

# What God Wants From Us

There are many overlooked messages in Scripture, depending on culture, tradition, or personal filters. One central message that is deeply embedded throughout the bible, yet often overlooked, is this:

## The Message of Relational Restoration — “God wants to be with us.”

From Genesis to Revelation, one constant thread is **God’s desire to dwell with humanity**, not rule over us from afar or judge us without mercy—but to walk *with* us, speak *with* us, love us, and **restore the relationship** we broke.

### A few ways this shows up (but gets overlooked):

#### 1. In Eden (Genesis):

God *walked* with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. The first loss wasn’t a rule—it was relationship. We often focus on the “fall” and punishment, but the heartbreak for God was that intimacy was broken.

#### 2. In the Tabernacle & Temple (Exodus–Kings):

God’s instructions for the tabernacle and later the temple were so that He could “**dwell among His people.**” The laws and rituals weren’t just about order—they were to protect that sacred space where heaven touched earth.

#### 3. In the Prophets (Jeremiah, Hosea, Ezekiel):

Over and over, God expresses grief like a betrayed lover. Not a tyrant punishing rebellion, but a *heartbroken husband* longing for his bride to return. Hosea’s entire life dramatized this.

#### 4. In Christ (Gospels):

*Emmanuel* means “God with us.” Jesus was the embodiment of this message: healing the outcast, eating with sinners, weeping with the broken, and calling us **friends**, not just servants.

#### 5. In the Holy Spirit (Acts – Now):

God **indwells** us. Not beside, not above, but **within**—a union. And

yet we often reduce the Spirit to a “power” or “force” instead of recognizing it as **God’s very presence desiring communion**.

#### 6. In Revelation (End):

*Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”* The end of the story is not escape to heaven—but **heaven coming to earth**, and the reunion finally complete.  
Revelation 21:3

### Why Is It Often Overlooked?

Because **humans are prone to religion, not relationship**. We love structure, rule-keeping, performance, or judgment. We read the Bible for laws, stories, prophecy, or power—but miss the *ache* in God’s voice for **reconnection**.

We turn Eden into a moral lesson.  
We turn the Cross into a transaction.  
We turn Revelation into a timeline.  
But it's all about **reunion**.

### Scriptures That Reveal God’s Ache Over Separation

#### Genesis 6:5-6

*“The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*  
*“And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.”*

- Before wrath ever enters the story, the first divine emotion recorded over sin is **grief**. A heartbreak so deep it shook creation.

#### Hosea 11:8–9

*“How can I give you up, O Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, O Israel?”*

*...My heart recoils within Me;  
My compassion grows warm and tender.”*

- If ever God wept in words—it is here. The conflict between judgment and mercy is overwhelming **because He loves too deeply to let go.**

### **Matthew 23:37 (Jesus weeping)**

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.”*

- The *ache* of God made flesh. Jesus doesn't yell—**He mourns.** His arms are open... but we refuse.

### **Luke 15:20 (The Prodigal Son)**

*“...But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”*

- The story is not about the son's failure—it's about the father's **ache** that becomes **relief** when the son returns.

### **In Summary:**

God is **not detached** from our distance. He *aches* with every inch we put between Him and ourselves. He *grieves* not because His plans are thwarted, but because **His heart is broken.** Yet always—He waits. He longs. He loves.

## **Scriptures That Reflect God's Desire to Be With Us (New Testament)**

### **1. Matthew 1:23**

*“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, **God with us**).*

- The announcement of Jesus' birth is not just about salvation—but *presence*. *God with us*—not just over us, or for us.

## **2. John 1:14**

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory...”*

- “Dwelt” here is literally “tabernacled.” Jesus became the living temple—*walking among us* as God's embodied desire for intimacy.

## **3. John 14:23**

*“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and **we will come to him and make our home with him.**”*

- This is stunning. Not just belief, but **mutual indwelling**. The Creator wants to make a *home* in us.

