

The Wonder of God's Care

Step 11: We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood him, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.

From the beginning God has been intentionally aware of us and longing for us to live in conscious contact with Him. His will for us has been that we know how deeply we are loved by Him and daily walk safely and securely in the conscious knowledge of His great love for us.

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God! They are innumerable! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up in the morning, you are still with me! (From Psalm 139)

Being conscious of ourselves and our place in life is often is known these days as "self-perception." We develop our self-perception by noticing how the important people in our lives see us. If we grew up in a dysfunctional family, their skewed view of us probably warped our ability to see ourselves as we truly are in God's eyes. The place God has made for us in his plan is amazing. The place we hold in his thoughts on a continual basis is incredible.

O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens.. When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you have set in place, what are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us? You made us only a little lower than the angels, and you crowned us with glory and honor. You put us in charge of everything you made, giving us authority over all things. (From Psalm 8)

The God who created the universe actually holds His gaze and attention on us in love and delight. God really cares about us and the things that matter to us. Are we living in conscious awareness of God to the same degree? Do we give Him our attention in an ongoing way? Do we live our days motivated by a desire to bring joy and delight to God's heart and do whatever it is that pleases Him? Do we live our part of consciously living in love with our God?

The greatest demonstration of how precious we are in God's sight is that Jesus gave his life for us. God wants us to realize how precious we are to him and to begin to

see ourselves in the light of his love. Consider this: if we were worth God's giving up the most precious thing he had (his only son) what does that say about our value? It is overwhelming when we begin to realize how much God really loves us.

Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. ... Search for the Lord and for his strength, and keep on searching. Think of the wonderful works he has done, the miracles and the judgments he handed down, O chosen ones of God. He is the Lord our God. (From Psalm 105)

God is always with us. In the same way that young lovers seek to spend as much time as possible together, so God's constant presence is with us, His beloved ones. The God who loves us is longing to share all of this moment, this experience, this day with us.

Young lovers live to share all of who they are and what they experience with the one they love. They share memories and experiences from the past to nourish the life they now have together. They share hopes and dreams. They get to know the likes and dislikes of each other. They are filled with wonder at what the loved one does. As men and women who are learning to live in a relationship of love and care with God, it's important that we take time to notice what God is doing, to speak to God in prayer about it with joy and thanksgiving and also to share our circumstances with him and ask for the strength we need today.

Lovers share their lives and God wants us to share with Him all that we are and all that we long to be. At the same time, God wants to share His heart with us and find us interested in what He's thinking about and hoping for and working towards. God is available today with His attentive presence, his faithful help in all circumstances, and His encouraging hope for us and for life as we walk in conscious contact with Him. Am I available to God? Am I living in conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will and the power to carry it out?

Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. What's it like to be in love? Do I believe that God is in love with me? What must that be like? How am I nurturing that today?
2. Who is the most precious person in our life? What place do they hold in my thought and feelings? What would I be willing to do for that person? How does this hint at how God cares for us and wants to be a part of our lives?