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The Way God Walks with Us

DAY 1: *The Way God Walks with Us*

Message

God is constantly faithful to His primary purpose... to make us in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26).

You were created to think the way God thinks; to see yourself and the world around you as He sees it... and to respond as Jesus would in any life situation.

Your transformation into the image of God is His passion and His absolute delight.

So the question is: Is your process of development as delightful for you as it is for Him?

That's what this 3 day challenge is all about. Together, we are going to explore the delight of Relational Learning so that every process of

Notes

our development is relational,
living, and light.

All of us come into the Kingdom
with ideas and experiences from
the world about how learning and
growth is supposed to happen.

Education, home environments
and workplaces have given us a
framework for development that is
often different than how God
actually desires to walk with us.

Even religion has taken learning
that was meant to be joyful and
buried it under striving to earn
God's affection and approval. It
uses shame, fear, and judgement
to merit what God has freely given.

In the Kingdom, the master key to
all development is this: You are
accepted!

It's so important that our starting
point in learning is Acceptance.
God only knows one way to walk
with you... that is always to
empower you to be totally and
completely accepted in Him.

We don't make ourselves
acceptable to God through any
process. He did that for us. So
we're not learning how to be
acceptable... we're learning in a
place where we are always
absolutely accepted in Christ!

All of your learning, growth and missing pieces are COVERED.

God accepts you and rejoices over every part of your process of maturity... so you can always learn in a place of peace and safety.

Have you ever felt that God was annoyed with you? Or weary of you?

Did carrying those beliefs ever motivate your learning? Did it ever help you change or grow more?

The enemy's primary goal is to hold you back from transformation by getting you to focus most on your negatives, instead of being totally alive to Christ in you.

Think about this: Romans 5:8 says God loved you when you were a sinner who didn't even know Him.

So, how could He ever adore you less now? You're now His child... and every day you're learning and experiencing more of what that actually means, which delights Him!

The Father adores your learning process.

Jesus gladly paid the price so it can be done properly.

And the Holy Spirit, Your Helper, loves working with you to ensure

that you break out of the old, dead you completely, into the new, true you in Jesus.

Allow their joy to become YOUR strength!

We're living in a fast paced, low grace world that is overloaded with information yet deficient in their knowledge of truth.

As people of the Kingdom, we must recognize that we are in this world, but not of it. Everything about our lives is totally different, including our learning and development.

All of our learning takes place within the context of our relationship with God - through both knowledge and experience. This is what we call in the Brilliant TV community "Relational Learning."

Today I'm sharing 4 Keys that unlock a better understanding of how God walks with us in our relational learning.

KEY #1: SLOW LEARNING IS GREAT LEARNING

Most of us have experienced an educational system that required the material to be mastered within a certain length of time.

Covering the information was often more important than really understanding it by experience.

Slow learning is great learning because it allows time to UN-learn, learn, practice and establish... so that what God is developing in you will last a lifetime.

Our learning often begins with UN-learning. In fact, Un-learning is as important as what we're learning!

God knows that you've started this journey having learned ways that are not His ways.

Psalm 25:4 says "SHOW me Your ways. Teach me Your paths."

As God walks with you, He's going to SHOW you, not just tell you, what He is really, really like.

In that process, there will be things revealed that you thought were true that are not the Truth.

Rejoice in this revelation! Don't beat yourself up for not knowing the truth sooner.

Impatience has no part in your learning. It is being loved by a patient God that empowers you to grow with Him in a way that is delightful.

God gives you the gift of time to see, recognize and exchange your old ways for His higher ones.

And then, He gives you time to practice them until His way of living becomes your way of living.

God is never concerned about time because He is always focused on growth.

And some growth takes longer.

God's pace for your learning will keep you renewed, refreshed and hopeful.

The enemy will try to press you to rush forward through your learning so that true, relational transformation does not have time to occur.

The enemy does this by making sure that most of your learning occurs in your head, but never engages with your heart.

Head knowledge is second hand learning that can never transform us.

It's a hand-me-down learning plan that has no love or awareness of the Presence of God.

We hear Truth, we take the Truth and we apply the Truth; but it's all only done in our head.

Jesus said in John 8:32, "You will KNOW the truth, and the truth will set you free." That word "know" doesn't mean head knowledge, it speaks to relational intimacy. You will experience the truth and it will set you free!

Relational learning engages all of you, not just your head. Only the Holy Spirit (who is a Genius!) can engage with your inner man of the heart and renew your mind at the same time.

The enemy knows how powerful you will become when you behold the true nature of God and he fears it... so he tries to hurry you through your learning.

He offers quick fixes and cheap substitutes to distract you: "10 Easy Steps to a Better You" or "30 Days to Total Transformation!"

The enemy will lie to you by telling you that because you've heard something before, you already know it... so just keep moving!

But the Holy Spirit, your Teacher and Helper, will kindly remind you... "Yes, you've heard that before, but have you BECOME it?"

Slow is clever... too clever for the enemy. It's dynamic because the real dynamic is becoming like Jesus; not just a better version of yourself.

When we embrace Slow Learning, we're empowered to stay in tune and in alignment with the Holy Spirit. And God can always quicken us when He and WE are ready. So there is no FOMO (fear of missing out) in the Kingdom!

A deeper enjoyment of God is always part of His learning plan for us, as we take the time to walk and talk with Him about all we are seeing and discovering in Christ.

