What Is Man In His Relationship With God

Intro: Psa. 8:3-4 “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” Gen. 1:1, 26-27 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth....26And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” From these two passages, we can observe that God is mindful of man and is the Creator of man. As such, God is certainly interested in man and having a relationship with him.

I. CAN MAN HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?
   A. Some examples of man having a relationship with God.
   B. Garden of Eden.
      1. Prior to man’s sin, he had a relationship with God
      2. Gen. 3:8 “And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.”
         a. This indicates a continual occurrence.
         b. God and man had a beautiful relationship one with the other.
      3. That relationship continued as long as Adam and Eve were in the garden.
   C. Noah.
      1. He lived during an evil time; Gen. 6:5 “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”
      2. Gen. 6:8 “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”
      3. God informed Noah that He was going to destroy the world.
      4. God instructed Noah to build an ark to the saving of his family.
   D. Abram, Abraham.
      1. He is one whom God said was His friend.
         a. Isa. 41:8 “But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.”
         b. Jam. 2:23 “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”
         c. Friend can be translated as associate or companion.
      2. That relationship was so great, God gave him 3 great promises.
         a. Gen. 12:1-3, 7 “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed....7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.”
         b. To make of him a great nation
         c. To give him a great land
d. That through his seed all the world would be blessed.

3. God and Abraham had that relationship throughout his life.

E. Moses.

1. One whom God spoke face to face.
   a. Exo. 33:11 “And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.”
   b. Deu. 34:10 “And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,”

2. There are several other events in Moses’ life which shows that he and God had a special relationship.
   a. The burning bush.
   b. God giving the Law through him.
   c. Moses allowed to see God’s glory (Exo. 33).

F. The children of Israel.

1. They had a relationship with God above other nations of the world.
2. Exo. 19:5-6 “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”

3. God often speaks of His special relationship with Israel.
   a. Deu. 7:6 “For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.”
   b. Deu. 14:2, 21 “For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth....Ye shall not eat of any thing that dieth of itself: thou shalt give it unto the stranger that is in thy gates, that he may eat it; or thou mayest sell it unto an alien: for thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother’s milk.”
   c. 1 Kings 8:53 “For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.”
   d. Mal. 3:17 “And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.”

G. David.

1. 1 Sam. 13:14 “But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.”
2. Acts 13:22 “And when he had removed him [Saul], he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.”

3. As a man after God’s own heart, he had a relationship with God.

H. Many others could be mentioned:

1. The good kings of the Southern Kingdom
2. The prophets
3. The apostles
4. Those who helped and supported the apostles (Timothy, Luke, Philemon, Apollos, Priscilla and Aquila, et al.)

I. We learn that man can and has had a relationship with God.

II. HOW CAN MAN HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

A. All men have a relationship with God, physically speaking.
1. God created all things (Gen. 1)
2. When God created Adam, he was representative of all men and was the son of God.
3. Luke 3:38 “Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.”

B. Man can have a spiritual relationship with God.
1. God created Adam and they had a relationship with one another.
   a. Sin destroyed that relationship between God and man.
      (1) Isa. 59:1-2 “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”
      (2) Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
      (3) Jam. 1:15 “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
   b. All men sin.
      (1) Rom. 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
      (2) Gal. 3:22 “But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”
2. All men need to be reconciled to God to have a relationship with Him.
   a. Rom. 5:10 “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”
   b. 2 Cor. 5:19-21 “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
   c. Eph. 2:16 “And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby;”
3. In reconciliation, peace is made between God and man.
   a. Rom. 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;”
   b. With peace comes that relationship with God.
C. Examples we have observed.

1. God and Adam.
   a. God gave Adam a law; Gen. 2:15-17 “And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
   b. As long as Adam obeyed, they had a relationship with God.

2. Noah.
   a. During his time the world was evil; Gen. 6:5-7 “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.”
   b. Gen. 6:8 “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”
   c. Why?
      (1) Gen. 6:9 “These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”
         (a) He was just, innocent or guiltless, which deals with his relationship with God.
         (b) With others he was perfect which is morally good, upright, blameless.
         (c) Noah walked with God, his life was lived in harmony with God’s Will.
      (2) God gives Noah instructions for building an ark.
         (a) Gen. 6:22 “Thus did Noah according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”
         (b) Because of Noah obeying God, he had a relationship with Him.

3. Abraham.
   a. Jam. 2:23 “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”
      (1) Context: Jam. 2:21-24 “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.”
      (2) He had that relationship because of the works he did.
   b. His obedience demonstrated throughout his life.
      (1) He was instructed to leave the land in which he was living and go to a land which God would show him (Gen. 12).
         (a) Gen. 12:4 “So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.”
(b) Heb. 11:8 “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”

(2) Abraham was commanded to offer his son.
   (a) Gen. 22:2 “And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”
   (b) He rose up early the next morning and offered his son.
   (c) Heb. 11:17-19 “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”

(3) His life was one of obedient faithfulness, thus called the father of the faithful; Rom. 4:11, 16 “And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised; that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:...16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.”

