

## 21T16h Now What? (Part 8) Relationship

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table.

Now What? We have been asking this question. Once you are a Christian, Now What? What should I do? How should I do it? How do I act? and on and on and on. I know the questions because I have asked these questions myself over and over during my life. But honestly, did you ever get an answer to those questions?

Well, the short answer to all these questions is the Bible. But I know that is not very specific. Today we are going to ask the Now What question. What does it mean to have a relationship with Jesus?

Before we get started today, **Let's Pray. Heavenly Father please bless our time today. Help me to stay out of your way. Please use me Lord. I pray that our time result in a deeper more satisfying relationship with you Jesus. And I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Again, let me ask you. Now what? What does it mean to have a relationship with Jesus?

I ask you to let the Bible speak to you. Listen without preconceived ideas, so Jesus can speak to your soul through the Holy Spirit and His Holy word the Bible.

First of all. This is probably the most important Now What? Question. A relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship any of us will ever have. Jesus wants to be our friend. But he is also our Lord, Master and King. A relationship with Jesus our savior

Why is it so important, well Jesus told us how important it is? *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* (John 14:6 NKJV). So yes, it is very important to have a relationship with Jesus. No other way to heaven.

And if that is not enough of a reason, James says it very plainly, *You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him.* (James 4:3-4 NLT)

So, according to the Bible you are friends with the Jesus or friends with the world. I don't think any of us want to be an enemy of God. So, this is why we need a relationship with Jesus. But, how? How do we build this relationship with our Lord and King Jesus?

Let's see what Jesus said. *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit*

*He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (John 15:1-8 NKJV)*

Jesus says abide in him and be fruitful. Abide is not a word we normally use. Some modern translations say “remain”. We must follow our leader Jesus. We must follow our king, King Jesus. That is what Jesus means and in fact Jesus continues in the next few verses. *“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love**, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another. (John 15:9-17 NKJV)*

So, Jesus tells us if we want a relationship with Him, then we need to be a follower. His followers “keep His commandments”. We learn more about Jesus, we love Jesus and we do what Jesus has told us to do. That’s how we become “friends” of Jesus. We do. We do what the King told us to do. The apostle John explains how close our relationship with Jesus must be when we follow Jesus. *And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! (1 John 2:28-3:1 NKJV)*

A child of God. That sounds pretty good to me. We build a relationship with Jesus by doing what He told us to do and in return we become children of God. But please hear me. This is not just knowledge of God. This is more than simply knowing of Jesus. You must actively follow the king. Jesus warns us though. You can’t fake this relationship. We must work at it. Jesus needs to be the most important relationship we have. No exceptions, no excuses. Jesus says, *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And*

*then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV)*

Well, that is the importance of a relationship with Jesus. It's not enough to know Jesus or even believe He is King. Even the devil knows this. A relationship means we follow the king. We do what He commands us to do. We work to be more like Jesus by learning more about Him, then doing what He wants us to do. We trust Jesus. We love Jesus. And We love the things and people that Jesus loves.

**Father God. Help us to recognize what you want for us and from us. Help us to understand how much you want a relationship with each of us. Help us to understand how important this is to do what you have commanded us to do. Thank you for showing us. Thank you for .the way you want us to love every person we meet. Help us to be kind, serve and correct when you direct us to. Thank you for wanting me and loving me, even though nothing I can do will ever deserve your Love.  
I pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today, I hope you'll join us for the rest of the series "Now what" as we dig into the Bible to answer those Now What questions.

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See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

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