

DAILY 10 COMMANDMENT SERIES



A TRANSFORMED RELATIONSHIP



MASTER PROPHET
ARCHBISHOP
JORDAN

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1st Commandment

Do know what transformation is all about



“It is in the nature of things to be drawn to the very experiences that will spoil our innocence, transform our lives, and give us necessary complexity and depth.”

- Thomas Moore

Power Truth

² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

This book is all about having and developing Transformed Relationships. However, in order for us to understand what this thing is all about, let us look first into its vital compositions – transformation and relationship. This chapter will discuss about the meaning of real transformation while the second one is more on the value of relationships. As we discuss these parts individually, it will be easier for us to understand the whole.

The Real Transformation

Transformation is not merely the change, conversion or alterations in structure, appearance and character of things, person or any being as defined by dictionaries. It is not also like a metamorphosis of a butterfly, an extraordinary phenomenon that happens naturally or the transfiguration of Jesus Christ that happen miraculously.¹

Changes do happen spontaneously, eventually and naturally, but it does not necessarily mean that there is transformation.

Caterpillars do not push themselves to having wings and becoming a butterfly, it is in their nature to grow. An infant who learns to walk and talk is not really about transformation but a natural part of human maturation and development. These things just prove that changes do happen spontaneously, eventually and naturally, but it does not necessarily mean that there is transformation.

Transformation only happens out of will and personal shift. It is not just about the physical and obvious changes that occur; it is more of the invisible value and high perspectives that we put on the things that lead to the changes seen. Transformation is not about making life better but rather it is about creating value in life, knowing the fact that life is changing (Smothermon, 1982).

1st Commandment

To understand transformation better, let me use an illustration that of two women who are both overweight for many years. One woman believes that she will never lose those extra weight and inches while the other one believes that she can still have a normal body size if she works out and modify her diet.

The latter one's perspective is far better than the first one; this woman puts value on her physical body and therefore undergoes a process of changes toward her belief that she can have a normal body and will not stop unless she achieved what she desired and valued. The other woman will therefore remain the same, as she believes she would be.

Transformation is not just about the changes in form but that of its value.

Changes do happen out of a renewed mind and transformed perspectives and beliefs. Therefore, if you want transformation, then start adding value to the things that you believe in. Renew your mind and let transforming takes place.

Going back to the previous example, the transformation is not about the changes in the body size of the second woman but on the importance that she gave on it. Remember that transformation is not really about the changes in form but rather a change of its value (Smothermon, 1982).

What now

1. What is your personal definition for transformation? How does this better and concise definition of transformation in this chapter appeal to you?
2. For you, why is transformation essential to every being and relationship? In what situations, transformation is needed in the relationship?

2nd Commandment

Know the value of relationships



“The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed.”

- C.G. Jung

Power Truth

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10

A Lonely Planet

According to Dr. Ron Smothermon, life is all about the discovery of the self. We exist, we feel and we survive to know the self. However, the self can only be experienced through relationships with another person. To better understand this notion, think of being in a planet where nothing exists, no friends, no family, no other people, no animals, no plants, no one and nothing but yourself.

Would you still believe that you are really living in that place without anyone or anything to validate your existence? That is a picture of complete emptiness without any form of relationships. The self cannot even agree that there is life in itself because there is none to assure it.

Life is uncertain without anyone or anything around us. It is like living inside a lonely planet.

The validation of one's self makes relationships vital to life. Even in the beginning, Adam knows how insignificant life is with just the animals and plants, so God gave him Eve to live and relate with. Adam's recognition of his being was validated with another being. He then called her woman because he knows that she was taken out of him, a man.¹

Life is uncertain without anyone or anything around us. It is like living inside a lonely planet. The self is primarily contained in a physical realm bound by its own but the moment it goes beyond its form and touches another container, which is that of others, it develops significance and worth. The discovery of self and the significance of life can only be achieved through relationships.

