

DEVELOPING GREAT VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL RELATIONSHIPS

Biblical Principles:

- 1) **God views our vertical relationship with Him and our horizontal relationships with people as extremely important** (Mt 22:34-40, 28:19-20).
- 2) **Poor horizontal relationships with people will harm our vertical relationship with God** (we need to be forgiving, merciful, non-judgmental, loving etc. -- Mt 6:14-15, 18:21-35; Mk 11:25; Lk 6:36-37; I Jn 4:7-21).
- 3) **A poor vertical relationship with God will harm our horizontal relationship with people** (Case studies: Adam & Eve; Cain & Abel)
- 4) **There are a number of ways to improve our relationship with God:**

(Remember: God loves us greatly and chooses to seek a special relationship with us. If we choose to love Him, then we will enjoy a wonderful mutual love relationship! Eph 1:3-5, 2:4-5; Acts 17:24-27; Jn 3:16; I Jn 3:16)

From John Ortberg's God is Closer Than You Think:

“Cultivate the practice of God’s presence” i.e. “consciously practice the presence of Christ” (live in the moment; think about and be aware of the presence of Jesus in all your daily activities). Psalms 118:24; Lam 3:22-23; Luke 10:38-42.

Spiritual pathways to help us experience God’s presence and relate to Him:

- 1) Intellectual
- 2) Serving
- 3) Worship
- 4) Activist
- 5) Contemplation

6) Creation

From Charles Swindoll's Intimacy With the Almighty:

Make Four Decisions and Follow the Related Disciplines:

1) Decision: To reorder one's private world Discipline: **Simplicity**

Ecc 7:29; 2 Cor 11:1-3

2) Decision: To be still Discipline: **Silence**

Psalms 46:10

3) Decision: To cultivate serenity Discipline: **Solitude**

Mark 6:30-32; Psalms 139: 1-4, 23-24

4) Decision: To trust Lord completely Discipline: **Surrender**

Proverbs 3:5-6

Other Biblical Insights:

- a) Worship God only, not false gods & idols; avoid spiritual adultery (Ex 20:3-6; Jm 4:4)
- b) Be humble, not proud (Jam 4:6; I Pet 5:5; Pv 3:34, 16:5; Is 57:15)
- c) Be holy/righteous, not sinful (Ps 66:18-20; Pv 11:20, 15:9)
- d) Confess your sins, don't hide them (I Jn 1:9; Pv 28:13)
- e) Draw near to God, don't pull away (Jam 4:8)
- f) Obey God, don't disobey. Obedience is our primary way of expressing love to God (Jn 14:15,21; I Jn 5:3; Duet 30:9)
- g) Have faith & trust in God, not disbelief (Heb 10:38, 11:6)
- h) Give heart to God, don't be hard hearted (2 Chr 16:9)
- i) Seek after God, don't ignore Him (Ps 42:1-2; Is 55:6; Heb 11:6)
- j) Delight in God, not the world (Ps 37:4)
- k) Pray (Heb 4:14-16, 10:19-22; Mt 21:22)
- l) Learn & apply His word, don't be a hearer only (Jam 1:22; Lk 8:19-21; Jn 14:15,21; I Jn 5:3)
- m) Get to know God, don't ignore Him (Phil 3:7-10; Rm 11:33-36)
- n) Fix eyes on Jesus, not on things of the world (Heb 12:2; Lk 14:15-20)

o) Seek God's kingdom first, not our earthly desires (Mt 6:25-34)

p) Resist temptation, don't give in (I Jn 2:15-17)

q) Be truthful with God and others (Pv 12:22)

r) Accept the Lord's discipline as an expression of love (Pv 3:11-12; Heb 12:5-11)