

For Our Information

Joyce Venable is doing better.

John LaValla is continues to deal with a lack of energy or strength but is gradually improving.

Brenda Keisler had her neck pain treatment last week.

Several have upcoming treatment, tests and procedures for various health issues. Many family members also have health issues.

Remember one another as we pray to the Father each day

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

right hand upholds me." David followed after God, as a child follows his father, in order to build a strong relationship with Him.

This is our requirements as well. As Christians, we have dedicated ourselves to following Christ (**Luke 9:23**). In doing this, we have committed ourselves to walk in God's pathways. Like David, we must walk in the paths of God, being directed by Him into all that is good and holy.

This will not always be easy. Satan's goal is to turn us away from the paths of God to walk in the ways of destruction. He will use all manner of temptation to draw us away from God, and we must steel our minds and our feet to walk in the way of God. This requires that we become stronger in the knowledge of the Lord, that we grow in faith, and that we take on the attributes of our Father.

Drawing close to God is not an easy task, but not because He is difficult to approach. No, the difficulty lies in us, in our willingness to do those things that are pleasing in His sight. God desires that all people draw near to Him. We must simply do those things that will allow us to: praise Him, meditate on His things, and walk in His paths.

Seeking His Righteousness

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Fellowship With God

Evan Bennett

It is important for all of us to develop a strong relationship with God. He created us in His image and desires that we seek Him (**Acts 17**); He is not far removed from us, but desires that we draw near to Him. Indeed, the greatest result of Christ's sacrifice for us is that it removes the barrier of sin that kept us from drawing near to God (**Romans 5:10**).

Despite the importance of fellowship with the Father, many are confused as to how to build a strong relationship with Him. With our physical mindset it is very difficult to focus on spiritual concerns, which is required if we hope to approach God. For this reason, many remain frustrated in their attempts to grow spiritually as Christians. Many follow God



Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:8



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

and seek to do His will, but they never develop the relationship with Him that they both want and need.

If we want to understand how to develop a strong relationship with God, we would do well to examine the lives of those people who we know were strong, faithful people of God. The Bible is filled with such people - Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Daniel, et. al. - but one person, I think, comes to everyone's mind when thinking of God's faithful people: David.

In the **63rd Psalm**, David spoke of the joy of having fellowship with God. Speaking of the deeply personal relationship he had with the Father, David wrote, *"O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You..."* Despite his shortcomings, David had a deep and abiding relationship with the Father. God Himself testified that David was a man after His own heart (**1Samuel 13:14**). David, then, should be an example to us all when we seek to have a deeper relationship with God. His actions should be guides for us; his thoughts and motives should serve as a model. In the **63rd Psalm**, where David spoke so beautifully of his relationship with God, we find clues for understanding how David developed this relationship. Studying these words should aid us all in drawing more closely to our Lord.

PRAISE

The first lesson we learn from David's psalm is that our relationship with God must be built on praise of Him. In **verses 3-5**, David wrote, *"Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips."*

David recognized the glory and majesty of God and gave Him praise for this. David knew God's power and His mercy and was thankful for everything God provided. David satisfied his heart with the knowledge of God's greatness; he soothed his mind with thoughts of God's

Store In My Heart

Deuteronomy 1:1

These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel across the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel and Laban and Hazereth and Dizahab.

The fifth book is a summary of the story of Israel becoming a nation. As they camp just east of Jordan and the Promised land, Moses delivers his final address to the people of God. The failure to enter, the travels of the nation, the giving of the Law and the punishments of God are included in this message. Also included are reminders of God's promise of blessing if they obey and a curse if they turn aside from His Will.

Moses would not enter the land, thus Joshua is given his role as Israel is to enter.

love.

If we are going to have a strong relationship with the Father, we must first recognize His majesty and glory. We cannot approach God proudly and arrogantly. Instead, we must, as Peter put it, *"humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God,"* (**1Peter 5:6**) and approach Him with lowliness of heart, recognizing His authority, and willing to do His will above all else. We must first recognize and praise His majesty if we hope to draw near to Him.

Meditation

The second thing needed for a strong relationship with God is a commitment to turn our minds to His ways. David wrote in **verse 6**, *"When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches."* David, in other words, made sure that his last thoughts of the day were on God. He gave his mind over to the things of God, meditating on His word day and night.

If we hope to have a strong, personal relationship with the Father, we must turn our minds to godly things. This is not an easy task; our minds, by nature, are feeble and cannot comprehend the true things of God. As God said in **Isaiah 55:9**, *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."*

We must train our minds, then, to think on God's things. We must give time to a study of His word and meditation on His things. The relationship we have with God must be spiritual, so we must give our minds over to spiritual concerns. It does not come naturally, but from training our hearts and minds to seek God.

David sought to meditate on God's things to make his fellowship with the Father stronger and deeper. We, too, must seek to meditate on the thoughts and words of God if we hope to draw more closely to Him.

Follow Him

Finally, if we hope to have a stronger relationship with God, we must walk in His ways being led by Him. David wrote in **verse 8**, *"My soul follows close behind You; Your*