Relationships

Relationships can be in any form and in any level. Looking at its various definitions, relationship can be formed through the connection of blood like that of family and relatives. Relationship can also be a particular type of

connection existing between people with common interests and concern for each other commonly found in friendships; it can also happen with just a simple contact or dealings with others like that of acquaintances. Relationships can also involve romance and love seen between married couples and lovers. It can also be found between a boss and an employee or just between co-workers. Relationship happens anytime, anywhere and with anyone.

Each man is born to live not by himself alone but to find meaning and purpose of his existence through his relationship with his Creator and fellow creations.

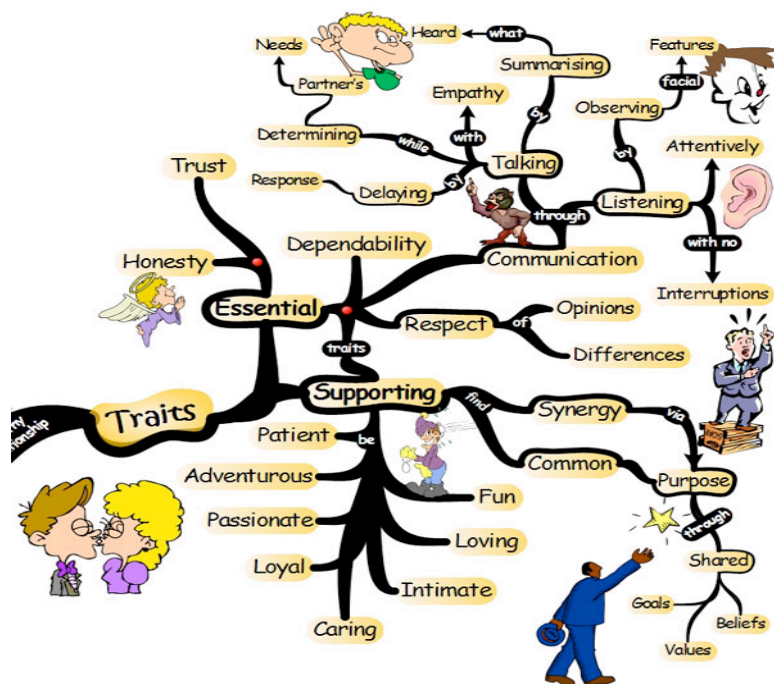
The famous saying, “No man is an island” is indeed true. Each man is born to live not by himself alone but to find meaning and purpose of his existence through his relationship with his Creator and fellow creations. In whatever form or level a relationship there is, we should always relate, connect and deal with others to live and feel significantly.

What now

1. In your own perspective, how important having a relationship is for our existence?
2. How will you find yourself living in a world alone? Is being in a lonely planet acceptable for you? Why?
3. How do you value your relationships? Can you live without it? Why?
4. Build a relationship with the Lord so that when all the people in this world leave you, you still have a God who is bigger than all the planets combined.

3rd Commandment

Know what needs to be transformed



"I love my enemies for two reasons: they inspire me to recognize my weakness. They also inspire me to perfect my imperfect nature."

- Sri Chinmoy

Power Truth

³ And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3

Relationship Assessments

Being able to know the meaning of transformation and relationships from the previous chapters, it is now easy to understand and develop a transformed relationship. Knowing that we are merely incapable of surviving without a relationship, then it should be our utmost need to put value on the relationships that we have. The moment we give worth and significance to relationships is when transformation in the relationship begins.

The moment we give worth and significance to relationships is when transformation in the relationship begins.

Assessment of your relationships is a thing to be considered first and foremost. Plans and actions come only after a thorough and knowledgeable assessment of the present situation. One of the things to consider in aiming for a transformed relationship is your own knowledge of it.

How do you see your relationships? What are the relationships that matter to you? How do you value these relationships? Do you want it to be transformed? Should you keep this relationship and make it thrive? Will you give your best to hold onto it? What do you get in that relationship? Will you become better with it or without it?

Know the value of that relationship to you and determine if you can add more to it to transform it.

If the relationship that you are in does not transform or lead you in becoming a better person, then you are probably *with* the wrong one or *in* the wrong one or you may also be the wrong person in that relationship. There are so many reasons and conditions why relationships work and/or fail, and that is

3rd Commandment

why the first step in transforming relationships is to determine and figure out these reasons and conditions.

