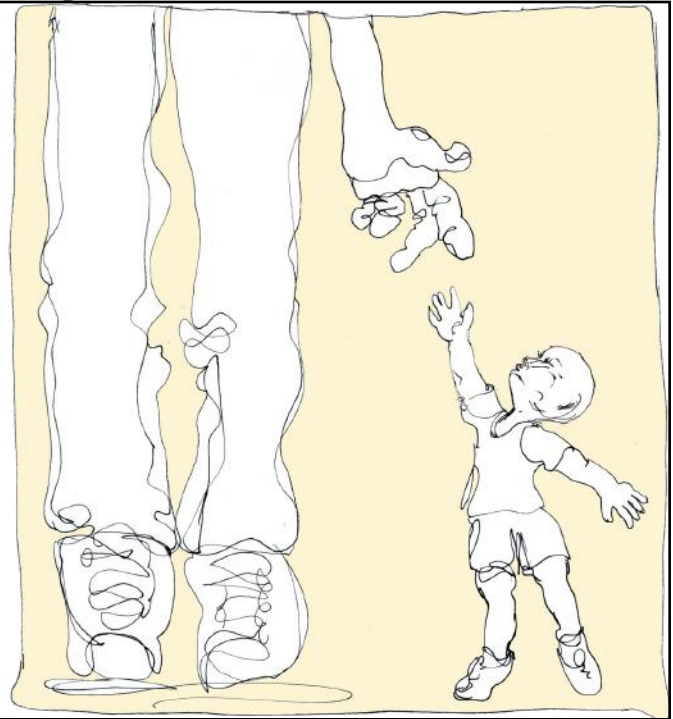


Relationships between unequals

What are examples?

What might these relationships be like?

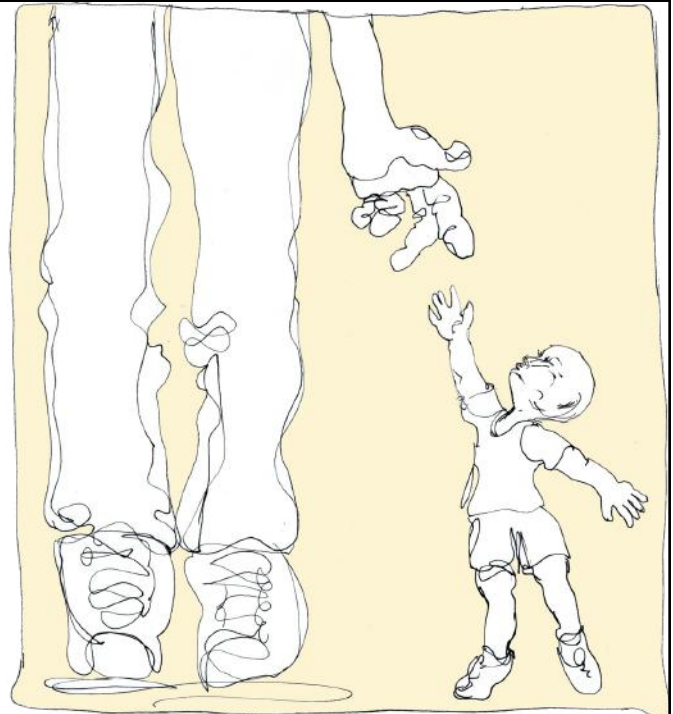
What is a "relationship" with God like?



1

The Pleasure of God Isaiah 62:1-5

ref.ly/Is62;niv



2

Good News for a Discouraged People

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
 because the Lord has anointed me
 to proclaim good news **to the poor**.
 He has sent me to bind up **the brokenhearted**,
 to proclaim freedom for **the captives**
 and release from darkness for **the prisoners**,
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
 and the day of vengeance of our God,
 to comfort **all who mourn**,
³ and provide for **those who grieve** in Zion—

3

to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
 the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
 and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
 They will be called oaks of righteousness,
 a planting of the Lord
 for the display of **his splendor**.

4

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.

² The nations will see **your** vindication,
and all kings **your** glory

feminine, singular (like "her")

Zion: God's rescued people
vindication: Cleared from all blame. Salvation
→ God's character among God's people

5

you will be called by a **new name**
that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.

