

Over the summer, we're going to be focusing on taking our relationship with God deeper. It's our goal to stretch you in places you may have never been stretched and to challenge you to go somewhere in God you've never been.

If you've been around here any length of time, you know we talk a lot about "relationship with God". But the reality is, there are several different ways of looking at this relationship and so often there's a **limit** placed on it.

Some see it simply as their salvation, and that's it. Some see it simply as their church attendance; as long as they attend church every week, them and God, they're good. Others see it in the things that they DO for God. But the truth of the matter is those things are only a **small portion** of what a **real relationship** with God looks like. There is **no limit** to this relationship we can have with God.

**Psalm 105:4** – "Search for the LORD and for His strength, and keep on searching."

There is always more of God to discover and places in our personal relationship with Him that we've never been.

So tonight we are going to start this summer off and go deeper, but in order to do that we're going to have to **think differently**. We've got to stop putting limits on our relationship with Jesus and understand what a real relationship with Him looks like.

What a relationship with God is, it is the **opportunity** for us humans to personally and intimately know God.

So to limit it to our church attendance, we're missing so much. To cap it off at the point of what we DO for God, we're missing so much. To even say having a nice devotional time every morning is the totality of our relationship with God is putting such a huge limit on what we could have. THERE IS NO LIMIT.

**So what does a real relationship with God look like?**

**1. He should have your *heart***

So much pulls at our heart and desires. Yet out of all the stuff in this world, there is only One thing that totally satisfies.

So what does it mean for God to have your heart? It means you will do **anything** for Him.

- It means that you would be willing to *give up* anything for Him

- It means that you would be willing to be *different* from everyone else

We've taken God and our relationship with Him and have tried to shove Him and tried to fit Him down into our lives... where it's *convenient* for us.

(God, you can save my soul... and I'll come to church on Sundays, but You can't have my girlfriend... I know you want me to end that relationship because she's not a follower of Jesus, but this is as far as it goes...)

If you draw a line with God, God doesn't have your heart, He has your...wink????

This is a process that will never end when it comes to relating to God. None of us are perfect... God continually asks me to change things and give up things as I'm pursuing Him... and I still have to chose either way. But the point of the matter is... if we say He has our hearts, then when He puts His finger on that "thing" in our hearts,

we should be willing to deal with it immediately.

If He truly has your heart, then He definitely should have your attention.

## 2. **He should have your attention**

There is so much that begs our attention – so much that we probably don't even realize it. This sport needs to be played. This concert wants you to go to it. This parent wants you to do chores. This teacher wants you to do this project. This youth pastor wants you to come to Awaken every Wednesday night and bring your friends. The Wii, the texting, Facebook, the girlfriend, the boyfriend... ***Everything and everybody wants your attention.***

If you have a relationship with God, He should have your primary attention. He should be the One that you're truly distracted by.

God shouldn't have to compete for your attention, He will, but He definitely shouldn't have to.

In your relationship with Him... does He have to compete for your attention?

So often we treat Him like this...

"God, I have an opening here. I've got 5 minutes right here you can relate with me."

If He truly has your heart and your attention, then He should have your pursuit.

## 3. **He should have your pursuit**

So often we treat our relationship with God solely with a defensive approach. We don't talk to Him until we need to ask Him to forgive us... or until we need Him to fix something because we've screwed up... Our relationship with God should be done in offense, not defense. If a football team constantly took a defensive approach, they'd never score. They'd never move forward in the game... they'd stay where they were... maybe occasionally making an interception.

If you truly love God, you should be pursuing Him. You should be spending time with Him. At times you should even be spending *extra* time with Him.

Worshipping God should be a joy... not a huff and a sigh because you're tired... and don't really feel like singing...

You say you want a relationship with God, I just showed you a small portion of what it looks like. You may be thinking: that is a lot. In a way it is... but in a way it's very simple. He should become your all.

**And He is worth it.** He's GOD for crying out loud. I have not regretted one day being in love with Jesus. Not one day. Because all of the stuff He's asked me to give up... all of the things I've passed by because my attention was on Him... things I've missed because I was pursuing Him... it has all been worth it, and I'm just getting started.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 – "If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done."