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Like Father Like Son

When I first saw this picture of Jonathan and Henry in the ocean, I thought it was Gene with Jonathan. I compared the picture of Gene with Jennifer and Jonathan with the picture of Jonathan with Henry. Jonathan is so much like his father in so many ways. Friends still tell me: *“Jonathan is like his father!”*



Gene loved spending time with Jonathan, and our Heavenly Father wants to spend time with us too!

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

They Had Been with Jesus – Have You?

What was the mark that distinguished Peter and John? *It was the presence of Jesus. They had Christ’s own likeness and Spirit.* Can people see Jesus in us? Can they recognize His presence in our lives? They should be able to spot Him in our attitude, in our compassion, in our integrity, in our work ethic, and in our separation from the evil of this world. We are His ambassadors.

If not, maybe it’s because we haven’t been spending enough time with Him. *For some believers, they want just enough of Jesus to escape judgment, to feel forgiven, to keep a good reputation, to endure an hour of church each Sunday. Such people are in “maintenance mode.” And they give Jesus only the bare requirements.* – Wilkerson



Which faucet is turned on in your life? The faucet of God’s Word or the faucet of the World? If the faucet to God’s Word is just a dribble and the faucet to the world is turned on full blast, which one is going to impact your life the most? We need to drink deeply from the living water, the place where our thirst is quenched, our fears are dispelled, our hearts are drawn into sweet, intimate fellowship with our Savior.



A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah. ***You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.*** Psalm 63:1

But those who drink the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. John 4:14

In a world hot in pursuit of quenching its thirst with everything but God, Tozer wrote:

In the midst of this great coldness toward God there are some, I rejoice to acknowledge, who will not be content with shallow logic. They will admit the force of the argument, and then turn away with tears to hunt some lonely place and pray, "O God, show me thy glory." They want to taste, to touch with their hearts, to see with their inner eyes the wonder that is God.

I want deliberately to encourage this mighty longing after God. The lack of it has brought us to our present low estate. The stiff and wooden quality about our religious lives is a result of our lack of holy desire. Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people. He waits to be wanted. Too bad, that with many of us, He waits so long, so very long, in vain.

There is an ancient tale from India about a young man who was seeking God.

He went to a wise old sage for help. "How can I find God?" he asked the old man. The old man took him to a nearby river. They waded into the deep water. Soon the water was up just under their chins. Suddenly the old man seized the young man by the neck and pushed him under the water. He held the young man down until the young man was flailing the water in desperation. Another minute and he may well have drowned. Up out of the water the two of them came. The young man was coughing water from his lungs and still gasping for air. Reaching the bank he asked the man indignantly, "What did that have to do with my finding God?" The old man asked him quietly, "While you were under the water, what did you want more than anything else?" The young man thought for a minute and then answered, "I wanted air. I wanted air more than anything else." The old man replied, "When you want God as much as you wanted air, you will find him."

Fill My Cup, Lord

by Richard Blanchard



Like the woman at the well I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy;
And then I heard my Savior speaking,
Draw from My well that never shall run dry.

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up Lord,
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of heaven, feed me 'til I want no more,
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

Without God and a life of intimate fellowship and dependence on Him, our soul becomes like a parched and thirsty land, thirsty for the refreshing waters of intimate fellowship where God is our prime source of life and happiness. Most of our human strategies for quenching our thirst are centered on what is fleeting or passing away in a temporal world.

Falling in Love Again by Steven Lawson

It was the wedding of the century. They were the very definition of romance. The epitome of love, courtship, and marriage. The world's most eligible bachelor—Prince Charles, Duke of Windsor—exchanged wedding vows with a British aristocrat—the beautiful Lady Diana Spencer. They were so much in love. So full of life. So full of hope.



But that was then. And something tragic happened. Somewhere along the way their lives grew apart. Their love grew strangely cold. Stale. Mechanical. Routine. Public appearances were made. But it was all for show. Their passion was now ancient history.

December 9, 1992, British Prime Minister John Major broke the disheartening news. There would be a royal separation. Not a divorce, mind you. Just a mutual coexistence. A truce. The Royal Highnesses would remain legally married and keep their royal positions. But they would now live in separate houses, lead separate lives, and go their separate ways.

Far greater than the much-publicized romance between Prince Charles and Lady Di is our relationship with Jesus Christ. Ours is the greatest love story ever known. The King of kings courted us and pursued us to become His royal bride. Bible study was so life changing. Prayer was so heart-lifting. Worship was so earthshaking. We savored every moment in His presence.

But, as in any relationship, our love for Christ is subject to fluctuation. Sometimes there is a serious waning of our intensity. Sometimes our passion for the Lord grows stale. Mechanical. Routine. And we begin to take Him for granted. Sure, we are still the bride of Jesus Christ. We share the same heart, but the relationship has grown cold. Distant.

Disordered Love

Tim Keller shares about Disordered Love in his book entitled ***Prayer***. He speaks about *“Disordered Love which is loving something or someone more than you love God. He should be our “supreme” love. If He is, all other “loves” will fall rightly into place. We must see that our heart’s loves are “disordered,” out of order. Things we ought to love third or fourth are first in our hearts. God, whom we should love supremely, is someone we may acknowledge but whose favor and presence is not as important to us as prosperity, success, status, love, and pleasure.”*

Rev. 2:4 But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Jesus said in Matthew 22 that the greatest commandment is to ***Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.***

I know what it's like to get the two greatest commandments inverted without even realizing it. The Lord in His kindness showed me how my life priorities were imbalanced. He said, *Bob, you come to me like to a gas station. You come to the place of prayer in order to get filled up.*

You don't come to Me because I'm the first love of your heart; you come to me to get recharged so that you can go out and pursue the first love of your life." Which was the ministry – seeing souls saved; winning my city for Christ; changing the world. I was motivated more by what I did for God than by being with Him.

The secret place must have top priority in our calendars and schedules because it is the place where the incubation of intimacy is facilitated. You can't garner intimacy on the run. The responses of His heart are lavishly explosive when we give Him our first and best energy. He wants us to be people of "One Thing" - the passionate pursuit of His face.

One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple. Psalm 27:4

Planned Neglect

A young concert violinist was asked the secret to her success. She replied, "Planned neglect." Then she explained, When I was in music school, there were many things that demanded my time. When I went to my room after breakfast, I made my bed, straightened the room, dusted the floor, and did whatever else came to my attention. Then I hurried to my violin practice. I found I wasn't progressing as I thought I should, so I reversed things. Until my practice period was completed, I deliberately neglected everything else. That program of planned neglect, I believe, accounts for my success.

If we want to know the glory of God, if we want to experience the beauty of God, and if we want to be used by the hand of God, then we must live in the Word of God. Don't settle for a causal relationship with Christ, be on journey of radically following Jesus! – Platt



"Deep in my heart is the constant prayer that I would be a woman who consistently walks with God. I know that apart from Christ I can do nothing – at least nothing that is selfless, truly satisfying, and eternal. To walk with the Lord is to be with Him consistently, to go with Him where He wants me to go, to let Him set the pace, and to delight in His companionship above all others.

Lord, I don't want to go through life bothered and anxious. I don't want to eat haphazardly from Your table or give You the leftovers of my life. Sitting at Your feet is the good part of any day. Give me an undistracted heart so that I will abide in You." - Heald

We should be so preoccupied with walking in His presence that when we see Him, we can say . . .

I was just thinking about You!
Sara