

Consolidating Family and Friends ...a word from the Lord for 2012

Received by Doug Bailey - 27th December 2011

The Lord is emphasising the need for each of us to look again at our relationships with our family and friends. He is concerned that we don't spend the quality time we should in keeping those relationships fruitful and meaningful. He says no use just saying hi and then moving along. It is time to share with their burdens and help them get through what they need to get through. So many times we focus upon our own needs and problems and are not concerned about anyone else even close friends or family. Working intimacy is what He calls it . Where we take care of others as much as we take care of ourselves. He wants each of us who are in relationship with Him to allow His gifts to function through us. He is the one who wants to help . He does this when we step out of our comfort zone and be there for someone especially our loved ones.

Relationship is His focus for 2012 and especially covenant relationships . The Lord is returning us to an increase in intimacy with Him as Father . Many of us have taken for granted His presence but have not really put much into it . David said something interesting relating to worship . he said that he would not offer any worship to God if it cost him nothing . That's a good principle for us all to follow .

2 Samuel 24

24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

The Lord says that when we are thinking about friends and family we need to think about Him . He is the greatest and most important friend and family we will ever have. It's ever so easy to just stumble along and not take any notice of these relationships. Time to stop and really think about them . They don't get better by ignorance . He says we have to give adequate time to them both in the physical and in prayer. When we don't maintain our boilers they break down it's the same with relationships they need attention..

The Father is reminding us that so many don't know earthly fathers and those that do know them would rather forget them. That's harsh but the truth for many. Father is calling to earthly fathers who know Him to begin to take His example and be the loving father we should be. Give time to your kids and those who the Lord joins to you as adopted sons and daughters. Really we are all sons in the spiritual sense. Increasingly the Father is ministering His Father's heart through His female ministers (female sons !) There is no difference with Him towards how He shows His love for male or female . If He wants to minister Father's love He can do it through whoever He wants to.

The Father is always there available to listen. He is willing to respond with kind words. He is willing to correct when necessary. If we are true sons then we take that kind of love.

Proverbs 3

**11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:
12 For whom the LORD loveth He correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.**

He says time to get rid of the stuff that takes your attention from Him. Maybe we don't think it's relevant spending time with other things like, fashion, family, cleaning our car, work, hobbies , fitness, televisions, dvds, music....some of these things are good but when we spend excessive amounts of time with them instead of putting God in first place we do Him a disservice .

And really this is breaking the first commandment :

Exodus 20 (The Message)

1-2 God spoke all these words: I am God, your God,

who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of a life of slavery.

3 No other gods, only me.

4-6 No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because I am God, your God, and I'm a most jealous God, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me. But I'm unswervingly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

This is a return to the basic and fundamental values of the Bible that we are being admonished in this season to adopt and make our own . The Lord is wanting each of us to come into higher levels of obedience and not just do what we think we want to do. He is urging us to look into His word and see how these commandments translate into our daily lives. As He said He has written His law in our hearts and not on stone slabs ! That means the responsibility rests with us. Time to look at our ordinary activities and see how they translate into obeying His laws.

This is how we begin to grow in manifesting His kingdom purposes. After all when we do what Jesus taught us we emulate Christ who is the king of the kingdom . So in this obedience we demonstrate His kingdom . This is what He entrusted to us isn't it ?

Relationships across the board is what is on God's heart . Indifference is the enemy of concern.

God wants each of us to care more than we have ever cared before. Care about other's lives..the lost ..the poor..the elderly ..those in terrible situations around the earth.

He says it's time to demonstrate our care for others through prayer and through giving and even going when He directs us to. When He directs us we are provided for through His favour.

The apostle Paul gave some excellent principles of accurate Christian behaviour which he recorded in his letter to the Romans in chapter 12 . We often read verse 2 about the need to change our mindsets but we don't always look at the remainder of the chapter. It lays down some solid guidance of what we should do on a daily basis as we walk out our Christian witness in our sphere of influence where God has placed us.

The Lord is admonishing each of us to look more closely at this word and to work hard at following this excellent guidance. Paul understood as an apostle what was needed in laying good foundation in our lives. Without these principles which expound upon Christ's teachings we could not hope to be good disciples of Christ.

As ambassadors of Christ we have to put these principles into action. Only by this obedience can we represent Christ and His kingdom accurately.

Colossians 3

17And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Keep it simple , when we do it in word or deed in His name and with thanksgiving we keep on track . That's straightforward isn't it ? This is how we become great influencers in the earth.

The Lord is directing each one of us to read, receive and respond to Romans 12 this 2012.

Here is the message version which is a modern translation for our edification:

Romans 12 (The Message)

Place Your Life Before God

1-2 So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

3 I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.

4-6 In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.

7-8 If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.

9-10 Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

11-13 Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

14-16 Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

17-19 Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

20-21 Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

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Decree: We decree that you are passing through this season into a greater fulfilment of your prophetic path. Completion of projects is coming to pass as you walk in obedience to the Lord's directions. Enjoy the provisions He has placed in your path and walk into your destiny.