³ **You** will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴ No longer will they call **you** Deserted,
or name **your** land Desolate.

But **you** will be called Hephzibah,
and **your** land Beulah; → "My delight is in her"
→ "married"

bestow = give to
royal diadem = jeweled crown

6

for the Lord will **take delight in you,**
and **your** land will be married.

⁵ As a young man marries a young woman,
so will **your Builder** marry **you**;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will **your God** rejoice over **you.**

Builder: might be 'your sons'

7

"For a very discouraged people, Isaiah's poetic imagery leaves **an overwhelming impression of joy, delight, righteousness, beauty, safety, and peace**"

8

The Big Idea

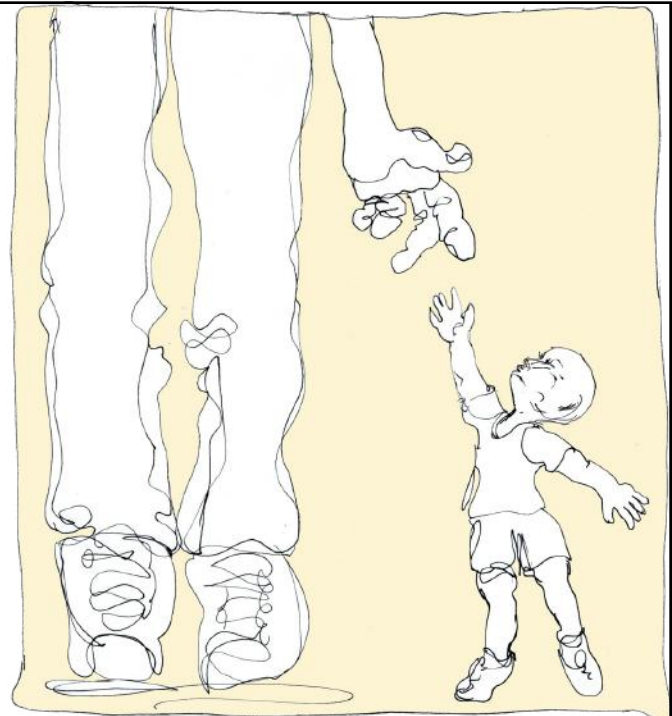
God joyfully delights in His redeemed people

- > The people who were so far below Him
- > The people who used to be forsaken and desolate

9

I so often think...
If the best people
do the best that they can
they might be able to
touch the hand of God

**The rest of us
have little hope
of a real relationship
with God**



10

**God didn't just come down
God became like us (without sin)**

"The Word (God the Son) became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

11

**God didn't just come down
God became like us (without sin)**

"For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people."

Hebrews 2:17

God Himself became a human being
so we can know the fullness of God!

12

God doesn't just rescue us He glorifies us!

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30

13

"God forgives his people, protects them, heals them, provides for them, restores them to their home, reconciles them to each other, transforms them so they are righteous, honors them, exalts them above all nations, and makes them a blessing to all nations, as he called them to be.

But **more than** all these things...

God actually delights in his people!

**This is not kindness to the needy,
but passionate love!"**

14

The Big Idea

God **joyfully delights** in His redeemed people
“as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you.”

15

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**”

Ephesians 3:14-19

16

Application

Rejoice in the astounding love of God

- **Almighty God, the Creator, Sustainer, and Savior** joyfully delights in all who put their trust in Him
- Especially those who know their weaknesses and failures, yet still trust in Him
 - “the poor...brokenhearted...the captives...
the prisoners...all who mourn...those who grieve”
- By faith
- Proven by the Son of God becoming a human being then suffering and dying for us

17

Application

Rejoice in the astounding love of God

Be exclusively faithful to God and delight in Him

- “Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”
Matthew 22:37-38
- “You shall have no other gods before me.”
Exodus 20:3
- Our response to God’s great love: “forsaking all others, keep only unto Him as long as you live”

18

Revelation 21

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.** (2)

It [God's people] shone **with the glory of God**, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. (11)

19

The Big Idea

God **joyfully delights** in His redeemed people
"as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you."

20

What is a "relationship" with God like?

God the Son became a human being!

And He raises we who trust in Jesus to glory!

He presents the loyalty and delight of marriage
as a model to think about our relationship

...to Almighty God as the one who delights in us!