

Topic: How to Romance God

Text: John 17:3, Phil 3: 10, John 15:16

Introduction:

How does one Romance God?

We just had Valentine weekend, how did you romance your love or how did they romance you?

Have a flip chart ready!

1. Knowing Him

- **With an Open Bible** (Word), Ps 119, 2 Tim 3:16

Our goal in life is go to glorify God and to enjoy him forever¹.

Appreciation

Adoration

Affection

Subjection

If we glorify God we would not sin, and if we did not sin we would glorify God forever.

Knowing God with an Open Bible means we need to treasure God's Word in our hearts.

Psalm 119:1-16

The Word of God is the Bible, the greatest treasure on the earth and we can't afford to neglect the scriptures. The Bible uses words such as, "**commandments, statutes, ordinances, testimonies, and precepts**" to refer to the Word.

Many use the Bible like a library book or reference book-consulting it outside of one's life, but what God wants us to do is to consult the Bible inside of one's life- in our hearts

The Word heart means the mind and the emotions, our thoughts and our feelings.

We need to THINK the Word (Reading, Studying, Meditating)

We need to FEEL the Word (Application)

How do we treasure God's Word?

By (**Tsaphan**) meaning hiding and storing the word. When one treasures something they keep it or store it.

The only way of fulfilling our ultimate goal in life (Glorifying and Enjoying God-Overcoming sin) is to store the Word as something very precious.

Hebrews 4:14 tells us that,

“The word of God is Living and active, sharper than any double edged sword, piercing until it divides soul and spirit, joint and marrow, and purposes of the heart”.

The Word of God is Wisdom that gives us Salvation

The Word of God is Treasure- the greatest and most precious of treasures

The Word of God is Power- the most dynamic Power

Why?

2 Tim 3:16-7 gives us the answer!

God Himself superintended the writings of Scripture. He inspired all Scripture.



The Scriptures are so relevant to our lives (even in these tough times of the economic crisis)

The Word of God says,

1) He is Jehovah Jireh- our Provider

The Revelation of the Name **Jehovah-Jireh** (Genesis 22:12-14) meaning the Lord Who Provides.

The name is literally, The Lord Who Sees, or The Lord Who Will See To It.

This is what we long for when we have a need that is personal and special:

- One Who will see to our needs and provide for us. He sees to it that my every need is met.
- He knows my need because He sees.
- One Who is able to meet my need in just the right time as He did for Abraham, and One Who can meet it fully.

For Abraham, it was the ram caught in the thicket that was offered in Isaac's place. For us it is whatever we need.

2) In Matthew 6:25-34 we are encouraged to seek first the Kingdom of God and all His righteousness and the deal is that all the things will be added unto us.

3) In Psalm 23 it says, “The Lord is my Shepherd and I shall not want”

4) In Philippians 4:4,19, It says, “Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice- and that My God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in Glory in Christ Jesus”

Do you trust the Word?

The Relevance of the Word

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

The whole point of good works is so that people may glorify the Father, the Bible equips us for good works- this is how we romance God.

Good works encourage people to glorify God as they come into intimacy with God Almighty through the power of Jesus.

Outreach relevant to the current economic climate!

So our Bible must remain open, our hearts must remain open and we should remain unmoved from this anchor of truth.

- **WITH AN OPEN LINE (PRAYER)²**

The A.C.T.S model³

I have seen many men work without praying, though I have never seen any good come out of it; but I have never seen a man pray without working. James Hudson Taylor

“The most glorious works of grace that have ever took place, have been in answer to prayer; and it is in this way, We have the greatest reason to suppose, that the glorious out-pouring of the Spirit, Which we expect at last, will be bestowed.” [William Carey](#)

[Pray for others.](#) In the epistles of St Paul, we read of him praying for those he has led to faith, and asking them also to pray for him. So, you too can pray for other Christians, and encourage them to pray for you. Pray for your family members, and for neighbors and friends. It's also good to pray for those who don't know Jesus to come to faith - many Christians have come to believe in Christ through the prayers of others.