If the enemy can't mess up your learning through hurry, he will want to spoil your enjoyment of the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit by making you think your growth is merely a discipline.

Remember, your process of development is not something to dread, but something to delight in!

KEY #2: LESS IS OFTEN MORE

How many sermons, teachings, podcasts, books have you consumed in the last year?

Think about it for a moment.

For me, I listen to at least one sermon a week through Sunday church services so that's about 52 sermons a year. Plus, I read books and blogs, listen to podcasts,

attend conferences... so at least 100 messages a year, probably more.

What about you? 52? 100? More?

How many of those messages that you heard in the last year have you actually become?

This one question (which was highlighted to me through a BTV mentoring series) has been so pivotal for me in my walk with God.

I realized, in all of my rapid, high volume "learning"... I was heading towards a 2 Tim. 3:7 spirituality, "Always learning, but never able to come to the knowledge (by experience) of the Truth."

Establishing growth isn't about how much we've read or heard. It's how many of those truths we've become. Volume doesn't automatically equal maturity.

You are God's Beloved. God is passionate about being your LIVING Truth, so He will never settle for being a concept to you and He won't bless a learning style or system that makes Him out to be a concept. He is God, and He wants to be in a relationship with you.

This is such good news!

Through Relational Learning, God often highlights ONE great truth

about who He really is and how He wants to bring it to life, so that it becomes your life... your everyday experience. When we allow the Holy Spirit to set our pace, He doesn't overwhelm us by highlighting all at once EVERYTHING we get to learn in a lifetime. He takes His time in helping us unlearn, learn, practice and establish until we KNOW, truly know the one in whom you have believed... and are fully persuaded of everything He is able to do. (2 Timothy 1:12)

In Matthew 13, Jesus talked to his disciples about a man who unexpectedly discovers a treasure in a field.

Instead of just grabbing it and running off, the man takes the time to go through the steps necessary to buy the whole field... so that the treasure in it becomes authentically his.

When God highlights a truth, feel His freedom to not rush, but to fully explore everything that He has for you to experience with Him.

KEY #3: GOD WALKS WITH US IN REST

Energy expended doesn't equal distance covered in the Spirit.

Hustle is not a fruit of the spirit. We live in a world that highly values hustle and hurry... a world that wears busyness and exhaustion like it's a badge of honor.

The religious spirit partners with this worldly mindset by focusing on performance and requirements.. placing emphasis on spiritual check lists and activities to achieve worth and prove maturity.

Being "good enough" isn't something you can achieve. If we could have achieved it, Jesus would not have had to come. Righteous is a gift from Jesus (Romans 5:17). It is received, not achieved.

We rest in His finished work... His perfect performance.

Phil. 2:13 says "God is working in you, GIVING you the desire to obey Him and the power to do what pleases Him."

This is good news!

God joyfully initiates His work in us. Desire for obedience is His gift, wrapped in the power to do what delights Him... and our role is to receive it because it's how He walks with us.

When you feel led by pressure instead of peace, push the Pause Button and ask Him about it.

There is actually a wonderful Brilliant TV series called “Life Questions” that shares 22 powerful questions you can ask to explore your relationship with God in a deeper way.

One that I like to ask when I feel pressured in my development or feel like I’m comparing my growth to someone else’s is:

“God, what opportunities for development are you orchestrating in my life right now?”

This clarity allows me to fully connect with God’s enjoyment of my development process.

There is no stress, striving or self-effort when you receive the invitation Jesus gave us in Matthew 11to come to Him to learn rest, not earn it.

KEY #4: WE ASSESS GROWTH THROUGH EVIDENCES OF TRANSFORMATION

In a lifestyle of growing relationship and fellowship with God, we process our growth through awareness of our Evidences of Transformation.

The world's approach to learning verifies our progress through questions and tests of comprehension. But in the Kingdom, we look for everyday situations where we perceived, thought, spoke or acted in a way that is more aligned with our true identity in Christ than it was before.

In John 15, Jesus likened our Father to the One who tends to and cultivates the vineyard.

We are the branches and the fruit is the outcome of our relationship and connection with Jesus who is the vine.

Jesus said in Matt. 7:20, "By their fruit, you will know them."

The evidence of a vine's quality is in the fruit that it bears... and fruit takes time.

It's not the amount or speed of your learning that God values. He values YOU!

Jesus didn't come to give us gold stars, He came to give us HIMSELF...to be with us... for us... and IN us.

He values walking and talking with YOU because you are such a delight to Him, wherever you are in your process.

That's what Jesus did with His disciples. They were His friends and He loved them and lived with them.

They were brilliant some days, and not-so-much on others... but His love for them never wavered.

And in Acts 4, their transformation after the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, was evident to all. Not because of their excellent speech, for it was still obvious that most of them were uneducated, and probably illiterate.

But because of the stories of what happened when people encountered them and the authenticity and authority of their words. It was evident that they had been with Jesus.

In Relational Learning, that's how we recognize and celebrate our growth.

It's in the stories of our lives where we've encountered God and His ways... and now we see, think and feel differently than we did before.

The Kingdom values learning that transforms our vision, thinking and emotions, that leads to increase in our language and actions.

God is constantly faithful to His primary purpose... to make us in

His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26).

You were created to think the way God thinks; to see yourself and the world around you as He sees it... and to respond as Jesus would in any life situation.

Your transformation into the image of God is not some mere discipline, it is an absolute delight!