Keep in mind that we cannot fix a thing if we do not know what the damaged part is. In relationships, we really cannot develop improvements if we do not know its present condition. Therefore, we really have to assess our relationships and see what needs to be changed, improved or removed. Again, transformation is not just about the changes in form but the value of it. Know the value of that relationship to you and determine if you can add more to it to transform it.

What now

1. Assess your present relationships. Take time to judge the status of each.
2. Are you happy and satisfied with all of your relationships? In what ways?
3. Are there any reasons for you to be unhappy in your relationship? What are these?
4. What are the areas that you think you can improve more on in terms of how you relate with others?
5. Ask the Lord for guidance as you constantly assess your relationships, and let the God of truth leads you into a better perspective of your own relationships.

4th Commandment

Know your desires for transformation



“When you don't talk, there's a lot of stuff that ends up not getting said.”

- Catherine Gilbert Murdock

Power Truth

¹⁹ God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Numbers 23:19

Why transform?

As mentioned in the first chapter, changes are inevitable but not transformation. We can expect changes in our relationships, but we will not be certain if it will change for the better or for the worst. Therefore, in order for us to see changes in a way that we want, we should have goals or plans.

If in the previous chapter you were able to take a glimpse on the conditions of your relationships, then you should have an idea on what to do with it. After knowing the status of our relationships through assessment, then we can move on to why we have to transform it and how do we want it to be transformed.

In order for us to see changes in a way that we want, we should have goals or plans.

Keep in mind that relationships must thrive beyond the now. The question is how do you see your present relationships in the future? Do you still want it the same as it is in the moment or you want it renewed?

Transformation only comes with our own volition.

If changes happen naturally or spontaneously, transformation happens willfully, mindfully and wholeheartedly. Transformed relationships are not products of spontaneous events or natural occurrences; it is a result of a willing mind and loving hearts that values relationships, others, commitments and personal being. Changes may come and go without our cooperation, but transformation only comes with our own volition.

A better desire

Relationship is transformed when we generate a perspective of transformation in the relationship. This means that we have to picture out or have a mental image of the

relationship being transformed, most especially if there is something that you do not like in the relationship. A context for transformation is created by consideration alone (Smothermon, 1982).

When our desires for our relationships to be transformed are bigger than our willingness to stay in our present forms, then we already have a big step toward transformation.

Our goals or plans for the relationship must be nurtured by higher values and positive outlook, guided by the object of our desires for transformation. We must have a desire that we can look forward and work out to achieve. And, let these desires be good enough for us not to give up.

Moreover, as you look at your relationships, find in your heart the longing to develop a transformed relationship like that of Jesus to His disciples - humble, compassionate, selfless, full of service and God-centered. When our desires for our relationships to be transformed are bigger than our willingness to stay in our present forms, then we already have a big step toward transformation.

What now

1. How great is your desire to have your relationship transformed?
2. What are your plans for your relationships? How do you see your present relationships five to ten years from now?
3. Let the Lord know your plans for your relationship. Lift up and sync your relationship to His perfect will and let God take control over what you cannot do for your relationships.

5th Commandment

Know where transformation begins



“Changing yourself changes
everything.”

- Bryant McGill

Power Truth

¹⁸ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

The world within

Mahatma Gandhi once said that we must be the change that we want to see in the world. This means that the transformation of this world begins in each individual living on it. There are lots of things that are beyond our control and power to transform, but the person inside us is always under our will. Therefore, if we want to see transformation outside us and with our relationships, then we must first begin from within.

*If we want to see transformation
outside us and with our relationships,
then we must first begin from within.*

Think of your relationships as your world revolving alongside with others. If your world is not in good shape, then it cannot really cope up well with the movement of others. An unhealthy relationship looks like two planets that are both out of its orbits and about to collide with each other and ruin one another.

If we are not conscious enough of our own worlds, then we will be blinded by our own course in the relationship. Keep in mind that an untransformed relationship accurately reflects the conditions of the world out of which it came (Smothermon, 1982).

