

## **Face to Face** **Genesis 3:6-10**

Adam and Eve lived with God in the garden of Eden, and they saw Him face to face every day. They walked and talked with Him in perfect intimacy and ease. The relationship didn't have the unique significance we would now appreciate, because they didn't have any frame of reference. They had never lived without Him; so, they didn't appreciate it as they should have. Adam and Eve obviously didn't treasure this wonderful opportunity, because they traded it for a false promise reflected in a piece of forbidden fruit. When Jesus returns for us, we will get that incredible intimacy with God back!

### **Three observations concerning redeemed intimacy with god**

#### **1. Redeemed intimacy alters the point of view of my relationship with God.**

I Corinthians 13:8-12; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 3:23

#### **Two important elements are stated in I Corinthians 13:12:**

- **We will no longer have a frustrating, invisible relationship with Jesus.**

When Christ returns and takes us home, we immediately have an intimate face to face relationship with Him. When you have an intimate relationship with someone, you get to see what their face looks like as it reflects their thoughts and feelings. You know when they are pleased and not pleased. You know their moods. You know their expressions. In our current "glass darkly" relationship, the devil takes advantage of us, because we can't see Jesus' face.

- **We will no longer have only partial knowledge of Jesus and the Kingdom of God.**

I Corinthians 13:12 ends with this statement, "We will know just as also we are known." Just as intimately and as perfectly as God knows us today, we will know Jesus and His Kingdom when He comes. Here on this earth, we have a down payment of relationship with Jesus. Our current knowledge of Him, along with everything else about His Kingdom, is just a tiny part of what we will know when He returns.

#### **2. Redeemed Intimacy with God completes the knowledge He intended me to receive through a mature relationship with Him.**

Genesis 2:15-17, 28; Psalm 23:1-2; John 10:11-15; Isaiah 53:4-6;  
I John 2:15-17; II Timothy 3:1-5; James 4:10

God didn't give Adam and Eve complete knowledge at creation, because He wanted to teach them through relationship. They were created with intelligence, but they were not given knowledge. As far as we know, the only significant instruction that God gave to Adam and Eve was that they were to "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." He also told Adam before Eve was created, "Don't eat of that tree that is in the middle of the garden." As you can see, their Bible was very thin.

The devil came into the garden of Eden and took advantage of this naiveté. Adam and Eve knew God and had a brief relationship with Him, but they were inexperienced. Of course, the devil did what he does to all of us. He offered them an exchange. He offered them **Something** for **Someone**. In exchange for God the Father and their intimate relationship with Him, the devil offered them a piece of life altering fruit. His offering was the temptation for them to obtain knowledge immediately rather than learn it over eons of time as God mentored them through relationship.

**Three examples of how the devil does the same thing to us:**

- **Money versus Provision**
  
- **Lust for Love**
  
- **Pride for Promotion**

**3. Redeemed Intimacy with God reveals His foresight of free will for my choice to love Him.**

Why did God set Adam and Eve up for temptation and failure by placing “the tree of knowledge of good and evil” in the Garden? Why was there a tree in the garden that they couldn’t eat from? It seems like a set up to me!

Let’s consider this from God’s point of view, because He certainly had choices concerning what kind of relationship He would have with His creation.

1. What kind of God would live alone and not create any other beings with which to relate?
  
2. What kind of God would create creatures with which to relate but have a very distant and uncaring relationship with them?
  
3. What kind of God would create man with which to relate but fail to give him a free will?
  
4. What kind of God would create man with a free will but with no way to express his will against God?
  
5. What kind of God would create a man with free will and put a million trees “of the knowledge and evil” in the Garden?
  
6. What kind of a God would create man with a free will, giving us the ability to use it against Him, with only one simple choice to rebel; but would also pay the penalty Himself for that rebellion in order to redeem us back into relationship with Him, so He could give us back everything we lost? The answer is OUR GOD!