



Lesson 2 in a series of what God reveals about Himself in Scripture.



Creator God

- Existed before heavens and earth were made
- Made the heavens and earth (Gen. 1:1)
- Makes things out of what is invisible (Heb. 11:3)
- Word of God always accomplishes His purpose (Isa. 55:10, 11)
- Only LORD, the true God (Isa. 45:18; Jer. 10:10-13)
- Formed the earth to be inhabited (Isa. 45:18)
- Wisdom, understanding, knowledge, power, discretion (Prov. 3:19-20; Jer. 10:10-13)
- Eternal power, divine nature (Rom. 1:19-20)

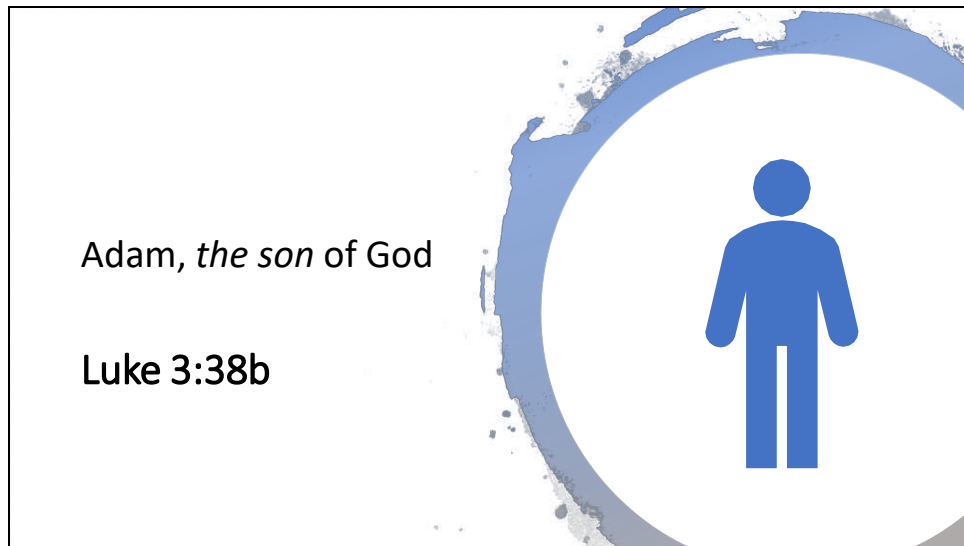
In the last lesson about our Creator God, we learned the following:

- God existed before heavens and earth were made
- God made the heavens and earth (Gen. 1:1)
- He makes things out of what is invisible (Heb. 11:3)
- The Word of God always accomplishes His purpose (Isa. 55:10, 11)
- The Creator is the only LORD, the true God (Isa. 45:18; Jer. 10:10-13)
- God formed the earth to be inhabited (Isa. 45:18)
- Creation exhibits God's wisdom, understanding, knowledge, power, and discretion (Prov. 3:19-20; Jer. 10:10-13)
- Creation demonstrates God's eternal power and divine nature (Rom. 1:19-20)

Genesis 2:7, NKJV

And the LORD God formed man
of the dust of the ground,
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;
and man became a living being.

The next key characteristic we learn about our God is that He is very relationship focused, beginning with the description of the creation of man and woman in Genesis 2. There is an intimacy in the idea of God forming the man from the soil and then breathing His own breath into the man's nostrils to give him life. God relates closely to the man beginning with the formation of the man.



In fact, in the genealogy of Jesus found in Luke 3, Adam is described as the son of God – designating a relationship between the man (“Adam” in Hebrew means “man”) and God. It is that of a Father and His created child.

Some Star Trek Next Generation fans might be familiar with the episode when Data, a human-like android, attempts to create/make a daughter like himself – another android of manufactured materials and circuits and such. Even though the child was “made” not “begotten”, the child was important to the father/creator just as Adam, Eve, and all of us, their offspring, are important to the Creator God who is our Father.

What about us? We weren’t actually formed by the hands of God from dust like Adam, were we? Even so, Job says of God:

Job 10:8a – “Your hands fashioned and made me altogether.” (NASB)

Job 31:15 – “Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?” (NKJV)

Psalm 119:73 - Your hands made me and fashioned me.

Both Job and the Psalmist stated that God made and fashioned him, even in the womb.

God says in Isaiah 43:7 – “Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made.”

Malachi 2:10a - "Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us?"

We see that the Bible teaches that God creates and forms each one of us, even though we are formed within the womb, not directly of the clay of the earth. God is related to each human being through this formation in the womb.

Genesis 2:18

And the LORD God said,
“It is not good that man should be alone;
I will make him a helper
comparable [corresponding] to him.”

