

2 John 1:9 (NLT2)

Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has no relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son.

Let's say that you are single (Maybe some of you reading this are) and you meet some guy or girl that you know is the right one and is a gift from heaven. Let's say you talk to this person and you tell him or her that you want a relationship with them, and they say yes that they want a relationship with you as well. But then you go off and see other guys or girls, never talking to or seeing this one special person... okay maybe you do on special occasions like their birthday or special holidays or events a few times a year. So, would you say that you truly have a relationship with that person?

In a few weeks, it will be my wife and my one year anniversary. But lets say a year ago we got married, but for the next year I never saw her or talked to her or even thought about her except one time a year on our anniversary. Or maybe I would think of her when I was short on cash or needed something from her maybe one or twice a year. Would you say I had a good solid relationship with my wife and an ideal marriage?

The answer to both of those scenarios would be a big NO!

With that in mind, it's the same as if you said a prayer, say on Easter, or at one time in your life, asking Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, but then you never spend time with Him, talking to Him, except when you need something from Him, or on the day we celebrate His birthday (Christmas). Also you never listen to Him as He is wanting to speak to you, other then a few times a year when you decide that He is worthy of your awesomeness and you make your presence and you go to church. (Yes you can say ouch here)

But just like my two examples, that is the same way you are treating the Lord. You went through a quick ceremony and said "I Do" (the sinners prayer) but there is no relationship at all with Him.

When I got married, no one had to tell me to talk to my wife everyday, or that I shouldn't look at, or go after other women, or that I would spend time with her only when I needed something from her, but not when she wanted to spend time with me. No, I talk to her everyday, I see her everyday, I don't want any other woman but her, and I want to do the things that make her happy, once again, not because someone told me I had to, but because I love her and I want to.

My relationship with the Lord is the same way. I want no other gods before me, only the one and only True, Living God. I want to talk to Him everyday, and hear Him talk to me through His word and listening to teachings throughout the day as I hear Him speak to me. I constantly think

of Him and can't wait to see Him. I love singing to Him and playing music for Him, not because someone told me I needed to do these things as a Christian, but simply because I love the Lord and He loves me. It's a love relationship that we have, just like I have with my wife.

I tell you all of this because, honestly, you should not have to listen to a teaching or read a devotional telling you to spend more time with the Lord, it should simply be because you truly Love Him, not because your pastor says to read your bible everyday, or tells you to pray everyday, or you read a devotional that tells you to do these things.

If you truly love the Lord, maybe it's time to start showing Him that you do, just like you do with anyone that you love. Not because you are told to, but because you can't stand not having a relationship with Him, because you really want to and that sinners prayer was not just a one time, "get out of hell free" card, but they were true words of love between you and your Savior, Jesus and you realize it's time to have that relationship with Him that you prayed for!

- † **Jeremiah 24:7** *Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.*
- † **Jeremiah 31:3** *The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*
- † **Song of Songs 2:16-17 (NLT2)** *My lover is mine, and I am his. He browses among the lilies. Before the dawn breezes blow and the night shadows flee, return to me, my love, like a gazelle or a young stag on the rugged mountains.*