

Help! Where do I start?

Waltraut Reimer

That is the question I was asking myself about three years ago (2012). I had discovered all these new things. I knew it was real! I read and read, and listened to lots of audio messages – I was hungry for more depth in my walk with God.

For a whole year I had been hearing all about this, reading and collecting a lot of information, but there was so much of it! It was all new, and it was just information, just theory!



I knew I wanted to continue along this new path, but I did not know where to start with it all, or how to experience the truth of it for myself. How do you do that? So I emailed someone with just that question: "Where do I start?"

Since then, I have moved to England and am now part of Freedom Church and Freedom ARC. Today others are asking me that question. That's why I would like to answer it here in writing.

You might have read about the heavenly courts, the government of God which we should be pursuing in heaven and on earth, reigning in authority, the gates of our spirit, soul and body, the eternal plan for the glory of God to fill the earth, and scrolls and mandates which we get given in heaven to implement on earth and so on...

It's true, all these things and much more are ready and waiting for you, but it all begins with developing a very personal intimate heart relationship with God. Without that we will never get into these other things.

The answer to "Where do I start?" is with the gates of your personality and developing your spiritual senses. We all have a spirit, a soul and a body. Or rather, we are spirit, we have a soul and we live in a body. God made our spirit, soul and body and He made them with gateways so that we can receive the flow of God (his life, and His glory) and allow His life to flow through us out into our environment. But these gates are often closed and/or blocked up by our past life.

To begin with, you need to open up the gate of first love that is in your spirit, to let God in. It is called the First Love gate because God wants to be our first love in everything. It is a gate that says: Lord, I love you! But love also implies obedience, so if I say, "Lord, I love you", then I am also saying "You are my Lord, and I'll do what you say".

In Revelation 3:20 Jesus says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in and eat with him, and he with me". Many of us have been taught that this means "say a prayer and open the door to me so that you become a Christian". But that is not actually what He is talking about. He says He wants to be let in to 'eat' with us – and eating together was a very intimate thing in that culture, an expression of a very deep personal relationship and community. 'Eating with Jesus' is a time for honest questions and answers in the context of a living relationship in which we see, hear, and get to know each other.

God longs for this very intimate personal relationship with us, and in order to build that relationship we have to learn to hear (perceive and understand) His voice. This takes some practice in training our spiritual senses, but it is the basis for everything else.

To open your gate of first love you use your imagination. Imagination is one of the gates of the soul, and it is a screen God has given us so that images can be projected onto it. We can choose to project those images ourselves, but God can also do it when he gives us 'pictures' and visions.

It's easy. We can begin right now. Read this next paragraph through and then close your eyes and try it.



Imagine your own front door. See an image of the front door of your house, projected onto the screen of your imagination. What colour is it? Is it open or closed? Does it have a door handle or knob? What is it made of? Does it have a window? All this you can now see internally by the power of your imagination.

Now you can open your eyes again. Through this short exercise you have just seen how you can put your imagination to work.

Now we will do the same and look at the gate of first love in our spirit. Just close your eyes and imagine a door, any door. See that door on the inside of you. Below it and around its edges you can see light shining. This door has a door handle, but only on your side. Behind this door is Jesus. Jesus is asking you to open the door... can you hear on the inside what He is saying to you...?

Now look at the door, stretch out your hand for the door handle, open it and let Jesus in. Immediately you see a very deep love in His eyes. Jesus embraces you and speaks softly to you. Listen closely...
Now we can open our eyes again.

What was your door of first love like? Did it open freely, or was it a struggle and hard to open? At first, some people see thorns or other things that block this door from opening. For me at the beginning the hinges were completely rusty and seized up. This kind of thing can happen if we have had bad experiences relating to love and have not worked through them. Perhaps we have been hurt or rejected by our own parents, who did not give us the love, acceptance and affirmation they should have. Maybe it was a childhood friend, or our first girlfriend/boyfriend, or teachers, or work colleagues etc. who hurt us.

To get this door of first love back in good condition, we need to forgive and release those who have hurt us (when we release them from this debt, they no longer owe us anything). After I did this myself, I could see that the hinges on my door were totally new, and now it is really easy to open!

None of this works theoretically, just by having the information; it is all about learning by our own personal experience.

For those who are not used to this approach, it is good to do some 'activations' to get us started. We close our eyes and someone else with a little more experience guides us, just as we did with this 'opening the door of first love' exercise.

We will need to do these and similar exercises every day to get to the point where we build a vibrant relationship with Jesus by seeing him, hearing his voice and having conversations with him. This is going to be important later on, so that we can govern together.