*The will of others is beyond our
capacity to transform.*

Moreover, as Earth cannot control Mars or Jupiter to move with her harmoniously, so is our relationship with others. We really cannot force others to change for us. The will of others is beyond our capacity to transform. But, we can always transform ourselves because we have the full control over it.

Instead of trying to change the other person involved in your relationship, start transforming yourself. Ask yourself if

5th Commandment

the things that you are doing now in your relationship enough to achieve your desired relationship in the next five to ten years. Remember that you are a crucial part in the relationship.

If your world is shaking or out of its path, then trouble is surely on its way towards your relationship with others. If you want your relationships to be transformed, then begin fixing from within. Be the transformation that you want to see in this untransformed world.

What now

1. How do you see yourself in your relationships? Do you tend to focus more on the other person being changed or you also make an effort to transform yourself?
2. In your own point of view, what does Gandhi's '*be the change that you want to see*' imply? Have you ever applied these words of wisdom in your relationships and life in general? In what situations?
3. Assess yourself and know your own characteristics that need transformation. Determine an action plan on how you will transform yourself towards a better relationship with others.
4. Ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit in revealing to you the areas that you have to improve on towards a transformed relationship.

6th Commandment

Do everything in love



“Love is an expression of power. We can use it to transform our world.”

- Ericka Huggins

Power Truth

² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

Acts 10:2

The solution

If transformed relationships are byproducts of the shift in value of the relationship, then we ought to know the degree or level of value needed best to lead the relationship into transformation. However, this notion can lead us into questioning, is there a required amount of value to transform something? Are we going to know how much worth we already have in our relationships? Do we have to figure out if there is any deficiency and know how much is lacking so we can add more to it? If there is such an equation to solve or complete in order to transform a relationship then probably divorce, which is the easiest solution for many, will be lessen, as another option exists in solving the relationship.

Know what is in that relationship that makes you wants to keep and transform it.

In reality, there is no such secret formula or ingredient in transforming a relationship aside from the worth this relationship have in us. Know why you are in that relationship and determine why it matters to you. Moreover, know what is in that relationship that makes you wants to keep and transform it.

If you want to transform your relationship because you feel that you have to, then I am encouraging you to hold back and think again. Transforming a relationship should not be out of force but of a willing desire.

Transforming a relationship should not be out of force but of a willing desire.

Relationships can be a trap sometimes, and that is why some escape it by choosing to end the relationship just to be freed but some chose to stay. Those who stayed are either merely breathing inside the same traps or breathing freely inside a transformed relationship they once considered traps.

The actions that we make in our relationships depend solely on us, and given these three options of escaping, staying and changing, the decision is upon our choice. If you pick the last two options, then why will you choose to keep the relationship? Is it because of the people involved in this relationship, or is it because of the irresistible force in this world called love?

*Relationship - Love Relationship
Termination*

Broken or unsuccessful relationships happen because of the most popular reason recorded as falling out of love or love lost or the love is gone or whatever they call it. Without love, relationship ends. Given this reason, I came up with a simple equation: Relationship – Love = Relationship Termination.

If that is the equation for terminating a relationship, then the equation to reverse it will be: Relationship + Love = Relationship Transformation. With love, relationship thrives. Love is the determining factor to the destination of the relationship. If you are still looking for solutions on how your relationships will be transformed, then let love be the answer.

*Relationship Love Relationship
Transformation*

The Commandment

Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments into two, and these two are all about our relationships – with God and others. He said that we have to love God with all our mind, body and soul and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.¹ Our relationships towards God and others must be born and nurtured with love. It is not just because love is what keeps the relationship sustained but also because it is commanded to us.

*When there is growth,
transformation is present.*

6th Commandment

We ought to do everything in the relationship with love, not because it is expected of us but because it is what our hearts really wanted. If we can transform our relationships by changing its worth, then we should also learn to add the value of love in the relationships. Remember that as we grow in love, relationship grows as well, and when there is growth, transformation is present.