[Pray for world issues:](#) for peace in difficult situations, for leaders and those in influential positions, for global issues such as care of God's environment, justice for the poor, relief of suffering in less developed countries, and other issues that come to you.

[Pray for your own needs too.](#) It's easy to neglect this, but Jesus encourages us to do so in the [Lord's Prayer](#) - the model for prayer that He gave us. Prayer Guide (Teal Foundation)



Adoration

CJ's City Shema

As we spend time in adoration, we praise God for who He is - our Creator, our Sustainer, our Provider and our Redeemer.

Confession allows us to clear away the things in the relationship between you and God, which are displeasing to Him.

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn 1:8,9)

Thanksgiving. "Thank You" (From Childhood)

Thank God for his many blessings (Bless the Lord all my soul)

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." 1 Tim 2:1.

Supplication (Intercession)

Asking for our needs and the needs of others

There are many demands on our prayer time - many topics and issues that we could pray for, so we need to choose, and to be specific.

*"...we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." **Romans 8:26-27***

*"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." **Hebrews 4:14-16***

*"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." **1 John 5:14-15***

"When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. Then He said to them, 'Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.'"
Luke 22:45

- **WITH AN OPEN HEART (FELLOWSHIP)**

We must make sure we are meeting all the non-negotiables of true community:

How is our love?

Gather, Accept, Encourage, Comfort, Pray, Confess, Forgive, Hospitality and Expanding our Community.

2. MAKING HIM KNOWN

- **WITH AN OPEN MAP (OUTREACH)⁴**

"To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map." -- William Carey

Our outreach strategy⁵

5k card blitz (we need to prayer walk), do it in our CCG

Help relevant to the current climate

⁴"Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God." [William Carey](#)

⁵**February: A foundation of prayer**

Call to pray like mad for outreach, in meetings and individually, especially for (i) passion for outreach; (ii) preparation for outreach; (iii) divine opportunities; (iv) discernment of the spiritual reality (heavenly perspective), especially of the condition of those we meet; (v) the boldness to 'try it' (to respond to the needs discerned) and (vi) the grace and knowledge to be priests of God to those we meet

March: Training and 'Home' Initiatives

Training in outreach to be given by Julio. Offering biblical answers to the causes of the challenges to outreach identified below, amongst other things

'Home' Initiatives: Individual Outreach. As a basis for community effort (to ensure community effort is not a window dressing, fake). Members to make a special effort to focus on those God calls them to. To be first evangelised by them. To share their burdens and their life.

April: Community initiatives and the CJ's relaunch

Posters and 5,000 flyers to be ready for publicity

12 sermon CD on True Community to be ready for sale

Specific dates for flyering local homes

Specific dates for meeting at certain points to bless people and tell them who and where we are and to ask them why

12 April: Relaunch Sunday (Easter Sunday)



- **WITH AN OPEN CHURCH (WELCOMING AND RELEVANT)**

The Beauty of the Church (True Community)

The Potential of the Church

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When the local Church is working right in a tight-knit true community of saints doing their best in the Lord. There is nothing like it, it's beauty is indescribable, it's power is breathtaking, it's potential is unlimited.

It will comfort the grieving and will heal the broken hearted within the context of community.

It will build bridges to seekers and offers truth to the confused.

It will provide resources for those in need and opens its arms to the marginalized, forgotten, the downtrodden, and the disillusioned.

It will break the chains of addictions, freeing the oppressed and offering a sense of belonging to all sectors of society including those who are sidelined.

The Power of the Church (Overcome the enemy and set people free through the blood of Jesus- Strong communities of faith can turn the tide of History)

The Vitality of the Church

We need to thrive as a Church, living as Christ intended.

- **WITH OPEN HOMES (GENUINE FRIENDSHIPS)**

We need opened Bibles, opened communication lines, opened hearts, opened maps, an open Church and last but not least, opened homes to offer people hospitality.

We need to have genuine friendships for the sake of Christ.