(4) His obedience is why he had a relationship with God.

   a. God called Moses to tell Pharaoh to let His people go.
      (1) Moses did make some excuses, but he went.
      (2) Moses spoke exactly what God wanted said.
      (3) Pharaoh tried to get Moses to compromise, but he would not.
   b. Moses led Israel to Mt Sinai, where he went into the mountain and received the Law of God.
      (1) He told Israel exactly what God said.
      (2) God gave him instructions as to how to make the tabernacle.
         (a) He made everything according to the patter.
         (b) Exo. 25:40 “And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.”
         (c) Exo. 26:30 “And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle according to the fashion thereof which was shewed thee in the mount.”
         (d) Exo. 27:8 “Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it.”
         (e) Num. 8:4 “And this work of the candlestick was of beaten gold, unto the shaft thereof, unto the flowers thereof, was beaten work: according unto the pattern which the LORD had shewed Moses, so he made the candlestick.”
      (3) Num. 12:7 “My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.”
5. The children of Israel.
   a. They affirmed that they would be obedient to God.
      (1) Exo. 19:8 “And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.”
      (2) Exo. 24:3 “And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.”
   b. Jud. 2:7 “And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.”
   c. Sadly they did not remain faithful to Him.
6. Saul and David
   a. God made Saul king when he humbled himself under God.
      (1) 1 Sam. 15:17 “And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?”
      (2) Saul did not remain obedient to God’s Will.
      (3) God removed Saul and established David as king.
   b. David was obedient to God.
      (1) 1 Kin. 15:5 “David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.”
      (2) David continued to have a relationship with God because he obeyed God.

D. Man today can have a spiritual relationship with God.
1. Man can become a child of God (have a relationship with Him).
   a. John 1:12 “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”
   b. He must be born again.
      (1) John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
      (2) The Spirit creates in man a new spiritual life.
         (a) He does this through the Word of God.
         (b) Eph. 5:26 “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”
         (c) Jam. 1:18 “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
         (d) 1 Pet. 1:22-23 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
(3) Man’s obedience culminates initially in the water of baptism.
(a) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
(b) Eph. 5:26 “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”
(c) Tit. 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
(d) 1 Pet. 3:20-21 “Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”

2. At the point of baptism we come into a relationship with God.
   a. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
   b. As long as we are obedient and separate from sin, we continue in that relationship with Him; 2 Cor. 6:17-18 “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty”

III. CAN MAN KNOW AND ABIDE IN GOD?
   A. Some have denied the possibility of knowing anything.
      1. They know that you cannot know anything.
      2. Others deny we can know God’s Word. Either:
         a. God could not produce a document which His creation could understand (He does not have the ability).
         b. God could but was not benevolent enough to do so (He is not omnibenevolent).
   B. Just one’s interpretation.
      1. Different ways of saying it:
         a. “That’s just your interpretation.”
         b. “I have my interpretation and you have your’s.”
         c. “We are all going to the same place, just taking different routes.”
      2. It is a denial of our ability to know God and His Will.
   C. All we can do is search for Truth or get closer to it.
      1. They deny the possibility of attaining Truth.
      2. It is foolish to seek for something you cannot attain.
      3. How can you get closer to something that does not ultimately exist.
D. Examples:

1. Adam and Eve.
   a. God gave them instructions what they were to do and not do.
      (1) Dress and keep the garden; Gen. 2:15 “And the LOR D God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”
      (2) Be fruitful and fill the earth; Gen. 1:28 “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”
      (3) Not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; Gen. 2:16-17 “And the LOR D God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
   b. Could they know (understand) what God said and obey it?
      (1) When Satan tempts Eve, she knew what God had said.
      (2) Gen. 3:1-3 “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LOR D God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”
   c. They knew what God said and they had obeyed it, thus having a relationship with Him.

2. Noah.
   a. He lived during a time of great evil, yet he had a relationship with God.
   b. God determined to destroy the world with a flood.
   c. Noah found grace in God’s eyes; Gen. 6:8 “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LOR D.”
   d. God gave Noah instructions for building an ark to save himself and his family; Gen. 6:13-21.
   e. Noah knew and understood the instructions God gave him.
      (1) When God said make it of gopher wood:
         (a) Noah understood and made it of gopher wood.
         (b) He did not use oak, pine, or any other type of wood.
      (2) When God said to make it 300 by 50 by 30 cubits: Noah understood and made it that size.
      (3) Gen. 6:22 “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”

3. The same could be said of each of those who had a relationship with God.
   a. Abraham received commands from God, understood them and obeyed them; Heb. 11:8 “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”
b. Moses was faithful (received God’s commands, understood them, obeyed them); Num. 12:7 “My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.”
c. When God gave Israel His commands, they were able to understand and do them.
d. The intricate details of the tabernacle and its furnishings were able to be made according to the instructions God gave.
e. Saul could have obeyed the instructions to destroy the Amalekites, but simply did not; 1 Sam. 15.