What now

1. Have you ever experience terminating a relationship? If yes, how does it feel? If no, do you think any of your present relationships can come to an end? Why do you think so?
2. What is the primary reason why you are staying in your relationships?
3. For you, what is the importance of love in transforming your relationship?
4. Pray that the God of love will supply and sustain you with the love that you need in thriving and transforming your relationships.

7th Commandment

Do not neglect commitment



“We have to recognise that there cannot be relationships unless there is commitment, unless there is loyalty, unless there is love, patience, persistence.”

- Cornel West

Power Truth

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17

The right perspective

I mentioned in the previous chapter about the existence of traps in the relationship. Traps are not a healthy component of relationships thus transformation is needed. Moreover, others sometimes consider these traps as commitment, which is a totally wrong perspective of it. Commitment is an expression of love. It is not an obligation, not a binding force and definitely not a trap. Again, the choice to flee or stay in the relationship is ours; therefore, this commitment must come from us and not demanded from us as well.

Commitment is an expression of love. It is not an obligation, not a binding force and definitely not a trap.

Relationships should continue to exist not because one is trapped into it but because one is committed to it. Commitment is a positive aspect of any relationships and not a negative one. It should be seen in the right and healthy perspective in order to better view the relationship.

Relationships should continue to exist not because one is trapped into it but because one is committed to it.

Once you see commitment as a mural in your relationship, it will never be an eyesore anymore. So, renew your mind and have a better sight by adding more value to the presence of commitment in your relationships. Remember that it is on how you value things that makes it transformed.

Commitment to transform

If there is one good kind of commitment in the relationship, then it must be the commitment to transform. Transformation is a continuous process. It does not happen overnight or over a course of time; it should happen daily and progressively thus the need for commitment.

We must be committed to become better and be renewed not just for the sake of our relationships but for our own self as well. Again, transformation is dependent on our own accord and it begins from within. We must be willing to embrace growth, refinement and renewal because if we do not then transformation will not occur.

Relationship thrives not because two individuals stayed out of binding commitment but because of the love that keeps them committed.

If you want your relationship to be transformed then commit it to transformation. Commitment to transform simply means not giving up no matter what. Whether you or your relationship will undergo unpleasing and painful refinement, you will push through it for the better version of you and your relationship.

If love is the gravitational pull that keeps you in your relationships, then let commitment be an expression of it. Keep in mind that relationship thrives not because two individuals stayed out of binding commitment but because of the love that keeps them committed.

What now

1. How do you see commitment in your relationships?
2. How do you express love in your relationships? Do you express it with commitment? If yes, in what ways?
3. Are you committed in transforming your relationships? If yes, how committed are you?
4. Pray that the loving committed God bless you and your relationships as it undergoes the process of transformation.

8th Commandment

Do embrace balance



“As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world -- that is the myth of the atomic age -- as in being able to remake ourselves.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

Power Truth

⁵ If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly,

Jeremiah 7:5

The misery and mystery of relationships

Miseries in the relationships are common products of brokenness, partiality and imbalance. Relationships become miserable not just because of the failure of transformation to happen but also because of the missing components of it. It is because of the belief or the worldly mindset that in order for one to be whole he or she must find his or her other half that makes people strive to be in a relationship despite of their own brokenness and lack.

Relationships do validate our existence and gives significance to our lives, but it can never complete and satisfy us. Another broken person can never patch our own brokenness. Add another half to a half that will only make one, but relationships are not about one person. It is about two or more people making the relationship work.

*Another broken person can never patch
our own brokenness.*

You may say that marriage is an exception because it is about being one. Well, you have to understand that the oneness in marriage is a union of two complete people and not two broken people. That is why many marriages fall apart because individuals entered it broken and not whole, thinking that through marriage they can be complete.

*We cannot have a transformed and
fulfilling relationship until we are
individually whole*

Miseries eventually appear in the relationship because the people involved in it failed to receive the completeness that they long from their partners or the people that they have a relationship with. It is true that we seek wholeness and completion from our relationships, but we cannot have a transformed and fulfilling relationship until we are individually whole, and this is the mystery of relationships. However, this

8th Commandment

mystery can be solved, and it takes a complete being and another complete being to make a better whole called relationship.

