

I Love the Father

Andrew Hopkins 4/12/2021 Rev 2

In 1 Corinthians 15 we read "then God will be all in all". This passage speaks of the relationship that all will one day have with God, but this is at some distant time in the future. If it says all, this must include myself. At this time every part of us will be wholly dedicated to God. What changes must take place to bring me to this point? When this passage finds its fulfillment, the relationship that we will have with God will be stronger than any other in our lives. At that time there will be in us an abiding confidence in God and the direction he chooses. We will not always be the person we are today.

One motivation that pulls us along the road of change is love. This is a road that Jesus traveled before us. In John 14:31 we read "But that the world may know that I love the father; and as the father gave me commandment, even so I do". The joy of knowing what was ahead regarding the kingdom I am sure was a great encouragement for Jesus, but I believe a stronger motivation was a love between father and son and in this case it was an outstanding love. Paul describes this relationship "who can separate us from the Love of God" Rom 8:39. The answer is nothing! Nothing can interfere with the love God had for Jesus and Jesus had for God. This is the relation we must have with God. But this love is something we learn. We may not all the love we need built into us. But for every deficiency God has remedy.

I heard a minister once say getting to know God is getting to know ourselves. To do this we find Jesus is the pattern that we are to follow. If we learn of him he says we will find rest to our souls. By learning of Christ we learn of God. We learn of God's love for the world and we learn of his love for us and we who we really are both the good and the bad. As we learn of Christ we are exposed before God. We find he knows our every step, and he plans for them. Psalm 139 "not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether". The 139 psalm suggests we will see the inner workings of who we are. Psalm 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. God touches our innermost person, that which makes up who we are.

Jesus and Adam

Of Jesus we read; he foresaw the Lord always before him. Why was Jesus so different from Adam? Some might think that God would make a concerted effort with the second Adam, who was Jesus, after the fall of the first Adam. But this cannot be true there was anything missing in the first Adam's relation with God. There was nothing left undone? One thing we know in time as we grow we exert ourselves in different directions and we do not always respond to correction in the same way. Jesus was different from Adam in that he had no desire to exert himself beyond what God wanted. He was not a son who tested his father's limits. I believe this is one marvel of Jesus. We think of the great faith and obedience of Abraham but Jesus was far beyond Abraham. Jesus was the son that Adam never was. This was before Adam fell. This is why Jesus became the chief cornerstone. It was written in the prophets that this would be true.

In the story of Jacob and Esau they were twins and they took different paths from birth, and it turns out that Esau was the father's favorite, yet the promises went to Jacob. Some apostles were closer to Jesus than others but Jesus was closer to God than all. He stood out in this respect. He was his father's delight, a son who loved his presence, who loved to sit and learn, a son who learned obedience to his father even when he suffered unjustly. Hebrews 5:8 is one great passage; *Though he was a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.*

It does not seem reasonable to say Jesus was programmed to be the person God wanted. If this were true how could we be encouraged to make the choices he made if he did not make them himself? After the Jordan River every day Jesus made a choice to follow a path he knew would lead to his death. If Jesus did not have free will his example would be meaningless. He by choice set a path for us that had never been taken. He walked the steps we must walk, he felt the pain, he made the choices we must make. In everything he was first.

When we consider this aspect of Jesus, his free will, I believe we reveal a great love story of father and son. There must have been an interaction between them that was wonderful, and in this I believe we see the key to opening our own

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hearts to God. When we love him he will make his abode with us. This is why our time spent with him is so important. I believe this is the difference between Adam and Jesus. Jesus loved God; it was his delight to make his father happy.

Jesus got to know God in the same way we get to know him. The Bible is one source by which Jesus learned of God. This interaction between Jesus and God, I would think was often related to what he learned in the scriptures about God. The scriptures became Jesus bread and water, the DNA which combined with experience and the spirit of God brought Jesus to be the person God wanted him to be. A tried stone, tested and proven under great pressure which formed him in the crucible of God's furnace. Isaiah 7:15 butter and honey will he eat until he knows to refuse the evil and choose the good. Jesus had free will and God shaped him to a great extent by what was recorded in the scriptures.

Through the scriptures Jesus saw his future with God. Adam also look ahead he saw his future with Eve. Adam was about making everything write for a life he saw that God had set before him in the garden with Eve. Jesus saw a life with God beyond this life. Jesus saw he had a place with God. He had a longing for a place with God. Adam grew up in a garden paradise Jesus grew up in a garden of weeds but in a way Jesus found paradise, one that caught his desire, this he found in the scriptures. As Adam learned about the garden he was unable to see the designer as Jesus did. Adam before he fell and Jesus were as different as night and day. God planted the seed of his word in both Adam and Jesus but it took deep root in Jesus. He loved what he learned in the scriptures.

Jesus as a child saw a world of people in bondage, he learned just as we did about the baby Moses whose life was sought as an infant, he learned how Moses went out to see his kinsmen in slavery and wanted to help. He learned how Moses killed a man and spent 40 years in the wilderness as a shepherd, he learned how God sent Moses to bring his people out of bondage. This was all important but above this he saw something behind this, that was, God had a place for him and with him. A place for me? yes me! If we see this we can understand God has opened a door for us we then can open a door for God. The door to our hearts. We now can understand that God and no man will show us the way, it is a way he makes known to us. At this point we no longer need an Elijah to bring the words that we might hear them and do them. Because God will reveal to us what we need. We are no longer bound to the influences of this world we are now bound to God and his design for us which only God knows. There is nothing between Jesus' love and God nothing and this is how it is between us and God. Adam could not understand this; he was bound to Eve.

In Jesus' time ministering the gospel he continued in the most adverse trials to make a choice to stay with his father to seek and keep what his father asked of him. This allowed God to shape him in a way that made him to be a magnificent high priest. A work of love between father and son. The beautiful qualities crafted into Jesus will be a marvel for all time.

We are in the place of Adam and Jesus. I could emphasize obedience but at this time I emphasize the word love, love of a son for the father and father for son a responding love. I believe we can grasp this and if we can learn this love I believe obedience will fall in place. Our labors in the Lord will not be forced; our labor in the Lord will be freewill offerings done out of Joy for the Love of God. We can make a choice to be the son our heavenly father wants, always looking to him for guidance not wanting to displease him, loving his company, learning from him, this is a way of life that we must apply and it can only happen by love.

The most important response that we can make at this time comes from inside. If we seek to know him and learn to love God we can establish new ground for love to grow. Setting love for God on the inside makes our hearts a home where God wants to be. That they may be one as we are one. In this way God will be all in all.