

John 4

ENGAGE FELLOWSHIP

“Your son will live and not die.’ So from that day forward, the man and all his family and servants believed.” (John 4:53)

MY JOURNAL

Just like this Samaritan father, great things happen as we encounter Jesus, walking by faith in His Word.

Let’s reflect back upon the time when you first entered into relationship with the Savior. Do you remember really desiring to please Him, to put a smile on His face, so to speak? Was a longing to please Jesus part of your “new birth” experience?

When you think back on this time, did you desire to:

- Put away certain things, attitudes, or behaviors from your life?
- Avoid certain familiar patterns and places?
- Flee certain activities and acquaintances?
- Meditate upon God’s Word?
- Worship with fellow Christ-followers?
- Share your experiences with Jesus with other people?

Complete as many of these sentences as you can:

As I think back upon my experience of accepting Jesus as my Savior, I recall these thoughts of wanting to please Him: _____

“...so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work.” (Colossians 1:10)

Lord Jesus, I desire to please You, to “walk worthy” of my calling. I dread displeasing You and I sense the Holy Spirit touching my heart, giving me a deeper motivation to yield to You in these ways: _____

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ENCOUNTER JESUS

Jesus said to her, “You don’t have to wait any longer, the Anointed One is here speaking with you—I am the One you’re looking for.”
(John 4:26)

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Shockingly, Jesus revealed to the Samaritan woman that He was the Messiah; but how did she deserve or merit such revelation? It was only by grace, unmerited...and so it is with you and me.

Reflect on what you have done or could do to deserve His forgiveness. There’s nothing that you could do to earn the gift of His Son? Every one of us much conclude: It’s only by His grace. It is only God’s unconditional love that provided the gift of Calvary and the forgiveness that is available to us.

Make a list of all the things you have done this week to cause God to love you less...

Answer: NOTHING!

Make a list of the things you have done this week to cause God to love you more...

Answer: NOTHING!

“...to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6).

Now allow the Holy Spirit to touch your heart with thanks and gratitude, praise and wonder that God has freely given the gift of His Son and the empowering of His Spirit. Share your praise and worship with the Lord:

Father, as I consider the unmerited gift and provision of Your Son and Your Spirit just for me, my heart is touched with _____. Overwhelm me with gratitude and empower me through the wonder of Your grace that I might live life pleasing You in all things.

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EXPERIENCE SCRIPTURE

“My food is to be doing the will of him who sent me and bring it to completion.” (John 4:34)

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Insights from how Jesus responded to the Father point to one critical factor —YIELD! We don’t quarrel; we yield (see Isaiah 45:9). Nowhere in Scripture do we see the Father yielding to the Son. Indeed, the Father is always the one who commands, sends, and commissions the Son. And the Son, as a demonstration of His love, always yields to the Father. Jesus’ commitment to yield was so strong that He described it as His very nourishment.

Consider the following additional statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John:

- *“I do not seek my own will, but the will of Him who sent me” (John 5:30).*
- *“I love the Father and...I do exactly what my Father has commanded me” (John 14:31).*
- *“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love” (John 15:10).*

One of the ways we express love to the Father is to yield to His will and to His ways for our life. Great love is expressed when we yield, even before we know His exact plans for us. Our fulfillment of what Jesus called the Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40)—to love God —includes the discipline of yielding! One of the simplest ways to love God is to say, “Yes Lord—now what would You have me do?”

Consider pausing in a prayer of yielding: *“Lord, I acknowledge Your work in my life and yield to it. Continue Your Spirit’s work in me that I might better express the life and love of Jesus.”*

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