Isn't this verse surprising!? The very first thing mentioned as “not good” in God's creative activity is that man was alone. This was “not good” in God's eyes. He didn't say or expect that He Himself was enough for the man's need for companionship and help in the Garden. Man needed someone “comparable” (or similar) to himself. God could not be that since He is NOT comparable to man on many levels. And God was aware that man needed to relate to someone similar to himself. In His wisdom, God created man in such a way that relationships between humans is very important.

Just as relationship between God and man is important.

Genesis 2:21-22

²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

In these beautiful verses, we see the care and attention God gave to the creation of woman to meet man's relational need for a companion.

Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

God's plan to meet man and woman's need for relationship.

Malachi 2:16

"For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

God asserts the importance of maintaining the marital relationship with the simple statement that "He hates divorce." He has an opinion and a principle for this relationship that, in His wisdom, He has determined to be the best for mankind.

Exodus 20:1-17

Ten Commandments:

- First 4 commandments about relating to God
- Last 6 commandments about relating to others

The marital relationship is not the only relating between humans that God is concerned about. Consider the Ten Commandments – they are about relationships, first with God, then with other people.

The book of Leviticus (as well as throughout the Bible) contains many guidelines for the priests, the people of Israel, and us today that are about community living, how to live in harmony with others. It is about appropriate relationships between people.

In fact, we will see that the entire plan of God for mankind is relationship-focused.

And they heard the sound [voice] of the LORD God walking [coming] in the garden in the cool [wind] of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:8

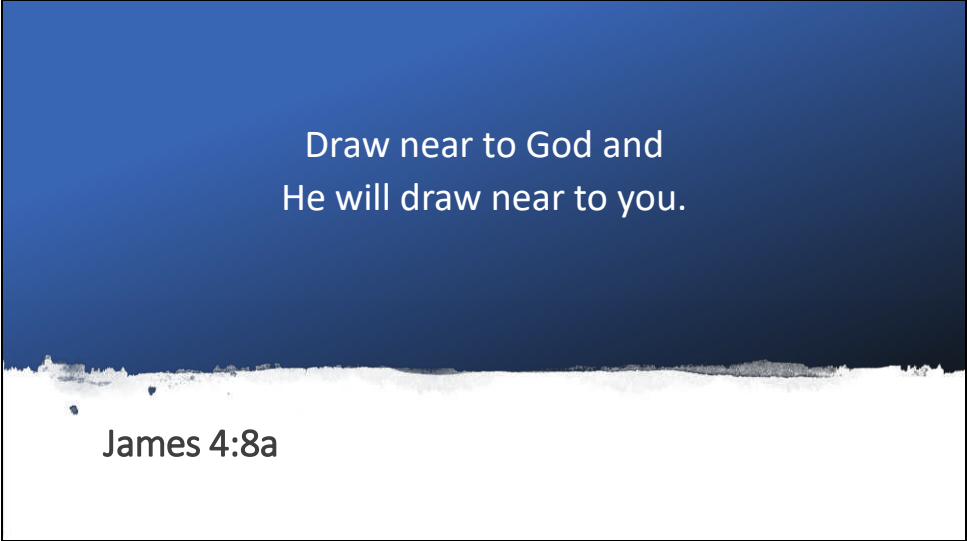
(Words in parenthesis are alternative translations of Hebrew words.)

From this verse we see that God sought out time with His created man and woman. He came to the garden. He could be heard, whether by His voice or some other sound of His approach. This sound was carried to Adam and Eve; maybe it was even God calling to them, greeting them. It is not clear from the small description.

It might be like when I go to the barn to feed my kittens. Sometimes they see me coming, sometimes they hear me – either my footsteps or my voice calling them so they know it is time for us to meet together. In a similar way, God approached Adam and Eve for time together, relational time.

This relational time with God is still available and so important for the believer today.

What could be more special for Adam and Eve than the Creator God, the Almighty coming to spend time with them. So why do Adam and Eve hide from this special relationship with God?

