

CHAPTER 6

Do You Know You Are to Walk with God?

Foundational Review

This Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship has three Parts:

- **Received From: Faith – Gift/Son**
(what He has promised, He is able to perform)
- **Growing In: Hope – Gift/Holy Spirit**
(confident expectancy)
- **Becoming Like: Love – Gift/Character of the Father**
(partake of divine nature)

What we have outlined above is basic Christianity. All that we have studied up to now is the first section of the book. And what's the driving force? What makes this Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship work? (READ Gal. 5:6 if you have forgotten.) Love is the driving force; God's Love for us, our Love response to Him.

This relationship is not just for SDA Christians. This is for all Christians. Be careful. There are other Christians besides SDA Christians.

Please note the following principles:

- #1: All the Gifts are received by **Faith** (in story of the Paralytic and the Prodigal).
- #2: It is always *your* **Choice** to receive or not to receive the Gifts.
- #3: The **First Move** is always God's move (in our study last session).
- #4: While one member of **Godhead** is emphasized at each level, **all three** are involved at every level.
- #5: Each level is **more complex** than the diagram appears; for example, Level I gifts include repentance, faith, cleansing, righteousness, adoption, and reconciliation.
- #6: **Hope** is the courage to go on in confident expectancy.
- #7: **Love** is the driving force.

You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Ephesians 2:8-10)
 - Received From (1 John 4:7)
 - Growing In (Ephesians 4:12-16)
 - Becoming Like (2 Peter 1:4)

The Middle Section of the Book

Now we will move on (following the counsel of Hebrews 2:1) and leave behind the elemental teachings to press on to a more mature, more intimate relationship with God in the Christian life. In the middle section of the book, the Relationship gets more intense. And this session's concept is critical!

Chapters 4-5-6 are a unit. Chapter 6, the final chapter of this unit, is the preparation for that level of intensity. This is so critical that unless and until SDA Christians make the concept in this chapter operative in their lives, all the rest of what we will study, none of it will happen.

Have you ever asked yourself:

Okay, I understand the theory. But how does it actually work? Let's look at the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship chart, take it apart, and examine how it actually works, especially the second part.

Chapter 6: Do You Know You Are to Walk With God?

Everyone knows that they want to accept Jesus as their Savior. Everyone knows that they want to go to heaven. But what happens in between those two events? How does it actually work? How do you get from “accept Jesus” to “walk with God?”

This is the major question. (READ Hebrews 11:5-6 and Gen. 5:21-22 to get a scriptural idea.) How can I be “pleasing to God?” How do I “walk with God?” How does this actually work?

Introduction

QUESTION #1:
(TEST) Draw a line to MATCH the phrases in column B that go with the phrases in column A.

A	B	
(1) Hope	(a) Faith	(Ephesians 2:8)
(2) Confess with the Mouth	(d) Walk with God	(Colossians 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:1)
(3) Pleasing to God	(c) Abide	(Hebrews 10:23; John 15:5)
(4) Grace	(b) Believe in the Heart	(Romans 10:9-10)

QUESTION #2:
Explain how all of the above word pairs are related to each other. (Compare this group with the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship Chart. Look at the Scriptures attached and compare the word pairs to the chart.)

QUESTION #3:
Explain how each of these situations makes it hard to be a Christian. Explain your answer.

a. The world does not follow God. (What do they follow?) (1Timothy 1:4; 4:7; 2 Peter 1:16; Matt. 15:9)

b. We are trained to function like the world. How does the world function? (Gal. 5:17, 19-21)

c. We don't know what to do after we confess. (What do we usually do?) (Luke 18:18-21)

d. We don't know how to walk. (How should we “walk?”) (1 John 2:6; Gal. 6:2)

Level I:
Love is the Driver



This is R.
Received From (confession, surrender, repentance) but how does it actually work?

QUESTION #1:
READ Romans 10:8-10.
a. What does it mean to confess with the mouth?

b. What does it mean to believe in your heart?

