



SHEPHERD'S DIARY

A MINISTRY OF WORD PASTURE CHURCH

Volume 12, Number 6
JUNE, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

Building A Relationship With The *FATHER*

Beloved, if we must grow or go on in our walk with the Lord we must break free of religious notions and activities and delve into a dynamic relationship with the Father! Religion leads only to bondage, and a lack of understanding – confusion – fuels its hold on many believers. We only break free into 'life', freedom, meaning, joy, peace and lots more through a relationship with our Father.

Without a vital/living relationship with the Father, life would be unliveable. You see, man had this vital relationship with God at a point but lost it in disobedience. *You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in —first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death.* (Rom 5:12) Everything went downhill from that point. Sickness, death, greed, poverty, jealousy, hate, depression... you get the point. Any attempt to fix our lives without a relationship with the Father only leads to frustration, just like treating the symptoms of a disease instead of treating the cause.

In His love, the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ to take away the sin of the world so that man can be reconciled to Him. Jesus is "*the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*" (John 1:29). Now, with sin out of the way, we can once again have a living relationship with the Father. So, what does a relationship with the Father look like?

It is far more than religious motions and more than routine spiritual exercise. It is coming to meet Him

daily, not out of obligation, but out of desire. It is fellowship, a connection where you commune with Him, where you learn to recognize His voice, and where your heart grows in intimacy with His. It is leaning into His Word and finding direction again and again when you feel lost, wisdom when you are unsure, and strength when you are weak. Now, think about your dreams, the goals you have set, and the life you long to live. God desires that you reach and surpass them, that your life overflows with blessings, pouring into those around you. Your relationship with Him is the beginning point! And in that relationship, things begin to shift quietly, but powerfully. Your desires begin to change. Your steps become guided. Your life starts to take shape in ways you could not have orchestrated on your own. You begin to experience a kind of peace that steadies you even when life is uncertain.

How do you build your relationship with the Father?

Like every other relationship you would have to nurture it daily with time. You build it in the quiet moments of worship. In opening His Word and allowing it to speak to you. In your choices, choosing, again and again, to seek His presence. In loving Him sincerely. In walking with others who are on the same journey. In living a life that reflects His heart—serving, giving, and reaching others.

The Father has always desired a vital and intimate relationship with you, and so he sent His son Jesus to take away the sin problem. Then He sent forth the "*Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, 'Abba! Father!'*" (Gal 4:6). Now, all you have to do is respond to His love, just open your heart and say: "Father!". Grace to your heart. Amen!

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