The need for balance

Anything that is unbalanced in the relationship in order to be corrected must be determined. We need to have balance, wholeness and impartiality for us to be developed and reformed. A seesaw can never move right if the other side is very heavy and the other one is too light. One must be able to let down oneself to lift the other and vice versa. There will be no getting without giving but we cannot give what we do not have.

We need to be whole to give wholly.

If we keep on giving and giving without getting, then we will be emptied eventually. On the other side, if we keep on getting and getting without giving, then the one giving will be emptied. Balance is essential. We need to be whole to give wholly. Keep in mind that each relationship is an opportunity for self-discovery with the gain of individual and mutual growth.

What now

1. How balanced are your relationships? How do you keep it balance?
2. As an individual, do you feel complete? Or you need relationships to be complete and whole? Why?
3. If you feel that your relationships are the only ones that complete you, then go back to your relationship with God and dwell on it, for our relationship with Him is the only one that can complete and fully satisfy us.

9th Commandment

Do not be selfish



“When you stop expecting people to be perfect, you can like them for who they are.”

- Donald Miller

Power Truth

²⁷ A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live.

Proverbs 15:27

The greater love

The existence of our lives may be all about the discovery of self-validated through relationships, but the existence of relationships is not about one's life alone; it is more about the lives joined together. Relationships are not about me, myself, mine and I; it is more of me and you or me and others. Therefore, transformed relationship begins from an individual who values the relationship and the people in it more than his or her very own self.

Transformed relationship begins from an individual who values the relationship and the people in it more than his or her very own self.

Let us go back into the commandment of Jesus about loving our neighbors wherein He did not just mention about loving others. He described how we should love others. Jesus said that we should love others the way we love ourselves.¹ It is, therefore, not wrong to value or love one's self, but the love that you give yourself must also be the same with the one you give in your relationships. Remember that transformed relationships are well balanced. To develop balance, you receive love and you also give love.

However, relationships can also become a one-way route. This is usually seen when the cause of the problem in the relationship is not you anymore but the other person involved. Like for example, between married couples only the wife gives to the relationship while the husband does not care. Many more relationships are like these, some are treated and some are still the same and some ended already. Those who are involved in this kind of relationship only give but never receive anything in exchange.

Using a seesaw illustration, the one who gives is the one who continually stays at the bottom in order to lift the other one. If this is continued, then the relationship will surely crash to its end, which can only be prevented by the presence

of commitment. If one is committed to the other person whether he or she is giving too much without getting any, then this person will never give up on the relationship. Again, commitment is not about being trapped in the relationship but because of the worth of the relationship and the love in it.

A transformed relationship is not a state of perfection but a state of greater love being manifested and valued in the relationship.

It may seem so unfair and unjust but the Scripture tells us that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend, a spouse, a brother or a sister, a parent or anyone.² If you want to see your relationship being transformed, then be ready to sacrifice and become selfless because relationships are not all about you. It is about you and the other person, and sometimes, you have to put down yourself in order to lift others.

A transformed relationship is not a state of perfection but a state of greater love being manifested and valued in the relationship. If you are in the kind of relationship wherein you feel that you are the only one exerting effort and you do not want to give up, then let me encourage you to look at the cross and remember how God gave up His own son's life to establish His relationship with His people. If you value your relationships, then learn to love greatly by loving beyond yourself.

What now

1. List down five important things that you receive or your personal benefits from your relationships then think of not receiving any of it anymore; will there be a change in your relationship? Why do you think so?
2. With your relationships, how much do you give and how much do you receive? Are you satisfied with this?

10th Commandment

Do acknowledge the Designer of relationships



“We know thoughts can work for us or against us. Let’s make our thought life work for us. Let’s make it propel us toward a healthy relationship “

- Michelle Mckinley Hammond

Power Truth

²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

Genesis 2:22

The first untransformed relationship

When Adam could not find any suitable helper for him, God the Creator of all things made Eve out of Adam's own ribs. God was also the One who brought Eve to Adam.¹ From the story of creation, we can see that the Author of relationships was no other than God, Himself.