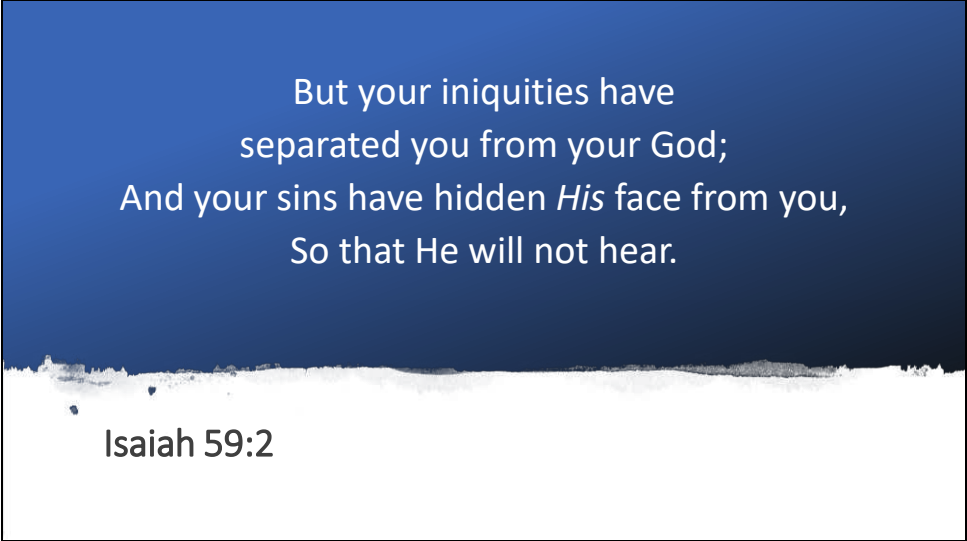


Draw near to God and
He will draw near to you.

James 4:8a

According to this verse, we have a part in determining how close to God our relationship is. Adam and Eve chose to hide from God because they had sinned by breaking the one rule God gave them. That is a natural response before God when we sin because of our shame, embarrassment, and guilt. Some even choose to simply disregard God altogether so they can attempt to live outside God's guidelines and avoid experiencing shame, embarrassment, and guilt. Unfortunately, they do not realize that it is an attempt only. It is not possible to avoid the shame and guilt of sin.

But God respects our choices about relating to Him. He does not force a close relationship to us. We have the responsibility to draw near to Him if we want that closeness.



But your iniquities have
separated you from your God;
And your sins have hidden *His* face from you,
So that He will not hear.

Isaiah 59:2

Sin naturally creates a separation between us and God, causes a breakdown the closeness of our relationship. Ever since the Garden, it is true that we separate ourselves from God when we sin and sin creates a wedge in our communication with Him.

It is similar to times we have a disagreement with another person. If we spend time with that person without resolving the disagreement, there is an obvious strain in the relationship because of the unspoken, unresolved issue. The closeness of relationship is not restored until the problem is addressed. Just so is the effect of sin on relationship with God.

See also Micah 3:4 - Then they will cry to the Lord, But He will not hear them; He will even hide His face from them at that time, because they have been evil in their deeds.

Romans 5:10

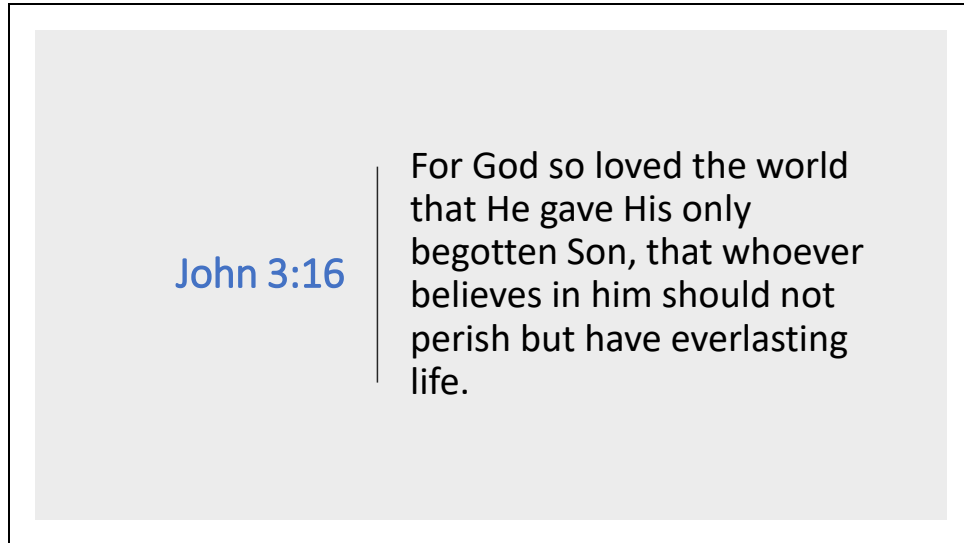
For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Because of the sin that entered the world through Adam (Ro. 5:12), all mankind was alienated from/**enemies** of God. In the Old Testament, God provided the sacrificial system of the covenant of the Law of Sinai to restore fellowship between man and God. But the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin (Hebrews 10:4).