## **4. John 17:20–23 (Jesus' prayer)**

*“I pray... that they may all be one... just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us... so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me.”*

- This is relational unity on a divine scale: a prayer not just for unity with one another—but **union with God Himself**.

## **6. 1 Corinthians 3:16**

*“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?”*

- This echoes the Tabernacle and Temple—only now *you* are the sacred dwelling place. The holy of holies is now your heart.

## 10. Revelation 3:20

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and **eat with him, and he with me.**”*

- This isn’t judgment—it’s an *invitation*. A table. A meal. Fellowship. The *desire* of Jesus is not to condemn, but **to dine**.

### Sacred Encounter:

Questions for the Fellowship.

1. **When was the last time you felt truly close to God?** (*What was happening in your life?*)
2. **Can you remember a time when you felt God was reaching for you, but you turned away?**
3. **What do you think it feels like for God to be separated from you?**
4. **When have you misunderstood God’s silence as absence, when it might’ve been longing?**
5. **Is there a part of your life that still says, “I’m not ready to come home”?**
6. **What would it take today for you to stop running and let yourself be loved?**
7. **If you knew God was waiting at the edge of the road like the father of the prodigal son—what would you do right now?**

## Personal Questions to ask oneself

8. If God walked into this room and asked, “Where are you?” — how would you answer?
9. What do you want to say to God today?
10. What do you think God might be saying to *you* right now?

**END**

## Additional Scripture of God’s sorrow over our separation

### Deuteronomy 5:29

*“Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear Me and keep My commandments, that it might go well with them and their descendants forever!”*

- This is a divine *sigh*—a wish spoken like a parent watching a child continually hurt themselves.

### Psalm 81:11–13

*“But my people did not listen to my voice... So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts... Oh, that my people would listen to Me...!”*

- The longing here is urgent, pleading. God is not scolding—He is *aching*.

### Isaiah 1:2–4

*“Children I have reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against Me... The ox knows its owner... but Israel does not know, My people do not understand.”*

- The image is familial: a **Father forsaken** by His own children—yet still calling them *His*.

### **Isaiah 30:15,18**

*“In returning and rest you shall be saved... but you were unwilling.”*  
*“Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion.”*

- One of the most intimate confessions: **He longs** to be kind, but waits because we keep running.

### **Jeremiah 2:2, 13**

*“I remember the devotion of your youth... how as a bride you loved Me...”*  
*“...But My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters...”*

- God reminisces like a **lover remembering first love**—heartbroken over being left for lesser things.

### **Micah 6:3**

*“O My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer Me!”*

- This is not a god on trial—it’s **God pleading like a betrayed friend**, genuinely confused by our coldness.

### **Luke 19:41–42**

*“And when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it, saying, ‘Would that you, even you, had known... the things that make for peace!’”*

- The city of peace (Jerusalem) did not recognize its peace. And the **Prince of Peace weeps**.

## Romans 8:26

*“...the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”*

- Even now, the Spirit **groans** with us, *in us*, longing for the fullness of restored relationship.

## 2 Peter 3:9

*“The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise... but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”*

- Delay is not indifference—it’s mercy born of **ache**. He longs for every *soul*.

## Scriptures That Reflect God’s Desire to Be With Us (New Testament)

### 1. Romans 8:15

*“You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”*

- God is not merely Lord—we are brought into **family**. “Abba” is a child’s cry, warm and intimate. A re-invitation to Eden’s closeness.

### 2. Ephesians 2:22

*“In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”*

- A community of people being **formed into a house for God**—not a religion, but a *home*.

### 3. Philippians 2:1–2

*“...if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy... complete my joy by being of the same mind...”*

- True unity begins in *shared relationship* with Christ and the Spirit—not in systems or dogma.

#### **4. Colossians 1:27**

*“...Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

- The glory we long for isn't external—it is the **presence of Christ within** us. Intimate, indwelling, personal.