



CCN WEEKLY SOLUTIONS SERIES
THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10, 2007



The Secret Things of God, Part 4

Featuring
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I. Our relationship with God

The Bible is God's story about his interaction with us

To interact with God, there are some tough dynamics

If we think "I want a relationship with God," we risk rejection—we can't begin there

In fact, God wants a relationship with me

II. God wants an intimate relationship with us

Intima: God wants to relate to us in our innermost parts

The problem: We treat God like dial-up Internet

You're online for a while, and then you disconnect

God wants us online with him all the time

Log on and stay there: walk in the Spirit

John Gottman's marriage research: "simple meaningless chitchat" isn't, because you're connecting and turning towards each other

Relate to God in an ongoing, abiding way: not just the mountaintop experiences

¹*O LORD, you have searched me
and you know me.*

²*You know when I sit and when I
rise; you perceive my thoughts
from afar.*

³*You discern my going out and
my lying down; you are familiar
with all my ways.*

—Psalm 139:1-3

III. God is for you, not against you

God delights in you—just as a father does with his children

God really likes it when things go well with you

Grace is unmerited favor: God is for you, no matter what

As you internalize this, it's amazing what you'll try

We soar when we know we're loved and that God is for us even when it doesn't work

The big problem: We live in a broken world where bad things happen

Then if God's for us, why doesn't he do anything about it?

What does it mean when things don't work out?

- You might not be ready for it
- It might not be the best thing for you

Sometimes the door God closes leads to something that doesn't fit us

- God gives people freedom, and sometimes people use that badly

God suffers with you in this

- Sometimes we ask with impure motives
- Sometimes we don't ask, or we've only asked a couple of times

IV. God does not want you to feel guilty

Many of us feel that "God" and "guilt" are synonyms

*For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.
—John 12:47b*

Jesus came to abolish guilt

The Gospel is the Gospel of forgiveness of sins

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
—Romans 8:1*

Godly sorrow is different from guilt

Until you're forgiven in your unchanged state, you're still under judgment, and judgment will block your progress

Godly sorrow brings about repentance

God wants to help you fix what's wrong

V. You can trust God's sovereignty

God has every single detail in the universe in his hands

A big factor in mental health is self-control, not control of others

If God means for something to be, it's going to happen

"It just wasn't meant to be" is the wisdom of the Bible

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

—Matthew 10:29

VI. God requires obedience

Because he wants good things for us

- Do it His way so it goes well with us in the future

Next week on *Solutions*: “Freedom of Religion”

Resources

BOOKS:

Hiding from Love

By Dr. John Townsend
www.cloudtownsend.com

Who's Pushing Your Buttons?

By Dr. John Townsend
www.cloudtownsend.com

Loving People (to appear)

By Dr. John Townsend

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