What has God done about the estrangement between Himself and man that results from sin? He has taken the steps necessary to make the forgiveness of sin possible:

Romans 5:10 - The word "reconcile" means "to restore friendly relations between" two parties

God established a New Covenant in the blood of Jesus so we can be reconciled (have friendly relations) with God. Without being united with Christ in his crucifixion, a person continues to live an **enemy** of God!



Scripture uses the word “love” to describe what God has done for us. “Love” is a word we use to describe our attachment to special people in our lives, particularly family, for whom we sacrifice and give of ourselves. Love describes God’s relationship toward us.

In fact, 1 John 4:8 says “God is love.”

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:4-5 - ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

Romans 8:38-39 - ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**2 Corinthians
5:18-19, NIV**

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

This verse says that first, God restores relationship with us through Christ, THEN He gives us the ministry of reconciling others to God.

Not only does God want relationship with YOU, He wants YOU to help Him have relationship with others who either don't know Him, or are disregarding His established guidelines for relationship with Him.

This is a big job and a big responsibility!

Galatians
3:26, 29

²⁶ For you are all sons of God
through faith in Christ Jesus.

More relational language. Through faith in Jesus, we are SONS of God.

Romans 8:14-
17, NKJV

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

We can call God "Father" by our adoption through Christ.

Romans 8:14-
17

¹⁶ The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together.

As a child of God we become God's heirs.

This is the language of family. Again, relationship between man and God.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

We know that unresolved sin leads to destruction in the lake of fire at the final judgment (Rev. 12-15).

We are also told that God is patient because he wants everyone to come to repentance. Why is this? Why does God, the Creator of the universe, care if a single individual repents of their sin?

Romans
6:5, 8, NKJV

⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of his [Jesus'] death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of his resurrection*

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him


Uniting to Christ's death through repentance frees us from sin and means we will be united with Christ in his resurrection as well. So, God wants all to repent so that all can experience resurrection! Why does He want this??

Revelation 21:3

³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle [dwelling, abode] of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Because those who experience resurrection to eternal life will dwell *with* God! This is the plan and desire of our God. When Scripture says He desires that all come to repentance, it encompasses the whole concept of the results of repentance – ultimately physically dwelling with God, in His presence. The experience Adam and Eve once had when God came to the Garden will be ours!

How important God sees relationship with the mankind He created! How great is His love for mankind - so much that He designed a plan that will ultimately result in the faithful being able to dwell with Him for eternity.



What does this
mean to us
today?

- God loves YOU to provide for eternal relationship
- You must draw near to God

- God loves YOU to design a plan that overcomes the sin in the world so you can have a face-to-face relationship with Him after resurrection
- In the meantime, we need to draw near to God by confessing sin and seeking Him all the time in all aspects of life



James 4:8a

Draw near to God and
He will draw near to
you.

How do we draw near to God?

Think about how you develop a friendship with someone . . . What do you do?



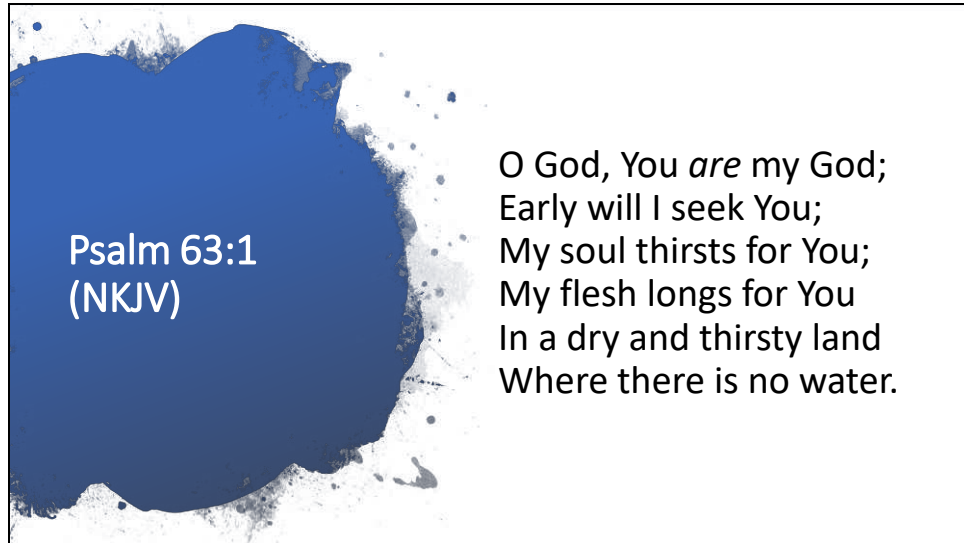
Romans 1:19-
20, NIV

¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

How to develop relationship with someone:

1. Get to know God, first through what He has revealed of Himself in Creation.

This is similar to knowing a friend's interests/concerns by seeing their home, hobbies, even how they dress. This is learning about God from His external nonverbal communication.



