

Connect With Your God

Pastor Art Hunt

January 12-13, 2013

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage, be strong. ¹⁴Do everything in love.
1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (New International Version)

God’s “marching orders” = do what’s necessary to keep your life spiritually strong, and then use that spiritual strength to make a difference in love!

The Nature of a Believer’s Connection with God

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. Ephesians 1:17 (NIV)

“If anyone wants to boast, he should boast that he knows and understands me . . .”
Jeremiah 9:24a (Good News Bible)

- Our relationship with God is a love relationship.

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30 (English Standard Version)

(See Skye Jethani’s, *With*)

Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹and become one with him.
Philippians 3:8-9a (New Living Translation)

- Our relationship with God is a transformational relationship.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him . . . Philippians 3:10 (NIV)

Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Romans 12:2a (NLT)

- Our relationship with God is an experiential relationship.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. Revelation 21:3 (ESV)

How to Nurture our Love Relationship with God

Draw near to God, . . . James 4:8a (ESV)

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him . . . Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)

Application: Rule of Life

- A rule of life is a regular pattern of attitudes, behaviors and practices that—as I submit to them over time—foster relationship with God and create space and opportunity for Christ to be fully formed in me.
- Evaluate your spiritual needs over a few days or weeks. Take into account . . .
 - Your schedule
 - Your spiritual needs; your deepest spiritual desires
 - Your personality type
 - Arrangements that may need to be made
- Write out a “rule of life.”