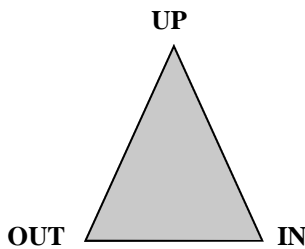


*Come,
Walk With
Us
In His Steps*



God Calls, We Answer

When you consider the Up relationship, keep in mind that you are not the instigator of the relationship. You do not have to work to keep the relationship alive. Every time you pray, you are simply responding to God's call to your heart.

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Luke 6:12-20 Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Personal Reflection

As a parent, one of my greatest hopes is that my children will want to be in relationship with me when they're independent adults. I am doing what I can now, when they are young, to build a relationship with them that they will choose to continue investing in even when they're on their own and making their own choices. I am giving them the emotional, spiritual, and material support they need to grow into healthy, mature adults. With my guidance, they are learning to care for themselves and others, and to discover and develop their gifts and talents. They know that I love them and that they can come to me for help no matter what.

My model for this is the Lord, who loves me unconditionally, and has drawn me to him throughout my life. He asks us all to choose whether or not to be in relationship with him; I have been responding to his call on my life since I was about 13 years old. When I've tried to hide from him and just do it my way, things didn't work out so well, and I felt disconnected, somehow off-balance. I have learned that his way is so much better – with him there is peace, joy, hope, and love. His way frees me to be

who I am, to use the gifts he has given me and not fret (too much!) over the ones I don't have, to rest in the knowledge that he created me this way and loves me as I am. While that thought continues to surprise and amaze me, I don't doubt it anymore – I know in my bones that it is true.

Just as I hope to have a genuine relationship with my children when they are old enough to really choose, the Lord has sought after me, and you. He loves you, and he wants you to choose him, every day. We must be humble enough to realize that we can't go it alone. The One who gave us life will rejoice with us during good times and walk us through dark times. A relationship with him is there for the taking – our job is to take tight hold of his hand and allow him to guide us.

Readings & Questions

Monday, November 6

1 Corinthians 8:6

Take a few moments now to pray about concerns and to give thanks for all He has done for you.

Tuesday, November 7

Matthew 23:11-12

Jesus taught that being a humble servant is what

makes a person great. What does the world tell us makes a person great?

Wednesday, November 8

Isaiah 66: 2-3; Proverbs 22:4

What does it mean to *live humbly*? Why does God ask this of us? In what areas of your life could you learn to be a bit more humble?

Thursday, November 9

Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 1:9

What promise does God give to those who love him and receive Christ as their savior? Can you think of a time when God demonstrated his faithfulness in keeping this promise to you? How does knowing that God always keeps his promises change the way you live?

Friday, November 10

Deuteronomy 8:10-20

Do you consider yourself an *owner* of your wealth and resources, or a *manager* of them? What is the difference between the two? If you are not the owner, who is?

Prayer for the Week

Lord, help me to choose You everyday, knowing that your ways are the right ways. I want to walk humbly with You, trusting You to meet my needs, and recognizing that without You I am nothing. Remove from my heart any desire to go my own way, and any temptation to consider myself better than another. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Growth Giving Challenge

Calculate where your current giving is reflected on the chart.
Reflect and pray about how God is asking to respond in faith for 2007.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Monthly Giving					
		@ 10%	@ 8.5%	@ 6%	@ 4.5%	@ 3%	@ 1.5%
\$15,000	\$1,250	\$125	\$106	\$75	\$56	\$38	\$19
\$20,000	\$1,667	\$167	\$142	\$100	\$75	\$50	\$25
\$25,000	\$2,083	\$208	\$177	\$125	\$94	\$63	\$31
\$30,000	\$2,500	\$250	\$213	\$150	\$113	\$75	\$38
\$35,000	\$2,917	\$292	\$248	\$175	\$131	\$88	\$44
\$40,000	\$3,333	\$333	\$283	\$200	\$150	\$100	\$50
\$45,000	\$3,750	\$375	\$319	\$225	\$169	\$113	\$56
\$45,464	\$3,789	\$379	\$322	\$227	\$170	\$114	\$57
\$50,000	\$4,167	\$417	\$354	\$250	\$188	\$125	\$63
\$60,000	\$5,000	\$500	\$425	\$300	\$225	\$150	\$75
\$70,000	\$5,833	\$583	\$496	\$350	\$263	\$175	\$88
\$80,000	\$6,667	\$667	\$567	\$400	\$300	\$200	\$100
\$90,000	\$7,500	\$750	\$638	\$450	\$338	\$225	\$113
\$100,000	\$8,333	\$833	\$708	\$500	\$375	\$250	\$125

Note: \$45,464 is the per capita (person) income for Howard County as of 2002 (latest figure).

“Giving is more than a responsibility—it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience—it is evidence of our faith.”

William Arthur Ward
(1921-94)
American educator

“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.”

Martin Luther
(1483-1546)
German reformer and theologian

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