

Step 11: Hook Up

(Walking with God without getting weird)

(SERIES: 12 Steps Up; 11 of 12)

by Dr. David Foster

"Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so **THAT THOSE WHO HAVE TRUSTED IN GOD MAY BE CAREFUL TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO DOING WHAT IS GOOD.**

These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him." (Titus 3:1-10)

How do you relate?

Some relate through **ignorance**.

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." (Rom 1:20)

Some relate through **information**.

"always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth." (2 Tim 3:7)

Some relate through **institutions**.

"They will go to church, yes, but they won't really believe anything they hear. Don't be taken in by people like that." (2 Tim 3:5)

Some relate through **intimacy**.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psa 139:23 NIV)

How close are you?

In close, there is **rest**.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Mat 11:28 NIV)

In close, there is **release**.

"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Rom 7:24)

In close, there is **restoration**.

"Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart." (Psa 37:3-4)

In close, there is **re-entry**.

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." (Jer 33:3)

". . . the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." (Dan 11:32)