

Staying Connected to God

I believe one of the greatest challenges we have as Christians is to stay connected to God. Staying connected to God is your bridge from failure to success. Correctly engaging with Him will cause you to cross over from insufficiency to superabundance. Experiencing the supernatural life is totally dependant of this bond. **2 Corinthians 3:5** states, *“For your sufficiency (ability) is from God.”* But notice, you do not have this ability unless you are fully connected! Let us now look at effective ways of staying connected to God.

(1) **You must remain hungry.** The God-connection is not for the holy but for the hungry. Are you hungry enough to fully cooperate with Him? Are you hungry enough to stay connected? Remember, no connection, no engagement! No engagement, no involvement! And no involvement from you may mean no involvement from God either.

(2) **You must remain ready.** Staying connected and involved with God means you must be ready to hunt down God's plans and purposes. In **Philippians 3:13-14** the apostle Paul said this, *“One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.”* But he doesn't end there, for he goes on to say, *“I press toward the goal.”* In the Greek it literally means, “to hunt down the ambition.” Are you ready to hunt down your ambition in Christ? If you are, will you remain in a place of full readiness? Therefore be ever ready to make the God-connection, and then to keep it. From this position you'll be able to reach out for your success and hunt down your God driven goals and objectives - to the glory of God!

(3) **You must remain prepared.** After you've made the God-connection, you must be fully prepared to go beyond (and remain in a state of preparation). Remember, you were born to taste success, born to enjoy the blessings and benefits of God. You have an instinct for self-improvement! You have a natural motivation for increase. Something inside of you always gravitates toward growth. You were created for significant expansion and influence. God created you that way, and you will never be happy any other way! When you make the God-connection, and then remain connected, you quickly cross the divide between the natural to the supernatural!

The question each of us must ask ourselves is simply this... *“I am hungry enough, ready enough, and prepared enough to make the God-connection and then to “stay” connected - no matter what?”*

While **staying connected** and engaging with God you will also need to:

(4) **Remain obedient.** Abraham is called a friend of God because he obeyed God. God said, *“Abraham, I want you to move from your comfortable situation and go to a new country.”* And Abraham obeyed God. If God has been talking to you about something - just do it! Don't negotiate. If you are brave enough to step through the gate of obedience, all of heaven will be open to you. You will have heaven backing you up and a great cloud of witnesses cheering you on.

(5) **Remain teachable.** If you are teachable you will continue to learn, grow and acquire beneficial

knowledge. God Himself declared, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"* (**Hosea 4:6**). What you do not know can in fact hurt you! God wants you to be informed – to have knowledge. Information is God's business. All of heaven is involved in distributing divine information. Angels bring information, because they are messengers of God. The Bible is an informative manual for life. Jesus informed us of many things concerning the Father – His power, nature and thoughts about us. Faith-filled knowledge pleases God! **Hebrews 11:6** says, *"...Without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."* Are you diligently seeking God? If you are not teachable you cannot acquire correct knowledge. You and me are in fact 'the promise keepers', so we must acquire "knowledge" of what God has made available and accessible to us. Without this knowledge (and faith) we cannot please Him!

(6) **Remain determined.** Being determined means persevering. And by being persevering, or persistent, you will get God's attention. The power belongs to the persistent. Champions simply make an extra attempt! Can you imagine what the disciples must have been thinking over the ten days when they waited in the upper room? The diseased woman didn't feel like pushing her way through the crowd, but she had a goal and was persevering with it! Weren't the men who took the roof off a building to lower their friend down to Jesus persistent? Their determination paid off! In **Luke 11:8** Jesus tells us, *"Though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence [insistence] he will rise and give him as much as he needs."* Note, God does not mind you pressing Him on some issues! But when doing so, remember this... In all spiritual matters patience and persistence are perfect partners, and they both depend on faith. *"Those who through faith and patience inherit the promises"* (**Hebrews 6:12**).

To reiterate, in order to **stay connected** to God; you must remain hungry; you must remain ready; and you must remain prepared. And at the same time, you must remain obedient; remain teachable and remain determined.

Getting **connected with God** is our greatest privilege. Why is this? Because as we stay connected and get involved with His affairs, He is obliged to stay connected and get involved with our affairs.

Finally, far too many of us have quenched the Holy Spirit (become disconnected) by simply not stepping into the fire. By stepping into the fire we become a furnace of fresh anointing, and even our words become like 'holy fire', inflaming all who hear them. So remember, in the fire, every experience you have with God can never burn out or falter. **Exodus 3:2** confirms this, *"There, the angel of the Lord appeared in the flames of fire from within the bush and Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up."*

Do you want to live in the fire? Would you like to be set ablaze with God's glory? So much so that others will come to watch you burn! Well, this requires that you put the flesh under (die to self) and pick up your cross. **Matthew 26:41** and **Mark 14:38** both declare, *"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

Stepping into the fire is not easy. It takes courage, resolve and determination. Romans 8:13 tells us how it is possible, *"For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."*

The easiest way to stay connected to God is to step into the fire!

Remember the story in Daniel 3:19-25 *Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." "Look!" he answered, **"I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."***

These three brave men met the Lord in the furnace. We can do the same. Right now, His glory is here. The flame of His Spirit is shining bright. But are you willing to be totally consumed by His Holy presence? Remember, only dead wood burns!

God is a consuming fire (**Deuteronomy 4:24**). Yes, it takes courage to let go and let God consume you. However, I can assure you that His Holy fire is both exciting and refreshing. It has characteristics all of it's own! So why not join me now. Let's step into the fire and be connected with the Almighty God.