

SERMON NOTES SERIES

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Maintaining A God Connection



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Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9)***. I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,
Pastor John

RESOURCES USED

- * The Companion Bible
- * Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- * Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- * A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- * Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- * The American College Dictionary
- * World's Bible Handbook
- * The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- * Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- * The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- * God's Plan For Man
- * Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- * Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- * Manners And Customs From the Bible
- * What The Bible Is All About
- * Halley's Bible Handbook

These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

Hosea 4:6

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

Proverbs 23:7

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

Colossians 1:9

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

Proverbs 24:3-5

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

Mark 13:10

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,
John and Karen Pelizzari

MAINTAINING A GOD CONNECTION

1. In an effort to get us closer to God we need to examine and confront anything that would hinder the outpouring of His Spirit to us in these last days.

- a. I am going to say some hard things your flesh won't like.

2 Chronicles 16:9 **For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.**

2. Notice that God is looking for someone who is interested in being in His presence.
 - a. In His presence is strength, or the ability to be untouchable, unmoveable, unshakeable.
 - b. It doesn't mean that satan will leave you alone, but it does mean that the devils' efforts will not influence you.
3. So God also sets the condition for this victorious kind of living...it is promised to those **whose heart is perfect toward him**.

4. Sadly, He also informs us why many people have so much difficulty. Because church folks are not pursuing His presence, it states that we will...**from henceforth thou shalt have wars.**
5. God wants a people who will spend time in worship / fellowship with Him.
 - a. But we must come to Him with a willing heart.
 - b. Let's look at the difference when there is heart worship and head worship.

Psalm 103:7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

6. Two different people are in God's presence: Moses and the children of Israel.
7. While in the presence of God, two different manifestations occurred:
 - a. God showed Moses His ways, or Who He was by personal revelation.
 - b. God showed Israel His acts, His works by outward demonstration.

Psalm 103:7 (NLT) He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel.

8. See, when you know God in a more personal way, then you have a greater level of faith, trust and confidence because you know God for Who He is.
9. When you are only acquainted with God, you're not sure if His next "*mighty deed that you need*" will come to pass.
 - a. This kind of person is a God-user because of the surface relationship.
 - b. Let's see how that makes God "*feel.*"

Psalm 95:10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:

Grieved - Hb - *quwt* - to loathe self, to detest.

10. For 40 years He couldn't stand these people.
11. But wait a minute, God is a God of love, we are His creation, how can He loathe people?

Proverbs 6:16-19 [16] These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: [17] A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, [18] An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, [19] A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that

soweth discord among brethren.

12. Here we see a list of seven types of behaviors that God hates and considers an abomination.
- a. **A proud look** - a person full of pride is one who feels they know/do better.
 - b. **A lying tongue** - people who cannot keep their word or simply lie.
 - c. **Hands that shed innocent blood** - murderers, abusers.
 - d. **An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations** - thinking of doing hurtful things to others.
 - e. **Feet that be swift in running to mischief** - like to run with the wrong crowd and drag others into it.
 - f. **A false witness that speaketh lies** - one who says they saw something but are lying about it in some way or another.
 - g. **He that soweth discord among brethren** - someone who starts trouble amongst believers in a church.
13. The main thing right now is that God is looking for people to come into His presence.

14. The reality is instead of having our hearts prepared for worship, we come to church with the cares of this life, wrestling going on inside our soul or the influence of this world. Combined they cause major distractions.

1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

15. There are three kinds of people who come to church:
- a. The natural man - one who is not saved.
 - b. The spiritual man - one who does not get offended at the Word preached.
 - c. The carnal man - one whose flesh, thoughts, feelings and attitudes rule their life.
16. The majority of people who attend churches are believers who are either carnal or spiritual.
- a. You can't tell the difference between a carnal believer and a spiritual believer by looking at them.
 - b. But there are two who do know...Jesus and you.
17. So how do you maintain a God connection so that His presence will make you unstoppable?

Isaiah 29:13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Isaiah 29:13 (NLT) And so the Lord says, "These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away. And their worship of me amounts to nothing more than human laws learned by rote.

18. The first thing we need to do is look at our hearts. To see if our hearts are occupied with other things.
 - a. Most church folks believe that it is the praise and worship team that is supposed to usher in the presence of the Lord...that plays a part, but it is not the foundation.
 - b. So let's look at some common hindrances that interfere with our God connection.

1. Wrong Priorities

19. Another name for wrong priorities is *idolatry*.
 - a. How many hours do you spend in front of the television?

- b. Do you spend an equal amount or more in your Bible?
 - c. How much time do you spend participating in your favorite hobby?
20. Whether you want to admit it or not, our priorities can be so easily misplaced.
 - a. God becomes jealous.
 - b. We squeeze in God time.
21. When we're trying to fit God into our schedule it's because other things are more important or take the priority, then this is idolatry. You cannot truly enter into worship if your priorities are not right.

2. Worldliness

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

22. We cannot escape the world's system.
 - a. But worldly way is usually opposed to God's ways.
 - b. Worldliness will prevent you from entering into the fullness of worship.

23. What you do is always a product of what you think. So what influences you? The Word or the world?

3. An Independent Attitude

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

24. Without the Lord, we can do nothing. An independent attitude will keep us from truly worshiping God.

25. The way to stay attached to the vine is by remaining in fellowship with God. When we begin to have an independent attitude, we cut ourselves off from the vine that feeds us.

