

Talking With God His ultimate Goal, Your ultimate Need

Exodus 20:18-19

Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." NKJV

What's the best part of a wonderful gift, the excitement of receiving it or the joy of having it? If the gift is really special, the joy of having it extends far beyond the passing excitement of receiving it.

The same is true of our salvation. As exciting as salvation is, the real joy and wonder comes as we grow into a conversational relationship with almighty God. At least that's the way it's supposed to be.

The sad truth is that most Christians, like those Hebrews in the scripture above, would rather know God through religious

experiences that make them feel good about themselves than have a conversational relationship in which God challenges them to be different than they are and to do things they'd rather not.

What about you? When was the last time God spoke to you? Did you follow His instructions? If not, it's probably been a while since you last heard Him and you're not alone. Down through the ages, few in this life have been obedient enough to live in a constant conversational relationship with God, but that is His ultimate goal for you and your ultimate need.

1. God's ultimate Goal; Talking with His Children

Think for a moment about the life God created for mankind in the Garden of Eden. The real focus of that life was not the garden or the animals, but those daily walks with God. Can you imagine being able to ask the creator of the universe any question that came to your mind?

As wonderful as it was, it didn't last long. One day when

God came for their walk, Adam and Eve didn't want to talk to God any more because they were afraid of what He was going to say. The wedge of sin had come between them.

The rest of the Bible is the story of God bringing man back to a perfect place where they can once again have that conversational relationship.

2. Your ultimate Need; Talking with the Father

Can you remember why you got saved? Perhaps you were afraid of hell or were looking for freedom from the bondage of sin. There could be a hundred reasons, but it involved some kind of God-sized need.

But, however wonderful the first thrill of being saved and delivered from that need may have been, you soon realized that there were many more needs in your life and you began talking to the Lord about those needs as well. In fact, that's the basic definition of prayer.

However, talking to Him about your needs still isn't enough, is it? Your ultimate need is to talk *with* Him about your needs. Why? Because the best answer to your problems always involves you in the solution. But if you're not hearing His instructions, you'll not know what to do.

Yes, a two way conversational relationship is not only God's ultimate goal for you; it's your ultimate need.

Begin the Adventure

God didn't stop talking to man when man became a sinner, most of us just stopped listening. The few with the courage to listen have been used of God in mighty ways: Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Paul, John, Ananias, just to name a few.

Almost all Christians have heard or felt God speak to them, but most were frightened and retreated from that conversational relationship into the safety of

religion. Like the Jews at Mt. Sinai, they seek a minister to tell them what God says so they'll feel less guilty when they don't obey.

When did you stop listening to God? What did He say that was so frightening that you chose to hide like Adam in the Garden rather than obey like Moses at Sinai? Sooner or later you must revisit that choice and move forward in your relationship with God from there.

Being saved is only the beginning of a sometimes frightening, but truly fantastic journey. Don't be afraid, that journey will climax in a conversational relationship with the Almighty.