

Relationships

Qualities of a "good" relationship

- Good back-and-forth connection

Qualities of a "bad" relationship

- Bad back-and-forth connection

Qualities of a "dead" relationship

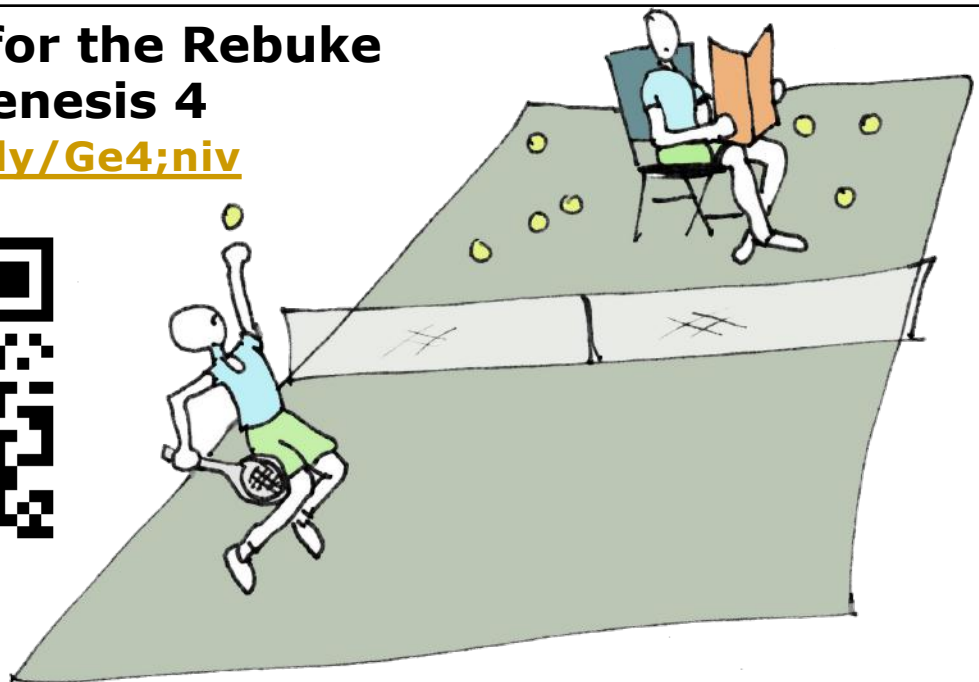
- One sided
- Zero sided

Growing a relationship with God

1

Thanks for the Rebuke Genesis 4

ref.ly/Ge4;niv



2

Reading the Bible

Be skilled at reading the lines
rather than reading between the lines

We should pay attention
to what the author tells us to focus on

- Often more words or repetition
- End stress or middle stress
- Especially dialogue
- Especially dialogue with God

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Genesis: a key for reading

Toledoth תולדות

- Generations of
 - Family records of
 - Record of descendants
 - Genealogy
 - History of the family of
 - Written account of
 - Family line of
- About the offspring of the person

The heavens and the earth

Adam

Noah and his family

Shem, Ham and Japheth

Shem

Terah

Ishmael

Isaac

Esau

Jacob

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The Account of the Heavens and the Earth (Genesis 2:4-4:26)

Chapter 2: People are created for relationships
 > With God and people and nature

Chapter 3: People turned from God
 > Which created trouble in all 3 relationships

Sin became an active force in the world

Sin = rebellion against God, immorality

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Genesis 4:1-2a

Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to **Cain**. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." ² Later she gave birth to his brother **Abel**.

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Genesis 4:2b-5

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.
³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—**fat portions** from some of **the firstborn** of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So **Cain was very angry** and his face was downcast.

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Genesis 4:6-7

⁶ Then **the LORD said to Cain**, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, **sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.**”

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

1 Peter 5:8

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Genesis 4:8

⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to **the field.**" While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

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Genesis 4:9-12

⁹ Then **the LORD said to Cain,** "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. **"Am I my brother's keeper?"**

¹⁰ The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

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Genesis 4:13-16

¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ But the LORD said to him, "Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶ So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

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Genesis 4:17-24

¹⁷ Cain made love to his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch. ¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech.

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¹⁹ Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. ²⁰ Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes. ²² Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain's sister was Naamah.

