

How to Live with God

Chapter 5

5.1 Seek first the Kingdom of God

Simply put:

MT 6:33 “**But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** [34] Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

What is seeking first the Kingdom of God? It is in all things finding out the way that God does things. The way He would handle the situation. Finding out what He would do or get His advice. It is putting His will first before ours. It is allowing God to be first in all things in our lives. It is living with Him in all things we do. It is seeking His way and doing His commands or will, or desires or direction in all things in our lives. For He loves us more than we love ourselves. He died for us to prove how much He loves us. So we need to seek His way in doing all things. In short, being totally dependant on Him and obey all of His directions and commands, in that way we know that we love Him.

How do we seek the Kingdom of God?

5.2 SEEKING through Prayer

We seek God many ways but mostly through prayer because God has a primary rule, “I can not do anything unless some one prays. Even for Jesus, nothing was done unless He prayed. So He says

Well I guess that depends on the definition of Prayer. What is prayer?

It is the miracle of talking to God. It is communicating with God. It is the pleasure of being able to come before the Lord as a child does his earthly father. When you want something to drink, and you need daddy to get it for you, what do you do? You just boldly walk up do daddy and look him in his eyes and ask for the water. When you ask, you expect him to get it for you or to help you get it, but get it for you he will. So it is with God. When you go to your daddy, do you go crawling on the floor, or run before him and fall fearfully to the ground and bang your head, NO. You do not tremble for fear when you ask for your water, you do not ask over and over and over again for it, you do not chant and chant and chant for the water, and you definitely do not recite a memorized ritualistic sentence or any kind of special kneeling or body movement (ie. The sign of the cross on your person). No you are his son/daughter. You have the right to walk with

your self esteem and righteousness to him and simply ask him for water. Again, so it is with our God our Father. Respect for God yes, but trembling and fearful, NO.

MT 12:48 He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" [49] Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. [50] For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

He says that we are His children and as such we have the right to walk up to Him with our self esteem and dignity and give Him our petition. Another way to think of God is as a friend. How do you treat your friends? Usually the same way. And He considers us as friends.

JN 15:9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. [10] If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. [11] I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. [12] My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. [14] **You are my friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.** [16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. [17] This is my command: Love each other.

What He does ask is that we come to Him as His Sons and Daughter (Children of God), with a holy and pure heart. If we cannot do this then the first thing we must do it to get our hearts holy and pure.

JN 1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. [11] He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. [12] Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God--** [13] children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Does He hear us if our hearts are not holy and pure, YES. But how much more He will enjoy us if we do. He always hears us, but unless you have a holy and pure heart, it is very hard to hear Him. For a holy and pure heart comes from a humble heart.

JAS 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. [18] Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

JAS 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? [2] You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. [3] When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

JAS 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. [5] Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? [6] But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble."

When we pray, we must be humble and be pure to really be received by God. I am Holy, so you must be holy, I am pure so you must be pure. Selfishness and other evil reasons that lead prayer will never be answered. Why would God answer an evil prayer? or a prayer of a person that has evil in them?

1PE 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. [14] As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. [15] But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; [16] for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

We must first remove all evil in us before we come before our Father. We must close all evil windows and remove all evil feelings before we come before God. Because you cannot communicate (both directions) with Him from an evil attitude or heart.

Remember above about the evil feelings. We must pray and get rid of them first. See evil feelings above.

MT 7:1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. [2] For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

MT 7:3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? [4] How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? [5] You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

MT 7:6 "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

MT 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

We must not be a **hypocrite**, we must **first** take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

So it is clear, that God requires us to first take care of ourselves before we try to help others.

JN 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. [7] If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. [8] This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples."

How do you think you can remain in Him? We do this by being holy, pure and humble.

JN 16:19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask Him about this, so He said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see Me no more, and then after a little while you will see Me'? [20] I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. [21] A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. [22] So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. [23] In that day you will no longer ask Me anything. I tell you the truth, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. [24] Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

JN 14:9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10] Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work. [11] Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. [12] I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because

I am going to the Father. [13] And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. [14] You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it.

What greater promise do we have then this to believe that God will answer our prayers.

Then we have this interesting part in Thessalonians.

1TH 5:16 Be joyful always; [17] pray continually; [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. But when we pray and nothing happens, well this starts to show some light on why.

Pray continually, or in the modern bible is says pray unceasingly.

5.3 How do you pray unceasingly?

One day, as I was on my ship and in line for the ships store. In saw in the window that they had just gotten some new woman watches. One was yellow gold and the other was silver with a blue face. I realized that one of them would be nice for my wife, her watch just broke the day before and I promised to buy one once I got back from our trip, but I could not figure out which one she might like.

So I started looking around for my best friend to find out his opinion about which watch to buy, but I could not find him. So I stood there worrying what to do when God asked me what I was worrying about.

I told Him about the watches and that I was looking for my best friend to get his opinion. But then He said, "Am I not your best friend too? And why don't you ask Me my opinion?"

I said, "Well are you not too busy making the sun move and keeping the universe running?"

He said, "No I always have time for My children and so I would love to help you."

I said, "Ok then. I would love to have Your opinion. Which watch do you think my wife would like?"

He said, "Well remember, she is Japanese and she does not like yellow gold. And the other one is silver, that she likes, and the blue face is really beautiful. So I would think that the silver and blue one would be best."

I replies, "You are so right. She does like the silver better then gold. Ok, lets get the silver and blue one."

I bought it and she absolutely loved it. She wore it for the next 5 years before it fell apart.

So God loves to be a part of all aspects of our life including small things like picking out a watch.

God showed me how to pray unceasingly. It is talking to Him instead of myself. I discussed this with Him instead of myself or my brother.

