

Getting Involved with God – Connect to Engage

Romans 8:17 “...And if children, then heirs – *heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.*” Our involvement with God should be centred on this one truth... *As children of God we have been destined to receive an inheritance and are therefore expected to go about the Father’s business.* When the boy Jesus had gone missing and His natural parents had asked Him where He was, Jesus answered, “**Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?**” – **Luke 2:49.** Right through His ministry Jesus made it clear that He and the Father were working together. “**My Father has been working until now, and I too have been working**” – **John 5:17.**

As a child of God you have no option but to go about your Father’s business - to get involved with His work. Jesus was always fully engaged in what He saw His Father doing. “**Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner**” – **John 5:19.**

Remember this, the way you connect and then engage with God, is your bridge from failure to success. Co-operating with Him will cause you to cross over from insufficiency to superabundance. **2 Corinthians 3:5** states, “**For your sufficiency (ability) is from God.**” But note, you do not have this ability unless you are connected, and thereafter, fully co-operating with Him.

Jesus said, “**My yoke is easy**” (**Matthew 11:30**). To be “yoked” is to be connected, and for this connection to be effective there must be full Cupertino from both parties. The trouble with most Christians is that they want the Lord to keep the connection without their co-operation. Resulting in the yoke being a struggle! Every one of us needs to be yoked to Jesus. We must connect to engage. Making a God-connection without engaging is totally fruitless.

Today we will be looking at effective ways of connecting and getting involved with God. First, we will examine three things we must be; and then look at three things we should do.

[1] The first thing you must be is hungry. *The God-connection is not for the holy but for the hungry.* Note the Pharisees never experienced the power and the glory of the Jesus relationship. It was the Samaritan woman at the well and Zacchaeus in the tree who were hungry enough to get a touch - hungry enough to make a significant connection with Jesus. How hungry are you? Do you really want to make that vital connection with God, and in turn go about His business rather than your own? Are you hungry enough to fully cooperate with Him?

Too many of you are convinced that you are not acceptably in the eyes of God, and consequently, you are unable to receive any of His promises. The feeling of being unholy or unworthy prevents you from getting connected and staying involved.

No connection - no involvement! So stop looking at your weaknesses and your failures. Start focusing on the very strengths that He has so graciously given you. You are a joint-heir, therefore, you are here on purpose - designed and equipped for a particular function. God has made a great investment in you, and He has given you very special and unique abilities. God has packed you on purpose for a purpose!

So when ever you are hungry enough to make the God-connection and then get involved with His business, God is obliged to connect with your life and get involved with what you are doing. This is called a covenant relationship. Notice, no hunger – no connection – no connection – no involvement. No involvement from you may mean no involvement from God either!

- [2] You must be ready. Getting connected and involved with God means you must be *ready* to reach out, and 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 - in a place of readiness? But more importantly, are you ready to make the connection and get involved?

God-given success is never placed on your lap, however, it is placed within your reach! Nobody wakes up successful, he must first be hungry for it. Thereafter, he must be prepared to hunt down what God has placed within his reach. Too many of you are probably confused about the sovereignty of God. You think that because God is in control he has full responsibility for all of the situations in your life. Note, even though He does control the laws of the universe, He does not control your decisions! You have been given a freewill, so your decisions create and control the majority of your circumstances. Therefore, be careful not to assign to the sovereignty of God the responsibility for every situation you face. Use your freewill (and the abilities He has given you) to create new and better circumstances.

Be ever-ready to make the God-connection, and then to get involved. From this position you'll be able to reach out for your success and hunt down your God driven ambitions - to the glory of God!

- [3] You must be prepared. After you've made the God-connection and have immersed yourself in His affairs, you must be fully *prepared to go beyond*. Can you remember the first time you won a race, made a high score, or achieved your goal? What did you do after that? You desired to beyond! Beyond your highest mountain lies a higher peak. Above your greatest achievement or accomplishment lies one even greater. Out in the distance, beyond your longest run, stretches a further and lengthier expanse. If you are not prepared to stretch, and then go beyond, you will not step into the true greatness which God has predestined you for.

Remember what the apostle Paul said, "***One thing I do.... I reach forward toward those things which lie ahead.***" Being involved with God comes at a price, so 'reach out' and don't back off because the benefits are immeasurable.

You were born to taste success, born to enjoy the blessings and benefits of God. You have the instinct for improvement! You have the motivation for increase. Something inside of you gravitates toward growth. You were created for expansion! God created you that way and you can never be happy any other way! When you make the God-connection, and then get involved, you cross the divide between failure and success.

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 get (and stay) involved?"