



Presence!  
Our Need To Feel Wanted!

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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The promise of the gospel is that we can come boldly into God's presence to obtain mercy and grace to help in our time of need.

The help that God will provide is sufficient for whatever we need.

**One of the greatest needs of our soul is the need to feel wanted!**

This is not a selfish desire. God created us with this desire. God created us in His image. God is a trinity. There is only one God but He eternally exists as three distinct personalities that share the same substance. The bible reveals that the three persons of the trinity long to share life with one another. Their need to feel wanted is met by one another.

God said let us make man in our own image. (Genesis 1:26) God created us with a desire to share life with others. God said it is not good for man to be alone. (Genesis 2:18)

To feel wanted we need to know someone desires to share life with us; to share our thoughts; to share our emotions; to share our joy; to share our pain; to share our purpose; to share our dreams!

It is great to feel wanted. It is painful to feel unwanted. Feeling unwanted can be devastating. Feeling unwanted can cause us to self-destruct. Feeling unwanted can cause us to try and satisfy this need with our own devices. (wrong friends; wrong moral choices) Feeling unwanted can cause us to medicate ourselves with various substances that are addictive. Feeling unwanted causes some people to take their own life.

We can feel we are unwanted because of our sins. We can feel we are unwanted because of our shame. We can feel we are unwanted because of our personality. We can feel we are unwanted because of our poverty. We can feel we are unwanted because of our looks; our medical condition; our age.

Whenever we feel unwanted because of something we cannot change, we can feel hopeless. We can suffer severe depression. We can develop mental or emotional disorders.

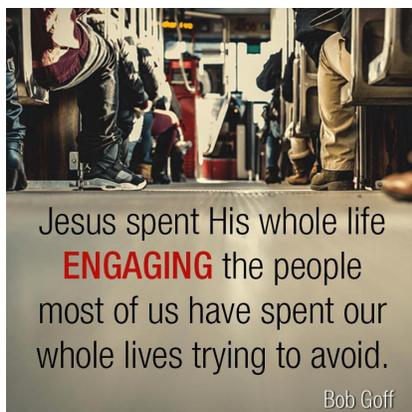
One of the greatest fears that we can have is the fear that someday no one will want us; that no one will want to share life with us.

If we feel that we are unwanted because people are against us, we can become angry, bitter, and cynical.

Feeling wanted is a great feeling and feeling unwanted can be devastating; especially if we are feeling unwanted by a parent; the person we married; or by one of our children; or by anyone in whom we have invested a great portion of our lives.



One of the goals of our team of elders is to make everyone who steps in our church to feel wanted. This is also one of the goals that Sandra and I have for people who come to our home. We want to be like Jesus.



My capacity to make others feel wanted is limited. I am limited by time. I am limited by space. I am limited by being human. I am not always sensitive to what others need. At times I am so focused on something I am doing that I ignore people. At times I am so tired that I ignore people. At times I am not informed about something that people I care about are experiencing. I am also forgetful. I also still have a lot to learn about making people feel wanted.

Because I am a human being, I am going to make people feel unwanted and people are going to make me feel unwanted. It happens on a regular basis. It will probably happen to me today and I will probably make someone else feel this way today.

**If I only depend upon people to meet the need in my soul to feel wanted, I am a fool!**

If I only depend upon people to meet the need in my soul to feel wanted, my soul is going to be in a continuous state of turmoil. I will be discontent. I can become bipolar, with incredible highs, and incredible lows. I can develop a short fuse. I can say some very harsh things.

So instead of only depending upon people to meet the need in my soul to feel wanted, I need to depend upon God to meet the need in my soul to feel wanted.

**If I really learn how to depend upon God to meet this need in my soul to feel wanted, I will have within me this incredible capacity to love the unwanted and to love those who make me feel unwanted.**

How does God meet this need in my soul to feel wanted?

One of the greatest revelations about God in the bible is that God wants you. I have found that most believers know and believe that God loves them but they have never translated being loved by God as being wanted by God.

In other words, most disciples of Jesus believe that God loves them so He saved them from suffering His divine judgment for their sin so they could go to heaven. They believe God did this because it is His nature to love. God is love. By saving them God was just being who God is.

But most disciples of Jesus have not grasped that God loving them means that God wants them. He wants to share life with them. He wants to share your thoughts; to share your emotions; to share your joy; to share your pain; to share your purpose; to share your dreams! And He wants us to share His thoughts; His emotions; His joy; His pain; His purpose; and His dreams.