Have you ever discussed what you are going to do or say with yourself? We all do. But why not discuss it with Him instead of yourself or seeking others advise. You and the others are not as smart as God, so why discuss it with anyone but Him?

We know what formal prayer is, we know what prayer with others is, but do we know what prayer by ourselves constantly is? It is chatting with God every second we are awake, it is seeking His advise for everything, is short it is treating Him like our best friend that we tell everything to, that we discuss everything with. It is chatting with Him about the weather, the traffic, the time of day, or of whatever is on our hearts and minds.

So here is another idea of the prayer of the righteous man.

JAS 5:13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. [14] Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. [16] Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

JAS 5:17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. [18] Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

And as we have discussed that one is righteous is one who obeys and follows God's commands.

1PE 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

But we are to Seek the Kingdom of God. What is this?

This is a process of getting into the position to be able to obey Him which is the second part, of Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. To be righteous is to obey or follow His lead or obey His commands. So we need to find out what we are to do.

We seek by praying, and we wait for His revelation, His promise, or His direction of what is going on or what is wrong, then we pray the revelation, the promise or His direction to find out what we are to do and then we pray on how to do the what He has directed us to do. Then with that information we can now put our faith to it and if necessary we do what ever it takes to do it, for He is with us. A good example is in Appendix J “Faith Moves Mountains”

Meanwhile, how do you suppose this psalm is true?

PS 23:4 Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff,
they comfort me.

PS 23:5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

PS 23:6 Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

How do you suppose David had enough of what to be able to believe this and he did it many times. He came against the enemy many times who had him out numbered but he believed this and he prevailed. Why? He trusted God. He depended on God, he sought first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. But how?

1st he sought God for everything: Prayed unceasingly

2nd he strived to be righteous

3rd he was faithful to God

David is known as a man after God’s own heart.

When he had a problem, he sought God.

When he wanted to know what to do about the problem, he sought God

When he wanted to know how fix the problem, he sought God.

Then he did what God asked him to do about it.

Then he was obedient to God’s word, God’s advice, God’s guidance, to God’s commands; to God’s direction and finally to God’s will.

And so David was precious in God's eyes. He was greatly blessed, he was greatly prosperous, he was greatly projected and finally he was greatly victorious, because he was righteous to God.

5.4 **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

But what does God consider righteous? Look at all of these different scriptures and what do they all in common?

RO 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. [17] For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "**The righteous will live by faith.**"

Or

GAL 3:10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." [11] Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "**The righteous will live by faith.**" [12] The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." [13] Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." [14] He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

RO 5:15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! [16] Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. [17] For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

RO 5:18 Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, **so also the result of one act of righteousness** was justification that brings life for all men. [19] For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, **so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.**

JAS 2:20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? [21] **Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?** [22] You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. [23] And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "**Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,**" and he was called God's friend. [24] You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

JAS 2:25 In the same way, **was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?** [26] As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

1JN 3:7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. **He who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous.** [8] He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. [9] No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. [10] This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

1JN 3:11 This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. [12] Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? **Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.** [13] Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. [14] We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. [15] Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

Well then what is in common in all of these? ACTION!!! The most important one is that of Abraham. He was considered righteous because he believed and tried to obey God by sacrificing his only son, Isaac. This believing, trusting ACTION made him righteous in God's eyes. And what was the basis of this action, faith: Believing, trusting and doing.

This faith made him righteous and based on that faith, God promised Abraham to be the father of a mighty nation, even when all he had was one son to create a nation with.

The key to life in the Kingdom of God is obedience. Obedience through faith is considered righteous. If you love Me you will follow My commands, God says. That is what makes us righteous. And with that we fulfill the second part of the greatest key and secret to the Kingdom of God which is Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things will be ours, even moving mountains.

Or as it says in James:

JAS 5:13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. [14] Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. [16] Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. **The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.**

JAS 5:17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. [18] Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

We have seen a process by which it appears God uses a lot. This process is a formula with lots of variables in it. It is just a concept because the most basic of commands God has for us is to let Him be God. Like us we want to be free to do what we like to do and to enjoy being able to give and do what we know is best for those we love, so does God.

He says:

PS 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

PS 46:11 The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

PS 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

PS 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

PS 23:3 he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

PS 23:4 Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

PS 23:5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

PS 23:6 Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

He is God. What can we do better than He? Why do we try to do better than Him? He is our Father and so He knows what is best for us. Why do we not let Him be our Father and help us? He cares for us so much that He want us to live a great life so He says:

MT 11:25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. [26] Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

MT 11:27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

MT 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

And His burden is this, OBEY HIS COMMANDS.

The process is this, Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

When we have a problem what do we do? We seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, meaning that we seek Him first in prayer do determine what the problem is, then we seek His righteousness or we be obedient to what He would have us do regarding the problem, which usually is to seek first the Kingdom of God as to what the real, true problem is. Then we seek His righteousness or we be obedient to do about what we have found out about the problem, which then leads us to finally seek first the Kingdom of God as to how to salve the problem. Finally we be obedient as to solving it according to what He has shown us.

Like with King David above:

When he had a problem, he sought God to find out the real truth about it
When he wanted to know what to do about the problem, he sought God to find out what was causing the problem.

When he wanted to know how fix the problem, he sought God to find out how do go about fixing or salving the problem.

Then he did what God asked him to do about it.

This process only works through prayer. We start seeking God through prayer. Communicating with Him is everything.

JN 14:10 "Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you are not just My own. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work. [11] Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. [12] I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. [13] And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. [14] You may ask Me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

He says that if we are in Him and He is in us, then we can ask and He will do it. How do we do this? Through communication: through prayer.

MK 11:22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. [23] "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. [24] Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. [25] And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. "

