

#113 BECOMING THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Q: I know I love God, I pray often and I do the Lord's work the best I can. But a lot of times I don't feel anything, I just feel kind of dead inside. I don't know if I have a "relationship", I would like to but what does that mean?

Psalm 25:14 "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant."

A: The error we make that causes a barrier to having close relationship with Jesus, is that we tend to work out our lives by ourselves, then we pray for God's approval instead of seeking Him first and trusting him completely from the beginning.

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

A: The "deadness" you feel inside, is probably the same dead relationship we all feel when we continue to go our own way. To get back to a close relationship, we simply must get back on the path that trusts not in our own self, but trusts in God.

Proverbs 3:5,6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths."

A: In other words, talk to Jesus about what to say or do and wait there "in Him," until you feel that peace in your heart, and that voice that tells you which way to go.

Isaiah 30:21 "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

A: Jesus wants you to seek his counsel first, for you to be with Him and in Him always. Jesus wants to be your closest, dearest friend, but He cannot be your dearest friend if you will not draw near to Him and trust Him like a friend.

James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

A: Cease to be double minded (in other words stop being a two-faced friend), stay in tune with Jesus through His Holy Spirit in constant communication. Jesus will give you a rich, joyful relationship with him and a fruitful life. He waits for you daily.

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."

A: Are you receiving nourishment from Jesus as he promised and as you promised when you invited Him into your heart? God's promises never fail, but conditions of His covenant need to be obeyed.

John 15:4 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me."

A: Do you put a wall between yourself and God when you go to work, or school, or experience a problem? Remain in Jesus and fruit will grow from every experience.

John 16:15 "All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

A: When you have relationship with Jesus, you also have relationship with the Father and His Spirit as He reveals Himself to you.

Colossians 2:9 "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

A: Jesus promises that through His Holy Spirit He will make known to you from the Father everything you need for your life, relationships, finances or troubles. He is the only way to be happy in every situation.

John 14:6 "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Q: I've heard that I am supposed to be the bride of Christ, what does that mean?

Isaiah 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels."

A: Jesus clothed you with salvation and covers you with His righteousness to prepare you to be His bride.

Rev 21:9-11 "... I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the Spirit...and shewed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal."

Q: It sounds like Jesus' bride is in heaven, so how can that be about me?

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

A: Jesus is preparing you with all the riches of His Father and giving you free gifts of His Holy Spirit to adorn you and make you beautiful and perfect for heaven. Then He is coming to catch you away!

Isaiah 62:5 "...as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." Proverbs 18:24 "... and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

Q: I want to have that kind of closeness with the Lord, how do I start?

*Ephesians 5:25-27, 32 "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, ... but that it should be holy and without blemish. This is a great mystery: but **I speak concerning Christ and the church.**"*

A: Jesus wants your relationship with Him to be as fulfilling and secure as an intimate husband and wife relationship! He longs to know you intimately. He waits for you and longs for you to rest in His presence and learn to know Him as He knows you.

1 Peter 1:8 "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

PRAYER: My Father, I ask you to forgive me for not meeting you in places where you wait for me all through the day. I want to know you as my best friend and to learn the secret of being in close intimate covenant with you. **I trust** you with **all** my heart to direct my path and show me how to walk with you so I will find joy unspeakable in the intimacy of your presence. Fill me now with Your Spirit Lord, and lead me daily to find fullness of joy in Your presence, **in Jesus name, Amen.**

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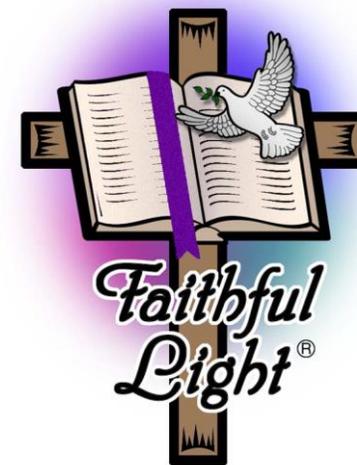
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**Bringing God's Word
For Life's Questions**

This tract series has grown from a weekly Bible study targeting personal life issues faced by God's people through the pages of the Bible and in our lives today, while looking to the power of God's word, that comes alive through His indwelling Holy Spirit to bring truth, lasting change, and wholeness to our lives. We pray these tracts will help you to become more effective in your individual life and in opening doors to express and share your faith, so that many will come to know our God of grace, mercy, love and redemption through your personal ministry to them.