From the story of creation, we can see that the author of relationships was no other than God, Himself.

Moreover, the very first relationship that ever existed was not of Adam and Eve but between God and Adam. When Eve was still not in the picture, it was Adam and God walking together in the garden and not Adam and the animals alone. God was an intimate God. In fact, God *is* still an intimate God.

The first relationship ended up broken and unhealed. We all know that Adam and Eve sinned before God. And, it is because of their sins that God removed them out of the garden.

God was an intimate God. In fact, God is still an intimate God.

In the Bible, it was not written whether God and the first couple were able to reconcile, for there was no mention of Adam and Eve walking with God again. The only thing written after their exile was God blessed them with sons – Cain, Abel and Seth.² In other words, there was no transformation in the relationship of God and Adam and Eve.

If only

The very first man who walked with God failed their relationship and it was because of this man's sins that God is no longer visibly walking with men. As I study the relationship of God and Adam, I can see two big reasons why it failed and ended up untransformed.

10th Commandment

The very first reason I see on why the relationship failed was the couple did not walk with the Lord that day. In other words, they were not in the presence of the Lord. Eve was alone when the serpent came to tempt her. Did she look for God the moment she was tempted? No, she didn't. In fact, it was Adam whom she confided first. The other reason is that they hide from the Lord. After they sinned, Adam and Eve hid when God looked for them.

If we want to have a transformed relationship, then we should really value its presence and existence.

Given these two reasons, I also came up on two things that Adam could have done to transform their relationship with God. First is that Adam and Eve should have been with God. If we want to have a transformed relationship, then we should really value its presence and existence. Adam or Eve had a moment without God. Why is that so? Probably, they do not want God with them on that day.

However, God is omnipresent. God was surely there when they were tempted, but Adam and Eve chose not to seek His presence. If only Adam and Eve were with God or choose to be with God, then they should not have sinned and fall short.

If we want to transform a relationship, then we do not hide or run away from its hardships. We must face whatever the relationship needs to face.

The other thing is that they should not hide themselves from God. If we want to transform a relationship, then we do not hide or run away from its hardships. We must face whatever the relationship needs to face.

Adam admitted that he was in fact afraid of God. Adam surely knows the wrath of God that's why he was afraid to face Him. If only he faced the Lord immediately and admitted his

sin, then he could have been forgiven, for God is full of mercy, especially to those who repent, but there was no account in the Scripture that Adam repented and asked for forgiveness.

Relating these lessons to our present day living, what do we usually do with the things that we value so much? Don't we want to see it every day and simply look at it, for the mere sight of it gives us delight? With our relationships to other people like friends and family, we do spend time with them and there are moments that we hope we can be with each other's presence more intimately.

Do not forget to delight yourself in the presence of the Author and Designer of all relationships - God.

If you really want a transformed relationship, then value and treasure it. Bask on its presence day and night, and do not live a moment without it in your mind and heart. Relationships do exist even when people are apart physically. Moreover, our relationships with God never part, physically yes but spiritually not because God is everywhere. He is intimate to those who seek Him.

If your relationships are facing anything that is hard for you to bear, then do not run away from it. Remember that it is in the presence of storms that the foundations of the relationships are tested, so do not be discouraged. Transformed relationships will be developed after you learn to value the presence of it in good and in tough times.

Pride is also not a good thing in relationships. If you have done anything wrong in the relationship, then be quick to ask for forgiveness. Same thing if you are the one being hurt, be quick to forgive.

God could have transformed His relationship between Him and Adam even if Adam won't cooperate, but He did not because that will violate Adam's free will. Same thing with us, the transformation in our relationships should come from us.

10th Commandment

We must be the transformation that we want to see in our relationships with God and that of our fellow men.