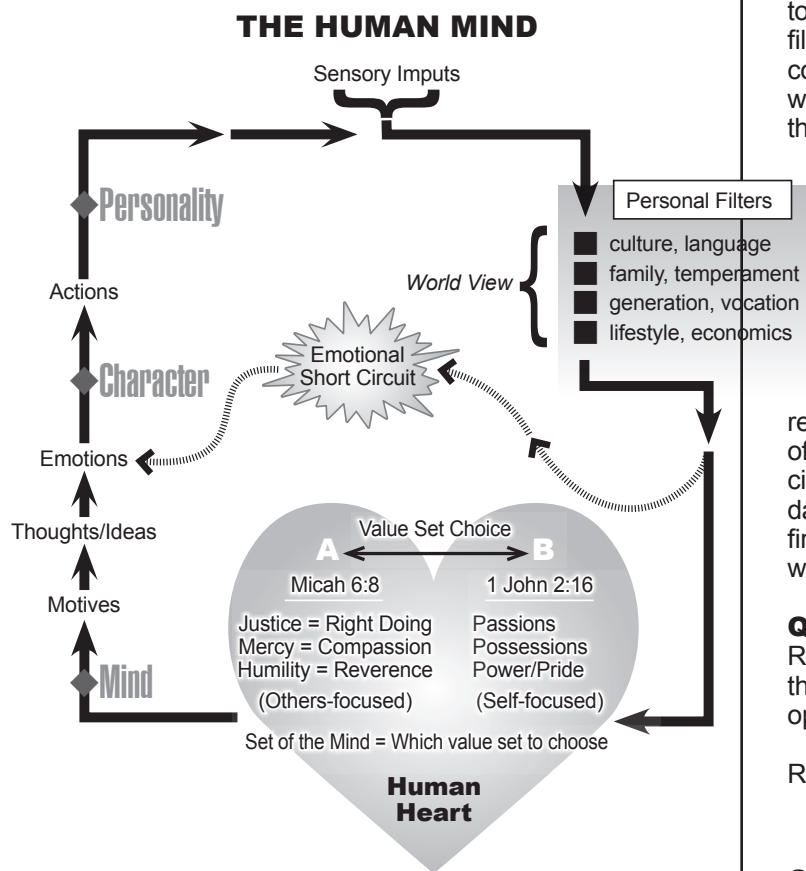
c. Is this just an intellectual acceptance? If not, what is it?

d. Is this just a legal transaction that we agree to? If not, what else is involved?

QUESTION #2:

Where is the biblical “heart” and what critical, basic activity happens there?

(See the chart: The Human Mind)



QUESTION #3:

READ Matt 22:37. What more is Jesus asking of us, than just an intellectual declaration?

QUESTION #4:

Review the story in John 21:12-17. What was Jesus asking of Peter?

Remember: Love is the driver!

Level II:

The Heart



This is Growing In.
(unpacked)

The functions of the human mind are illustrated in the accompanying diagram. At the top of the diagram various sensory inputs enter the mind – sight, sounds, touch, odors, flavors, and balance. These inputs are filtered through the preset attitudes and assumptions, conditioned by and adopted from the situations in which we became adults. Then the inputs are passed on to the most critical processor, the heart. Here the inputs are evaluated and compared to the set of values held in the heart. By this comparison choices are made to accept, reject, or modify their meaning and what response would be appropriate. On the basis of these choices, motives are assigned (mind), thoughts are constructed (character), and actions are considered and may be taken (personality).

Notice the emotional short-circuit which can allow a response/action to take place without the considerations of the choice, motive, and thought functions. This short-circuit can be helpful in an emergency. It can also be dangerous when the habit is developed to react without first considering whether a true emergency exists and what response would be appropriate.

QUESTION #1:

READ Romans 8:5. The basic concept is the mindset or the set of the mind. The mindset constitutes the basic operating philosophy of the heart.

READ Romans 7:18. Do you have the ability to choose?

QUESTION #2:

What are the two options for a “mindset” in the “human heart?” (Fill in outline)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| a. READ 1 John 2:16 | b. READ Micah 6:8 |
| Lust of the _____ | Do _____ |
| Lust of the _____ | Love _____ |
| Pride of _____ | Walk _____ |

(Did you notice that both options come in a set of three?)

QUESTION #3:

READ Romans 8:6. How does Paul describe the two options for a “mind set” in the human heart?

What is the result of each option?

QUESTION #4:

READ Romans 6:17, 19b, 21-22. How important is this “obedience from the heart?” What does it result in?

THINK IT THROUGH:

READ Romans 7:18. Do you have the ability to choose between the options in your “heart?”

Satan does not want you to know that you have the power to choose. This is the reason for the distractions, the deception, and the divisions that he tries to insert into every Christian’s life.



