

# TOUCH

"Pastor, why are so many people uncomfortable with physical contact, yet in some cultures when greeting each other people hug and kiss as a gesture of friendship or affection?" Like everything, it's something that is caught (not taught) when you're young. If parents do not share love with their children by touching, hugging and kissing them, the child grows up with a vague understanding of affection. We all possess five senses. These are sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. All of them are important if we are to engage with the world around us, but I'm sure you will agree that only the sense of touch places us in direct contact with those things. Throughout each day we touch hundreds of things. Most we don't even think about! However, there are times when we deliberately reach out to touch objects because we want to connect with them, and often our touch can effect change in the things we touch. Can you imagine not being able to touch anything? Can you imagine not being able to touch those you love? Well, how do you think God feels?

Jesus was not afraid to touch or be touched. In John 21:20 we find John with his head on the Lord's chest, and when Thomas wasn't sure whether Jesus was real or not the Lord asked him to put his finger into the wound in His side (John 20:27). I believe this principle is still a key to establishing a firm belief and faith in Jesus Christ. We need to somehow "touch" in order to know that the Lord is real. And such reality is often only confirmed and established by making direct contact. So how do we touch Him and build our faith? Jesus is the Living Word and the best way to touch Him is to establish a positive connection with the Word. When you study and meditate on the Word, and receive revelation, you touch the Person whose very essence (divine substance) is contained therein. Jesus and His Word are one! That's why we need to constantly partake of the Bread of Life by consuming His Word!

Touching Jesus is a profound and faith building experience but allowing Jesus to touch you is life-changing. When Jesus extends His hand into your life and purposely touches you, He produces changes that no other touch can accomplish. Here are three aspects of the Lord's touch:

1. **His Touch Is Intimate** - When Jesus healed the woman with the issue of blood, He demonstrated a desire on His part to become intimately involved in her life! He referred to her as daughter.

2. **His Touch Is Powerful** - Every time Jesus touches someone they are never the same again! He touched Simon and he became Peter. He touched Jacob and the old cheat became Israel. His touch changed James and John, the Sons of Thunder, into the apostles of love. His touch heals, sets free and sanctifies.

3. **His Touch Is Life Transforming** - His touch transformed Abram into Abraham. His touch transformed the defeated Elijah into the great prophet of God. His touch changed Moses the murderer into Moses the leader of the children of Israel. Our lives are mere clay until Christ touches us. And when He does, everything changes! Hallelujah!

Let Him touch you today!