Many disciples of Jesus have accepted a version of God that is more like Deism or Agnosticism than the way the bible presents God.

Where does the bible reveal the truth that God wants you?

God wants you to believe these truths. When you believe these truths about God, everything changes in your spiritual life and your relationship with God.

- [God chose you before the foundation of the world. \(Ephesians 1:3-5\)](#)

God knew you and wanted you before you existed.

- [God created a plan to get you before the foundation of the world.](#)

[\(1 Peter 1:17-21\)](#)

God wanted you so much that He prepared a plan to get you knowing that you were not going to love Him and that you were going to rebel against Him. He did not choose you because He knew you would love Him and be such a wonderful person.

- [God made an incredible sacrifice to get you. \(Philippians 2:5-11\)](#)

One way you can tell how much someone wants you by what they sacrifice to get you. In some people groups when a man wants a man's daughter to be his wife he proves how much he wants her by giving the father a dowry.

When I was dating Sandra, it was a 40 minute drive one way from my house to hers; 34 miles. For 11 months, I drove that 40 minute drive over 200 times; 13600 miles. I also drove to her place of work over 40 times to take her to lunch each week. After she agreed to marry me I spent more money on a ring for her than I had ever personally spent on a car. I borrowed money against my house, and made extreme improvements on her house, before we married.

Whatever sacrifice any man has ever made to get a woman he wanted does not stack up, is not in the same class, and does not hold a candle to what God did to get you.

The incarnation of Jesus Christ and His execution for your sins is the greatest love story ever told.

First, God the father gave His only son to get you.

Second, God the Son sacrificed the glories and riches of heaven, His reputation, His body, and His life to get you. To get you, Christ made the most difficult journey that has ever been made before and no one will ever make again.

To get you, Christ suffered the rejection of men and the wrath of God for your sin.

God calls the church His bride.

- [God has been pursuing you since you were conceived in your mother's womb.](#)

[\(Psalms 139:16\)](#)

God the Spirit personally pursued you to fully persuade you to agree to be God's child.

- [God has adopted you. \(Galatians 4:4-5\)](#)

God chose you to be a member of His family because He wanted you.

- [God calls you His child. \(John 1:12; Galatians 3:26\)](#)

God gave you a position that gives you the rights of inheritance in His house.

- [God wants you to know Him as Father. \(Luke 11:2\)](#)

I am a father. I want my children. I long for their fellowship. I want to share life with them. I want them to call upon me when they need me but I want them to call upon me just to check on me or just to share time with me.

- **God is always available to fellowship with you. (Hebrews 4:14-16; Revelation 3:20)**

The bible portrays God as always wanting to share life with us.

- **God has given you His Spirit. (1 Cor. 2:12)**

He has given you His Spirit so He can share life with you and you can share life with Him. His Spirit is His guarantee of His personal presence. His Spirit groans with us when we are in pain and His Spirit rejoices with us when we experience success. His Spirit wants us to share with Him our thoughts, emotions, and dreams. His Spirit has given us the mind of Christ and His Spirit shares with us His emotions and His dreams.

Many disciples have received Holy Spirit but they have not received the Holy Spirit.

- **God promises He will never leave you or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)**

There is nothing you can do to make God not want you. There is nothing you can do to make God abandon you.

You can abandon Him. You can neglect Him. You can ignore Him. But He will never do that to you.

- **God has prepared a place for you to be with Him for eternity. (John 14:1-3)**

The place God has prepared is called Jehovah Shammah. (Ezekiel 48:35). Jehovah Shammah means God is There.

What else could God do to reveal that when He says that He loves you it means that He wants you?

**How does faith in this truth change your spiritual life?**

It changes everything!

- **It changes why you should get up in the morning.**
- **It changes why you should pray and read God's Word.**

We should go and meet with God because we know He is waiting to meet with us.

- **It changes why you should assemble with other believers.**

We go and meet with other believers because we know that is one of the main ways that God meets with us.

- **It changes why you should disciple others.**

We make disciples to help people learn how to walk with God.

God loves you and He wants you.

How should you respond to this truth that God wants you?

The story of Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Luke 1:26-38

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. NKJV

- Mary responded to this revelation with faith
- Mary responded to this revelation with surrender

Your response should be the same. Believe and give God what He wants. He wants you. He wants you every day. He wants to walk with you and He wants you to walk with Him.

Will you grieve Him? Or will you give Him what He wants?

Will you believe that God loves and wants you?

Will you surrender to what He wants?