4. Pride

1 Corinthians 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1 Corinthians 1:29 (NLT) so that no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

26. Notice, this verse doesn't say that flesh cannot come into His presence; it says no flesh shall glory in His presence.

27. Pride always lifts itself above others. This personality attribute caused satan to fall.

a. When this spirit is on a person, it causes that person to believe that it is better than others.

28. If we have pride in our lives, we must repent. Pride makes it impossible to worship God.

5. Unforgiveness

29. Unforgiveness will always separate you from a face to face encounter with God.

Isaiah 59:1-2: [1] Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: [2] But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

30. When we allow unforgiveness to stay, it causes God to turn away.

Isaiah 59:1-2 (NLT) [1] Listen! The Lord is not too weak to save you, and he is not becoming deaf. He can hear you when you call. [2] But there is a problem—your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.

31. We think because we live in the age of grace that God will amend some scriptures to fit our lifestyle

and attitudes. But He is the same, yesterday and forever. He changes not.

Mark 11:25 **And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.**

Matthew 6:15 **But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

32. If we are unwilling to ask forgiveness from others, then God must stand in unforgiveness toward us.

6. A Critical Attitude

33. A critical attitude is really a manifestation of pride. When someone is critical, they are setting themselves up as a judge to look down on other people.

Matthew 7:1-2: [1] Judge not, that you be not judged. [2] For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged: and with what measure you mete, it will be measured to you again. And why behold thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but consider not the beam that is in you own eye?

34. When you criticizing others, you have reaped back a good measured, pressed down, shaken together, and running over splinter.

a. Whatever you sow, you will reap...that is why it is so important to sow love.

35. When you judge others, you are in worse condition than any sin they might be participating in.

Romans 2:1 **Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.**

Romans 2:1 (MSG) **Those people are on a dark spiral downward. But if you think that leaves you on the high ground where you can point your finger at others, think again. Every time you criticize someone, you condemn yourself. It takes one to know one. Judgmental criticism of others is a well-known way of escaping detection in your own crimes and misdemeanors.**

36. The next time you feel the temptation to run someone down, remember that you have been found guilty of the same thing.

7. Apathy

37. Apathy is laziness. Many people know what they need to do but they simply won't do it!
38. Some will say that they "*don't have a peace about it*" when it is actually a spirit of fear that robs them of that peace. So instead of stepping out in faith, they do nothing.

Ecclesiastes 10:18 (NLT) **Laziness lets the roof leak, and soon the rafters begin to rot.**

39. The sloth will always miss the blessings of God but the diligent will always find them!

8. Legalism

40. Legalism is a very sneaky hindrance. It's when we feel that things should be done a certain way, *your way*.
41. Legalism isn't always rules and regulations, but for it to be right, it must go your way.
- a. You can be an employee and feel this way about the others you work with.
 - b. You can be a housewife and feel this way about your husband.

- c. You can be a church member and feel this way about your church leadership.
 - d. The Pharisees felt this way about Jesus...don't heal on the Sabbath.
42. Legalism is a form of self-righteousness that will keep you from entering into His presence.
43. The purpose of worship is not to draw attention to our works, but to draw attention to the works of God!
44. Regardless how the Lord uses us, all of the glory goes back to Him!

9. Impatience

Hebrews 6:12 **That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

45. If you have been doubting that God's promises will come to pass, ask God to forgive you for your impatience.
- a. The farmer doesn't tell the seed when to sprout.
 - b. Realize that your promise is planted in the ground of faith and you may not see it yet, but it is producing.
46. Find someone whom you think is living the lifestyle of faith and do what they do.

47. While everyone else is enjoying the presence of God, you are missing out because of your impatience!

10. A Lack of Knowledge

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

48. Faith comes from knowledge of the Word of God. A lack of knowledge can be a hindrance.

49. The closer we desire to walk with Him, the more accountable He will expect us to be.

a. God's desire is that we continue to grow in our knowledge of His Word.

50. Every time you spend time in God's Word, you become more like Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)

And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.

51. The more of God's Word we learn, the more we're changed into the image of God and the easier it becomes to get into His presence.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

52. The number one priority in your life should be God and the things surrounding your relationship with God. This includes:

a. Studying of the Word.

b. Prayer, time with Him.

c. Church attendance. Nothing should be allowed to separate you from these things.

Matthew 4:8-9 [8] Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; [9] And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

53. Whenever things come before God, you have in essence fallen down to worship the devil and the world's system.

a. Our priorities are important to God

54. The number one priority in your life is the attention you give to God. Without God, your family will fall apart, your business will fail, your friendships will not be blessed.

a. God is the glue that holds everything else together.

55. Your second priority is your family - first your spouse, then your children.

56. Your third priority is your job.

57. Finally, are “things” - possessions, personal interests, hobbies.

58. Most everyone has their priorities completely reversed. They have put “things” in the number one slot and God falls in last place.

Deuteronomy 4:24 For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.

59. If you are willing to say :

God, if You are looking for one who will put you in first place, search no more.

**If Your eyes are roaming to and fro, here I am!
I am a true worshiper.**

**I want to worship You in spirit and in truth
because I know that is what will carry me into
eternity.**

The car I drive won't get me there.

The house I own won't get me there.

None of my possessions will get me there.

Personal interests won't get me there.

**It is only my relationship with You that I will
carry me into eternity.**

I want Your presence!

Cleanse my heart and fill it with all of You!”

60. Do you desire his presence?

61. Are you willing to come forth?

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