How to develop relationship with someone:

2. Get to know God, next through what He communicates to us through words – in this case, written words – the Bible. Listen to God.

The example of David: Seeking God, we can get to know Him through Scripture.

Seek God to experience satisfaction:

Emotional fulfillment, as David describes

Psalm 34:10 - The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good *thing*.

Lamentations 3:25 - The Lord *is* good to those who wait for Him, To the soul *who* seeks Him.

Seek God to experience closeness to Him:

Jeremiah 29:13 - And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Psalm 9:10 - And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Deuteronomy 4: 29-31 - ²⁹ But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find *Him* if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. ³⁰ When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the Lord your God and obey His voice ³¹ (for the Lord your God *is* a merciful God), He will

not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.



Mark 1:35
(NIV)

Very early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
Jesus got up,
left the house and went
off to a solitary place
where he prayed.

How to develop relationship with someone:

3. We develop relationships with others by communicating with them and sharing our inner selves.

The example of Jesus: Prayer/Communication with God

Luke 5:16 - So he himself [Jesus] *often* withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Luke 6:12 - Now it came to pass in those days that he [Jesus] went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. (This was just before Jesus designated the 12 Apostles)



How to develop relationship with someone:

4. We get to know others by working with them.

So also can we draw near to God by submitting to Him, yielding our will to His purposes in trust. Especially as we get to know Him, submission to His commands found in Scripture will enhance the intimacy of our relationship with God. This is working with Him in our own life development as well as in the Kingdom work in the world, which includes the ministry of reconciling others to Him. Enlarging our circle of those who are friendly with God increases our circle of relationships.



How to develop relationship with someone:

5. In the case of sin/broken relationship: Confession/Repentance

Confess and seek forgiveness from God and cleansing from unrighteousness when we sin. Remember the parable of the Prodigal Son. (Luke 15:11-32)

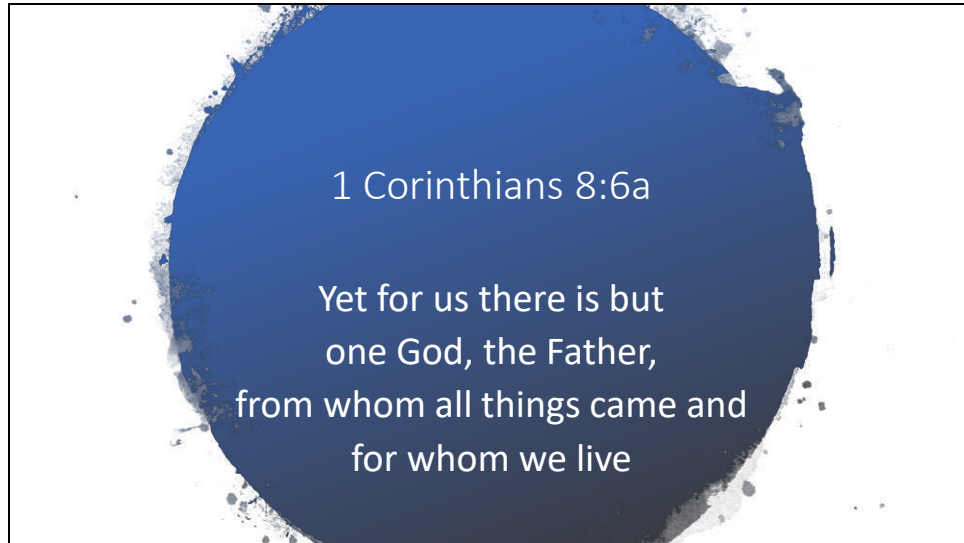
1 John 1:8-9 - ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2 Chronicles 7:14 – God said to Solomon: “if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Isaiah 55:6-7 - Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

Seek God to keep from sin:

Psalm 119:2-3 - Blessed *are* those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart! ³They also do no iniquity; They walk in His ways.



The great challenge for us is to embrace our place in God's family as His child, relating to Him as our perfect heavenly Father, the only true God, to know that we live for Him, and to reconcile those who are still estranged from Him.

We often think of that Day when we see God face-to-face as the climax *our* existence. Yet it is God who has worked through the ages to make it possible for that Day to happen. It is the culmination of His great plan for mankind – *once again He can be to us the present God He wishes to be*. Imagine His joy on that Day when He can once again embrace you and me in full relationship! The relationship He intended from the day He created Adam.