E. We can know the truth.
1. John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
2. 1 Tim. 2:4 “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”
3. In response to Jesus asking the apostles if they would leave Him.
   a. Peter responded; John 6:69 “And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”
   b. If we cannot know then Peter could not be sure.
4. Some departed from the faith; 1 Tim. 4:3 “Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.”
   a. Would be impossible to believe and know the truth if it did not exist.
   b. Would also be impossible if it was not knowable by man.
5. Man is to seek after and find truth.
   a. Acts 17:27 “That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.”
      (1) In seeking God we seek after truth.
      (2) Some claim that all we can do is seek, but we can never find.
      (3) We can find God and truth.
   b. We have this obligation to seek and find Him because He has revealed himself in nature.
      (1) Psa. 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”
      (2) Rom. 1:20 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”
      (3) We then can know what God desires; John 7:17 “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”
   c. Knowing the truth means we can also know when a doctrine is false.

F. Knowing the Truth, we are then able to obey it.
1. God would not reveal Himself to man if man could not do what God said.
2. Mat. 7:21, 24 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven... Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.”
3. Romans:
   a. Theme is the Gospel is God’s power to save; Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
   b. Rom. 6:17-18 “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

4. We must do the work of God.
   a. Luke 6:46 “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”
   b. Rom. 2:13 “For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.”
   c. Jam. 1:21-25 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”
   d. Jam. 2:14-26 “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? 17Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19Thou believest that there is one God; thou dost well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. 25Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? 26For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
   e. 1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”

5. Heb. 5:9 “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

G. Those who obey are abiding in God and God in them.
1. John 15:3-4, 9-10 “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 3Abide 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.... 4As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.”
2. 1 John 2:6 “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”
   a. If we cannot know the truth and obey it, then we could not walk as Christ walked.
   b. We can walk as He walked, and thus abide in Him.

3. When we abide in Him, we have the hope of glory.
   a. Col. 1:27 “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”
   b. That hope is based on our walking in Him; Col. 2:6 “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.”
   c. They were able to receive Christ because of what they had been taught; Col. 1:5 “For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.”
   d. By being taught the truth, learning it, and obeying it, they were able to walk or abide in Him.

IV. WHAT DOES GOD DESIRE IN THAT RELATIONSHIP?

A. Why did God create man?
1. He is a being which desires fellowship; He does not want to be alone.
2. We see this in God coming to have a relationship with Adam in the Garden; Gen. 3:8 “And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.”
3. This would also be one of the reasons why God promised a Savior to man.
   a. Man severed his relationship with God by sin.
   b. God set in motion a plan to bring man back into that relationship.
      (1) Gen. 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”
      (2) God allowed His only begotten Son to take on the likeness of man; Phi. 2:6-7 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ‘But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.”
      (3) God allowed His Son to die on the cross so we might have fellowship with Him.
4. 2 Cor. 5:18-19 “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”
5. Col. 1:20-21 “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled”
6. God gave us His Word by which we come to a knowledge of Truth, obey it, and have that relationship with Him.
B. **Glorify Him.**
   1. 1 Cor. 6:20 “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
   2. That price was the blood of Christ.
      a. Mat. 26:28 “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
      b. Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
   3. 1 Pet. 4:16 “If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”
   4. Solomon show how we glorify Him; Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

V. **WHAT CAN BREAK THAT RELATIONSHIP?**

A. **Sin is what breaks that relationship between God and man.**
   1. Adam and Eve.
      a. God gave them commands, they understood them, did them, and had a relationship with God.
      b. Satan tempted Eve to sin, leading to the loss of that relationship with God.
   2. Isa. 59:1-2 “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”
   3. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
   4. Jam. 1:14-15 “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
   5. Death is simply separation.
      a. Jam. 2:26 “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
      b. When we separate ourselves from God, we lose that relationship with Him.

B. **God’s nature.**
   1. God is holy.
      a. Lev. 11:44 “For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”
      b. Lev. 19:2, 20:7 “Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy...20Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.”
      c. 1 Pet. 1:16 “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
2. Being holy, God is set apart from sin.
   a. 1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
   b. Jam. 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
3. God cannot be associated in any way with sin.
   a. Hab. 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”
   b. 1 Pet. 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”
4. Being holy, when man sins, that relationship man has with God is broken.

Conclusion: When we are born, we are without sin. We reach an age of maturity where we commit sin separating ourselves from God and losing that relationship with Him.

God has provided a way for man to have the removing of his sin in the sacrifice of His Son on the cross; 2 Cor. 5:18-19 “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

When we faithfully obey His Will, we have that relationship with God restored and He will bless us; Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” Then we need to continue in faithfulness to continue to enjoy that relationship with Him; 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

By walking in the light we have fellowship with God; 2 John 9 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”