few others) knew. And yet He would give someone else (who may not have even had any idea of what I was going through) a word of encouragement or direction to share with me that would be absolutely spot on!

Very few feelings are sweeter than knowing that God heard the quiet wonderings of your heart and took the time to answer them in a way that stilled and calmed all of your fears and questions and brought hope. If you've not had this experience, believe for and expect it. He desires to communicate with you through His people!

He answers your prayers

If we all sat here and wrote down the many times in which God has answered our prayers, we would find that it's almost countless. Imagine the God of the universe listening to the petitions of His children and seeing that these petitions come to pass.

Does that mean that if we don't feel all of our prayers have been answered or in the manner we'd have liked them to, that we aren't loved by God? Absolutely not! It's never wise to look at circumstances to determine whether or not something is true. God's Word is true!

Sometimes God knows something is better for us than what we're asking. Sometimes it's not the right season yet. Sometimes we've asked amiss. Other times, our petition has been on the way and we've probably been on the verge of receiving it when we bowed to the pressure of our circumstances and let



our faith go because God 'didn't come through for us' in the timeframe and way that we expected. Either way, there is no point in wondering and speculating – if you want to understand something, ask Him!

Whatever the reason, God is the most incredible and loving Father in the world. As parents, we greatly desire to fulfil the longings of our children, to surprise them, and bless them with the things they're interested in or which their hearts desire. We look for ways and means to do that and we never intend to hurt them. How much more does our Father desire to bless and fulfil our petitions of Him?

He constantly offers His Presence

There are times in which God's manifest Presence feels thick and heavy and we are left in awe! Many other times, God's Presence is characterised by a residing sense of peace and connectedness between our hearts and His. We may be focused on some aspect of our lives or work, yet still have an awareness about us that He is within us, and He is listening and leading. We can call this abiding in the Presence of God and we can live every moment of every day with this sense of connectedness. Interestingly enough, we are the only ones who can disconnect from this and separate ourselves from God's Presence – He never withdraws from us.



Can you think of times in which God has shown His desire to communicate with you through the words of others, or the answering of your prayers?