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²³ Lamech said to his wives,
"Adah and Zillah, listen to me;
wives of Lamech, hear my words.
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for injuring me.
²⁴ If Cain is avenged seven times,
then Lamech seventy-seven times."

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Genesis 4:25-26

²⁵ Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." ²⁶ Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.

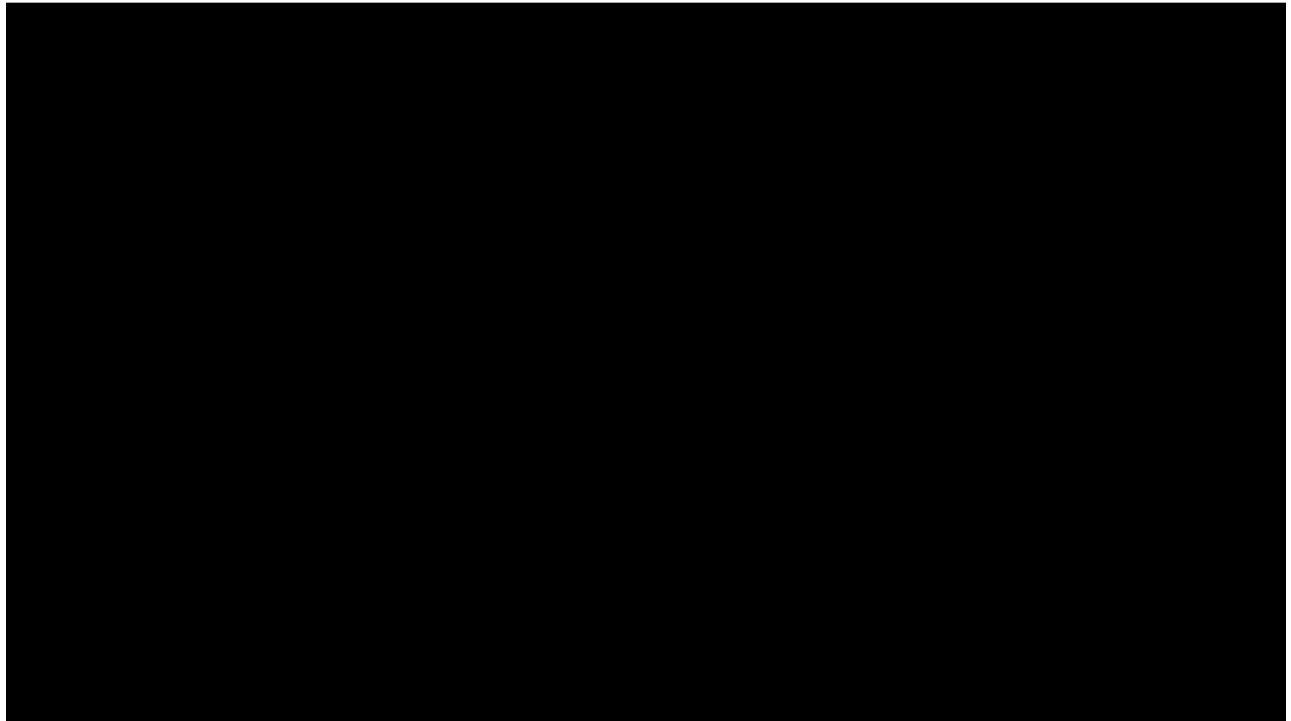
At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.

