

## WHAT GOD REALLY WANTS

**John 15:5; 17:20-21; 21:15**      **Colossians 2:6**

**Introduction:** About every pastor at some time in his ministry will have a "christian" get saved. Some after many years of being active Christians as a deacon, teacher, and even a pastor now and then gets "genuinely" saved. What was wrong? How could they have been deceived for so long? What were they doing wrong? Just what does God really want from people?

### I. PEOPLE GIVE GOD WHAT THEY THINK PLEASES HIM

1. People just know that God wants them involved in their Church.
  - They should give faithfully.
  - They should serve on committees and councils.
  - They should sing in the choir or play an instrument if at all possible.
  - They should teach a Sunday School Class.
  - Some think they should being a church officer, such as a deacon, would be in order.
  - Every Christian should be law-abiding.
  - Every Christian should live by the Golden Rule Jesus mentioned.
2. Contrary to what people think, the only way to get to Heaven is by their Faith in Jesus Christ.
  - Some are confident that they have the ability to get to heaven by their own ideas.
  - It's a relationship with Jesus Christ, not some performance of ours, that gets us into Heaven.
3. It's so strange that once some do enter into that relationship with God through faith in Jesus, that they turn around and once again try to gain God's favor by doing this or that, by doing what they think might get His attention.
  - Rituals, performances, programs in which pride and self are in charge, hoping to get God's attention.
  - Somehow, some just don't understand that a person cannot be saved nor made holy by what one does. God is concerned with what we are - TO HIM!

### II. WHAT GOD WANTS IS A RELATIONSHIP WITH US (*Genesis 1:26-27; 3:8*)

1. A relationship with Him was and still is God the Father's primary purpose in creating us. Look through the Bible. It is full of places where God clearly makes it clear that He wants to walk and talk with us - a fellowship.
2. **Genesis 1:27.** Here is perfect freedom, a beautiful fellowship, communion between God and His children.
3. Sin changed the relationship between God and His children, but it didn't stop God from wanting to continue fellowship with them. All through the Bible God is show stretching out His arms to embrace His sinning children, even providing the means of enjoying fellowship with Him today through the sacrifice of His OWN Son.

4. God is also a God of second chances, and then even more. God knew what Cain was going to do, yet He still reached out with a gently promise of acceptance and forgiveness.
5. There was Enoch who walked with God and was whisked away.
  - Noah was given the blue prints of the Ark - Abraham was promised by God that he would be the father of a nation - Jacob met God on a ladder - Joseph was moved by God from a dusty prison to the Pharaoh's palace - Moses and Joshua being led personally by God - Gideon empowered by God - Samuel inspired by God - David was anointed by God - Elijah and Elisha were used by God to speak to Israel - Ezra and Nehemiah were led by God to do bring Israel back after captivity - God sustained Job through his terrible ordeal - Esther was given success in her works by God - different prophets were inspired personally by God as they spoke to the people about God's love and desire to fellowship with them.
6. Jesus Christ walked among the people with twelve chosen to be closest to Him - there was Mary, Martha and Lazarus, the rich, young ruler, Zaccheus and Nicodemus, and Mary Magdalene. Not to forget the little boy with a few fish, the lame, lepers, the tax collectors, the prostitutes, the promiscuous women, the diseased, dying, bleeding, the frail, the helpless, the hopeless, the blind, the broken and even the dead. NOBODY was excluded from Jesus' invitation to come walk with Him.

### III. SO, HOW DOES THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD GET STARTED?

1. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "...*You must be born again...*" What God wants with us so much begins when we experience a spiritual rebirth and come to faith in Jesus Christ.
2. As our walk with God continues, the relationship with God deepens.
  - God begins to be able to use in ways beyond our imagination.
  - Peter underwent a great change and when Jesus got through with Peter, thousands were saved from just one of Peter's sermons.
  - John was ill tempered but we know him today as the "disciple of love."
  - Remember Saul who became Paul the apostle? How Jesus changed him.
  - Changed lives come from a relationship, not from performance.
3. Not allowing the relationship that God wants with us can bring about eternal separation.
  - Emptiness, misery, spiritual death and separation from God for all eternity.
  - For the Christian who insists on continuing to perform and act, instead of trust, there is the lack of victory in life, frustration, failure and so much more.

### CONCLUSION:

1. It is God's desire that all come to know Him and that we accept His provision of salvation, that we experience the peace, contentment and power. God wants to be close to us.
2. The "doing" cannot be ours. It's got to be God. What will you allow Him to do with you?