

The Blessings of Loving God: Fellowship with God Part 3

Rev 3:19-20

19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. NIV

Last week we talked about fellowship with God and how that was one of the blessings that those who love God have. But then I thought about families. Families normally live together but there is often not much fellowship. Often days go by without meaningful conversations, without an active interactions between them. Even the children find themselves with a schedule that only a corporate executive with a assistant would hope to manage.

And if that is true of people living in the same house, what about God, God who cannot be seen and often has little representation fare.

From the Bible we see a few individuals who had a close and abiding relationship with God.

- I. Enoch
 - A. When we think of the terrible days before God destroyed the flood.
 1. It was time when people had turned away from God.
 2. They had turned to their own sinful ways.
 3. The Bible describes them as being only evil continually.
 - B. But even in those evil days there were a few that still loved God above all else.
 1. Enoch was such a man.
 2. Gen 5:22 says “and Enoch walked with God.”
 3. Of everyone else it says so and so lived so many years, etc
 4. But when we come to Enoch it also says that he “walked with God.”
 5. As a matter of fact as the world continued to decay it says “Enoch walked with God: and he was not for God took him.”
- II. Later on another man come on the scene of a world on the very verge of destruction.
 - A. His name was Noah & it says of him. “Noah walked with God” Gen 6:9
 - B. What an amazing distinction, of all the characters in the Old Testament only Enoch and Noah are said to walk with God.
 - C. Now I am sure that many others had a similar relationship but it was rare.
- III. At the Church of Laodicea
 - A. Rev 3:14-21
 1. "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of

God: 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked — 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. NKJV

B. This church was wealthy and well to do.

1. It was not like most churches of that day, persecuted and in poverty.
2. They had gold and silver, precious ointments and marvelous clothes.
3. But Jesus calls them naked, poor and blind.
4. All that they needed only God could provide.
5. And He counseled them to come to Him and obtain all that they needed.
6. But they would not for they thought that they already had all that they needed, not knowing that they were naked, miserable, poor and blind.
7. How could a church get that far from God, from Jesus the Savior they proclaimed when they became Christians?

C. But God holds out hope

1. For those who would answer His call.
2. For those who could lay aside their pride and their self-sufficiency.
3. But it is so hard for us to see our spiritual needs since we are trying so hard to make everyone believe we don't have any.
4. I was talking to Pastor Wayne the other day about small groups, something that I think we need to start here.
5. I said is anyone around doing small groups, to which he replied no.
6. You see an effective small group is where people can come and talk about their weakness, but no one wants anyone to know about their weaknesses.
7. That is why our churches flounder in a sea of mediocrity.
8. But God will not help those who will not humble themselves and ask for it.

- D. The blessings of fellowship.
 - 1. Fellowship with God was the Jewish idea of heaven.
 - 2. Matt 8:10-12 "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! 11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." NKJV
 - 3. But Jesus tells them that they do not need to wait for heaven.
 - 4. If they will seek God, He will have fellowship with Him.
- IV. The key to that is if they will seek God.
 - A. Seeking God takes time.
 - B. Seeking God takes purpose.
 - C. Seeking God takes casting aside some of our sins.
 - D. Seeking God takes a change of mind and heart.
- V. But the reward is great.
 - A. Communion with God on a one to one basis.
 - B. Fellowship with the Almighty.
 - C. Peeking into the mind of God.
 - D. Jesus is still waiting for you today.
 - E. He is standing at that door.
 - F. But you need to lay aside what you are doing and go to Him.
 - G. You will need to take the time.
 - H. Look into His word, get alone with God.
 - I. Ask Him to tell you His will for your life.
 - J. And don't be surprised when He does.