

Deepening our Relationship with God

Day 13

And I am not longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you... John 17:11a

Key Thought: God keeps us from the WORLD

In 2005, three US soldiers found themselves in the hills of Afghanistan. They were given orders to go and experiment with a small drone equipped with a camera, familiarizing themselves with its operation. It had been several weeks since they had encountered any of the Taliban, and their guard was down a bit. For a moment, they were just three guys having fun with a new 'toy', and they began to do various maneuvers and loops in the sky above them. Suddenly, a rocket flew a few feet over their heads, landed on the other side of a sand pile, and exploded. Had it landed on their side of the sand pile, all three would have been killed. For just a few minutes, they had forgotten they were in enemy territory, and that lack of awareness almost cost them their lives!

As Jesus prays for us in John 17:11, He reminds us that while He was going back to be with the Father, we are still in this world. As Fully Devoted Followers of Christ, we need to remember we are in enemy territory. I want to be very clear that the people around us ARE NOT the enemy! 1 John 5:19 tells us that the enemy is Satan, and the people of this world are under his influence and power.

We are in this world and we have a mission—to be the salt and light of Jesus Christ to the glory of God (Matthew 5:13-16). In Matthew 28:16-20 Jesus brings more focus to the mission, telling us to have a lifestyle of making disciples. The people around us are to be the focus of our love, compassion and witness as ones who need to know Jesus Christ as Savior.

If we are not careful and intentional in our walk with Christ, we can become easily distracted by life. The Apostle John warns us about this in 1 John 2:15-17. Verse 16 reads, "For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eye and the pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world." The 'desires of the flesh' are those inner desires and urges that tempt us to live outside of the boundaries designed by God. The desires of the eye are the many things in the world around us that can entice us towards sin and away from God. The pride of possessions is the

temptation to be materialistic, storing up earthly treasure instead of spiritual treasure in our lives. Since these three things are not from God, they will cause us to drift away from God and this mission He has given to us.

Jesus gives us clear instructions on how to live in this world but not be of this world in Matthew 6:33; “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (food, clothing, shelter and all other physical needs). Like Jesus, we are to seek God, walk with God, serve God and share the Gospel as we live life, trusting our Heavenly Father to provide what we need.

Questions to Ponder

1. What are the things that tempt you to be distracted from walking with God and sharing Christ?
2. Are you having daily time with God in the Bible and prayer? Do you need to be more regular in having this time? How might you deepen this time?
3. Who are the people in your life who need to place Saving Faith in Jesus? Are you praying for them? Are you intentionally engaging them? Are you praying for the opportunity to share the Gospel with them?
4. If you have a list of Family, Friends and Associates who need to be saved, be sure to pray for them at least weekly. If you do not have a list take a few minutes and make one.

Possible Prayer Points

1. Ask God to show you any distractions that are keeping you from fully walking with Him. Then ask for the grace to put these out of your life.
2. Pray for the insight to see the people you can be reaching out to with the Gospel. If you have a list of people who need to put saving faith in Jesus, pray for them to place Saving Faith in Christ.

How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way