Another exercise that helps us to hear God's voice, to hear what He is saying to us, to see in the spirit and to build this living relationship, is meditation. (Please see also Mike Parsons' article or YouTube video 'My Journey to See in the Spirit')

To meditate is to take a Bible verse (it might be a whole verse or just one word) and consider it, see what thoughts come to you about it, ponder on it, reflect on it, imagine it, and speak it out loud or on the inside. Other words for meditate are: contemplate, consider, reflect, mutter, and ruminant (chew over), muse.

While we do all this we ask and expect God to fill our minds with His words and thoughts.

Opening our gate of first love and experiencing a time of very personal encounter with him is something that will never stop. It is the first thing you'll want to do each morning, no matter how far you've matured as a Christian or how involved you are in bringing heavenly government. This relationship will be deep and genuine: Jesus will not only meet you in your spirit, but walk with you in the garden of your heart, or in Eden, the garden of God, or in the stream of life, where you'll find precious things. You will eat the fruit from the tree of life and obtain scrolls (the leaves of the tree are

scrolls) that speak very personally into your life. You will come to value these deep, real and intimate times with our Heavenly Father and Jesus in the garden of your heart, in heaven, in Eden, or in the stream of life.

This is all very exciting, but the whole thing is not just an end in itself, just having a little fun. Step by step we will be growing spiritually, so that later on God will be able to trust us with his government. Zechariah 3:7 talks about this spiritual growth, and it is a verse you will come across quite often:

Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'If you will walk in My ways and if you will perform My service, then you will also govern My house and also have charge of My courts, and I will grant you free access among these who are standing here.'

We start off as a servant of God, then a bondservant, then a steward and then a friend. That's when it starts to get really exciting. He trusts you as a friend, and you trust Him on personal matters. As God's friends, He entrusts us with His secrets, and tells us some of the deep things of His heart. Then we continue to grow, becoming a lord who rules his house, a king with responsibility for courts in heaven, and finally a mature, manifest son. Now we are already sons and daughters of God, but we are not yet mature. We will only receive our full inheritance when we have matured to being manifest sons (Gal 4) and are ready for the responsibility that goes with it.

A son has a father - God is our Father.

A son is heir to the Father - we are heirs of all that the Father has. We will reign over the kingdom, the whole earth, the whole universe. That's why we must learn to rule and govern. Jesus is only coming back when all things (the whole creation) are restored to the condition God always intended, from the very beginning of creation (Acts. 3:21). And we are those who will bring about that restoration of the whole universe by bringing godly rule and governance.

But any rule, any governance, any restoration we can bring will only happen on the basis of an intimate love relationship with God. We have no authority without intimacy with God (which begins with the opening of the gate of first love), nor without a life of holiness and purity.

Another answer to the question "where do I start?" is with clearing the other gateways of your spirit and soul and opening them fully, one by one. Because while they are not cleared out but still blocked up, the overflowing life of God may be pouring into us but is not able to actually flow out through us, so we become a stagnant pond.

So these are the answers to the question "where do I start?"

- You start this whole journey with the opening of the gate of first love,
- with the opening and cleaning of the other gates of your personality,
- with activations and meditation to learn to have a personal, intimate, practical and experiential relationship with God.

Through these intimate times with God, through activations and meditation, we learn to develop our spiritual senses so that we see God, hear and perceive Him, so that we hear His words and His true voice and have conversations with Him. (We are all different. Some are wired more visually and see more, others hear God, and yet others perceive Him and what he is saying internally.)

We are developing an ever deeper relationship, so that we will know God personally, and not only the Bible, the written Word of God. The Bible is a book, a bit like an autobiography. When we read it, we learn things about God, but that's just theory. I have heard many people say "I know it in my head, but not in my heart." Exactly! For years that was true of me. That is why God wants us to get to know Him, the author of the book personally, so that we have not only His words, but Himself in our heart. Then we learn in a personal way to know His heart, His feelings, His desires and His thoughts towards us.

And all the while we are getting to know Him better and better, we are ourselves learning to know our true identity as God intended and created us to be. We are sons and daughters of Almighty God! We learn our true value and know our destiny.

All that will come about as we experience this living, intimate relationship that begins with opening the door of first love. Daily personal encounter, spending time with Him, activations, meditation, and practice, practice, practice... and soon you'll find it has become a part of who you are.

It takes time and discipline to develop the kind of true and vital relationship that characterises this friendship with God. If you don't have the time for that (or don't want to take the time), then you don't have time for becoming a mature son of Almighty God either, ruling and reigning with the Father and the Son, and extending the kingdom of God and His glory all over the world.

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