The Holy Spirit

REALLY IMPORTANT SECTION!

QUESTION #1:

READ Jeremiah 17:9; 13:23. Do you have the power to change your own heart?

Repeat this to yourself until you hear it: “I do not have the power to change my heart.”

(Maybe we should stop trying and do it the Jesus way.)

QUESTION #2:

READ John 14:16-17. In response to our confession of mouth and belief of heart in Level I, what did Jesus promise?

- a. READ Ezek. 36:26-27. Who has knowledge, patience, and skill to change our hearts?

- b. READ Romans 8:11; Ezekiel 37:14; 2 Corinthians 3:6, John 6:63. Who has the gifts, power, and life to enable us to do that which we cannot do on our own?

The Heart Change

How does this actually work? How does the Holy Spirit do this heart change? Is it magic? How and when are we changed by the Holy Spirit?

QUESTION #1:

READ Acts 2:38. When do you receive the Holy Spirit?

QUESTION #2:

READ 2 Corinthians 3:18. How does the Spirit change your focus?

Whom do you focus on by the Spirit?

- a. READ John 14:26. Whose teaching do we focus on by the Spirit?

- b. READ John 15:26. Whom does the Spirit testify about?

QUESTION #3:

READ Romans 12:2. What further does the Holy Spirit do to you?

- a. READ 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11. What is given to the new Christian and who decides what each Christian receives?

- b. READ Ephesians 4:12-13. Through what mechanism or organization does the Holy Spirit build close bonds of fellowship and ministry?

- c. READ Ephesians 3:16. While strengthening the church organization through ministry to be more effective, what happens internally to the individual Christian?

- d. READ Galatians 5:22, 23. What is the Holy Spirit creating within each individual Christian in placing Christians together in a group effort in ministry?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- e. READ 2 Peter 1:4. What is the final end product that the Holy Spirit is creating in each individual Christian?
- _____
- _____
- _____

SUMMARY:

1. What does the Spirit give us? Romans 8:11
2. How does He give it? Ephesians 3:16
3. What did Jesus call this process? John 3:8

Although there are many more Scriptures to support suggest this same progression of Holy Spirit work, this marvelous concept seems to be the best kept secret in all of Christendom. So many people seem not to know how this works or to care to participate in it. But this is how the Holy Spirit actually does this heart change, in combination with our heart choice.

Level III:
*Combining Faith and Hope;
 Becoming Like*



Now that we have explored how Level I and Level II works, how does Level III actually work?

QUESTION #1:

READ Heb. 11:6. What does the verse say “pleases” God? (Answer only with scripture.)

In our last session, this was part of our definition of Faith from Hebrews and from Romans – to believe He is and to believe He can do what He promised. Faith made the human response to God’s Grace possible in Level I.

QUESTION #2:

What makes the human response possible in Level II? In order to “please God” we must choose to:

- a. Give up our hu _ _ m _ _ s _
 (aka submission – Eph. 4:22, 23; Rom. 8:5, 6)
- b. Recognize that we (can vs. cannot – circle one)
 act on the decision we have made. (Romans 7:18)
- c. Come to Life. How do we “live” or “come to life?”
 (Ezek. 37:14)

QUESTION #3:

READ Gal. 5:25. If we live by the Spirit, Let us walk by the Spirit. If we receive Level I by Faith, and Level II by Faith, how do we receive Level III?

Summarize

All three levels are received by Faith. Are you tired of trying hard? Would you like to learn to walk by Faith?



QUESTION #1:

Is this easy to do? Describe how hard this was for...

Jacob (Gen. 32:24-29)

David (Psalms 51:10)

QUESTION #2:

READ Phil. 2:13-14. Explain this text in light of the above discussion.

QUESTION #3:

The Holy Spirit gives

1. Conviction (John 16:8)
2. Life (Romans 8:11; Ezek. 37:14)
3. Vision of Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18)
4. Transformed Mind (Romans 12:2)
5. New Mind Set (Romans 8:6)
6. Power to Strengthen (Eph. 3:16)
7. Power to Do (1 Peter 2:9)

Do these functions of the Spirit all happen in just this order? Why or Why not?

Take Home

Thought Questions:

Why is learning to “walk by the Spirit” pleasing to God? Finish each phrase from the information in the scripture listed with that phrase.

Jeremiah 31:9 – Because God is...

John 16:27 – Because God is...

Colossians 1:10-12 – Because God wants us to be...