If you really want a transformed relationship, then do not forget to delight yourself in the presence of the Author and Designer of all relationships – God. Our relationship with Him is the best relationship we could ever have in this life. Keep in mind that His presence in our lives does not just bring delight but all the desires of our hearts.³

What now

1. How do you face trials and storms in your relationships? Do you handle it with faith or with fear? Why?
2. How do you treasure the presence of your relationships? Do you long for it every single moment of your life? In what ways do you bask in its existence?
3. How is your relationship with God? Do you delight in His presence and love?
4. Pray that God will not just be the Designer of your relationships but also be the center of it all. Invite Him in your relationships and give Him the Lordship over it.

More Resources

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Scriptural References

1st Commandment

¹ Luke 9:28-36

2nd Commandment

¹ Genesis 2:23

6th Commandment

¹ Luke 10:27

9th Commandment

¹ Luke 10:27

² John 15:13

10th Commandment

¹ Genesis 2:22

² Genesis 4

³ Psalms 37:4

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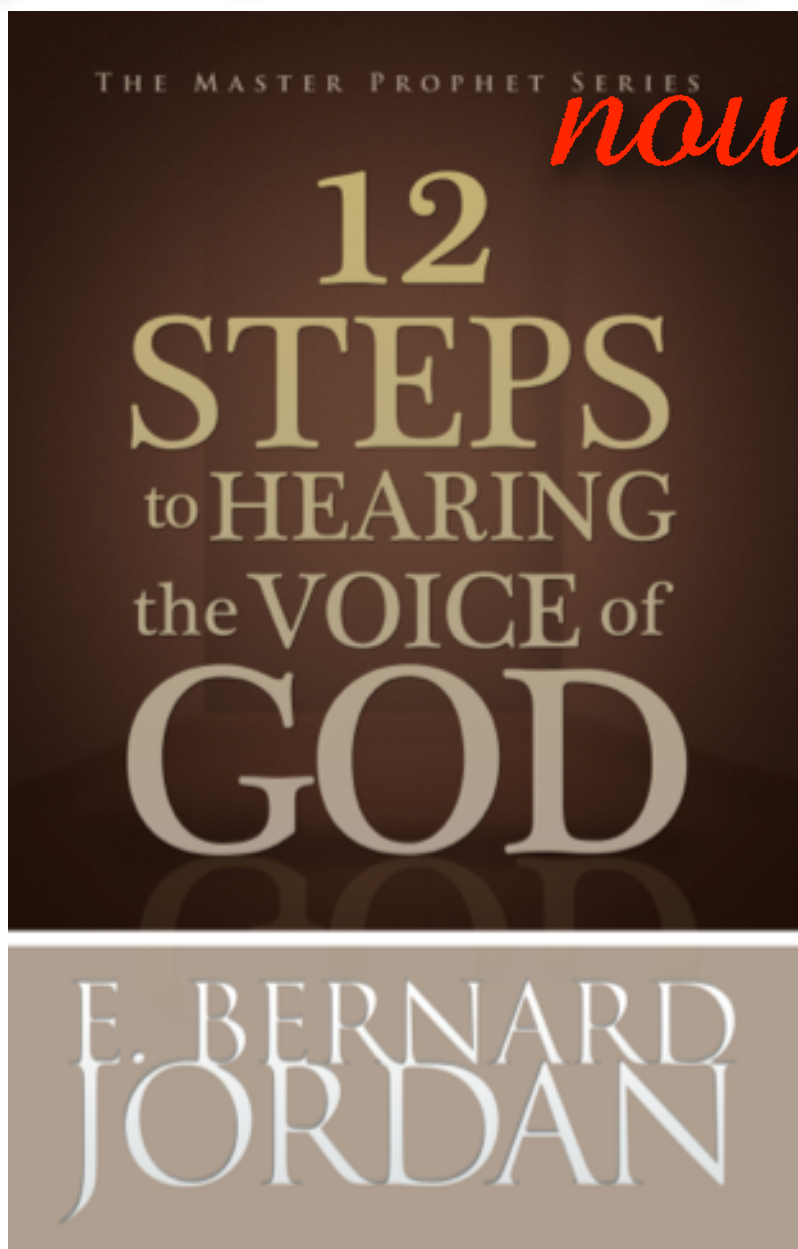
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