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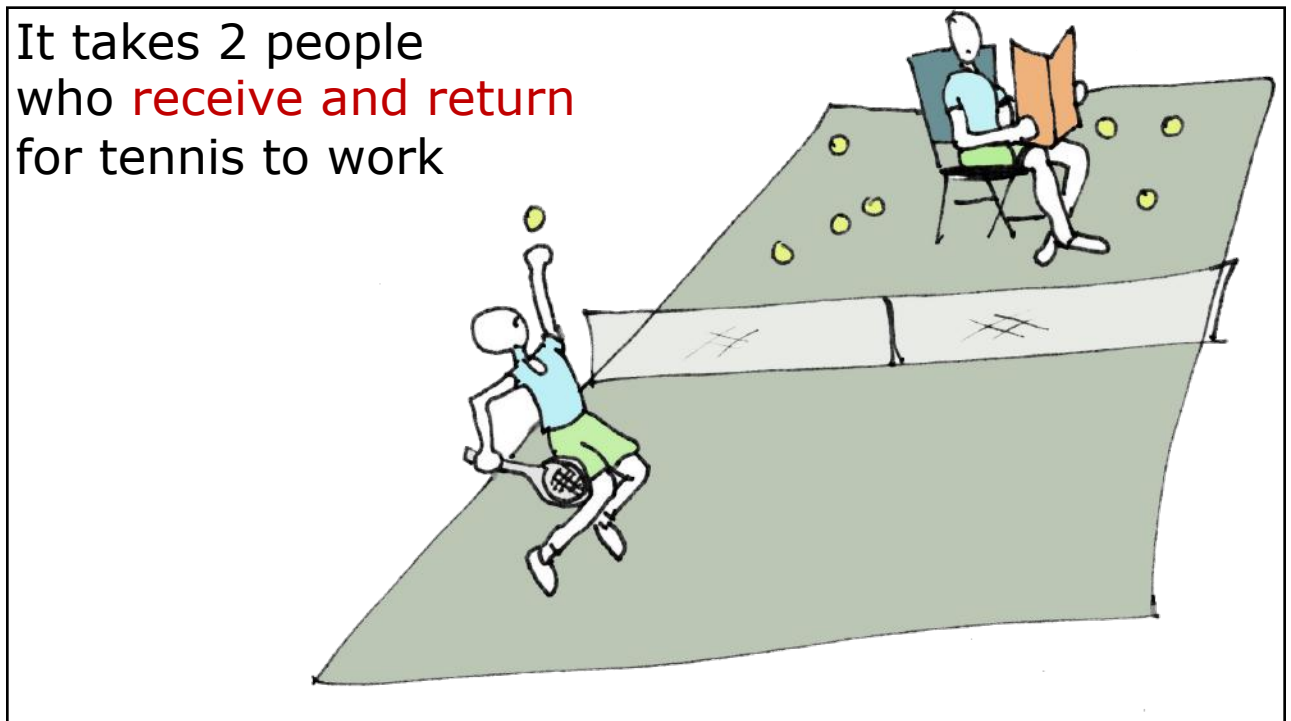
The Main Point

In a world with sin,
blessing comes through a **relationship** with God,
both receiving from Him
and calling upon Him

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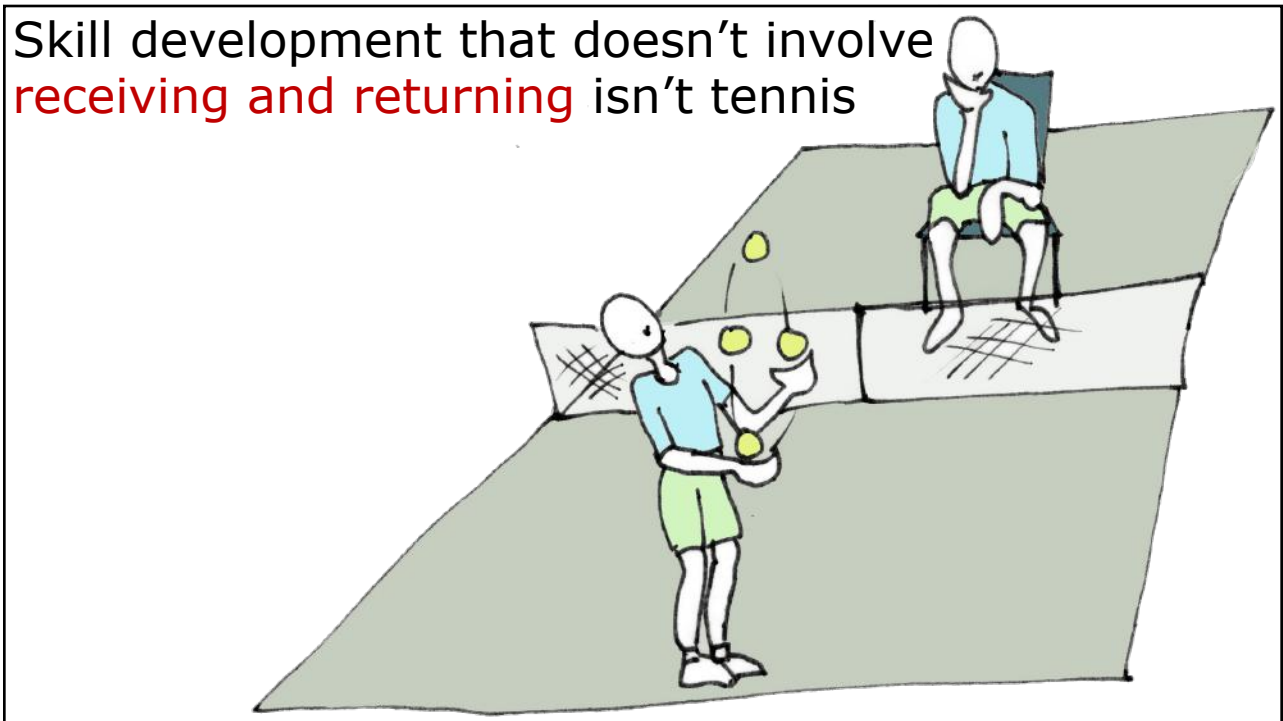


