

Elder Bobby Willis



Truly - A Personal Relationship

Personal relationships are not easy to come by. It takes work on the part of two individuals or else you just have a one-sided friendship. Notice what the Lord said in Matthew 12:50, **“For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”** Jesus equates a brother, sister, and mother as being those who are of a close relationship by the ties of nature to those who are endeavoring to be disciples of Christ. To be a true disciple of Christ, one must do the will of His **“Father which is in heaven.”** Jesus says plainly that they are in a close relationship with me if they are doing the will of God. Which, by the way, is the exact same will of the Son.

Luke worded it this way, **“My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it”** (Luke 8:21). Christ’s earthly mother Mary, and His brethren were nearby and desired to see Him but could not because of so many people who had gathered around Jesus. The response of Christ was that the Spiritual Relationship was now more on His mind than the ties of the flesh. The ties of the flesh will cease at death in the sense that we no longer have the opportunity to have that personal relationship with the deceased. It does not mean the love is diminished, only the direct contact which makes for an intimate relationship. However, for the Lord, that intimate relationship He has with His called, born-again children, continues and even gets closer as we dwell with Him in Glory (Paradise).

While we still remain on this earth it is good for the children of God to seek a closer, mature, intimate relationship with our Saviour. David alluded to this in Psalm 73:28, **“But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.”** David understood that by drawing nearer to the Lord that he would be better able to declare the wonderful works of God. Again, we find in James 4:8 the same admonition as James says, **“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”** Having the Lord close to us is better in every aspect of our lives. When we are close to someone,

especially Christ, then we have great confidence in them. John said, **“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: (15) And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him”** (I John 5:14-15).

Maybe all of us would do well to re-think our relationship with Christ. Maybe we all need to draw closer to Him. Maybe our confidence and trust in Him would grow if we would seek Him more. Notice Acts 17:27-28, **“That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being..”** Think About IT!