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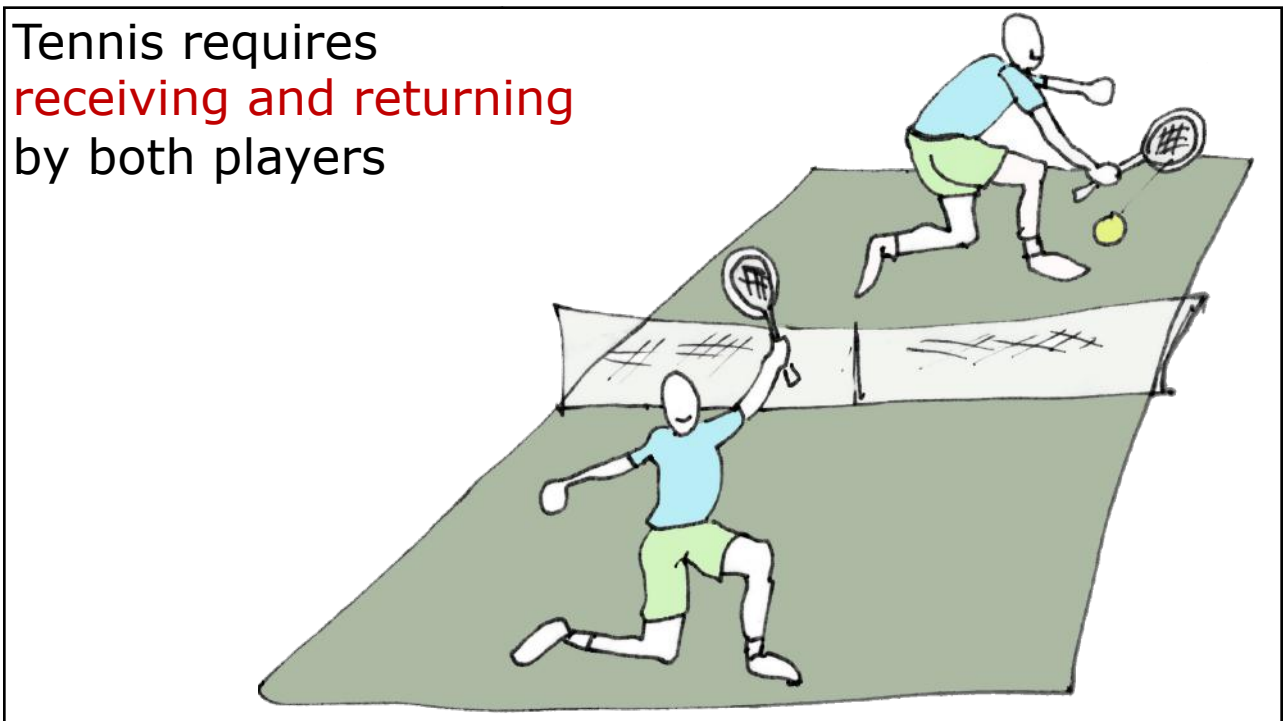
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Skill development that doesn't involve
receiving and returning isn't tennis



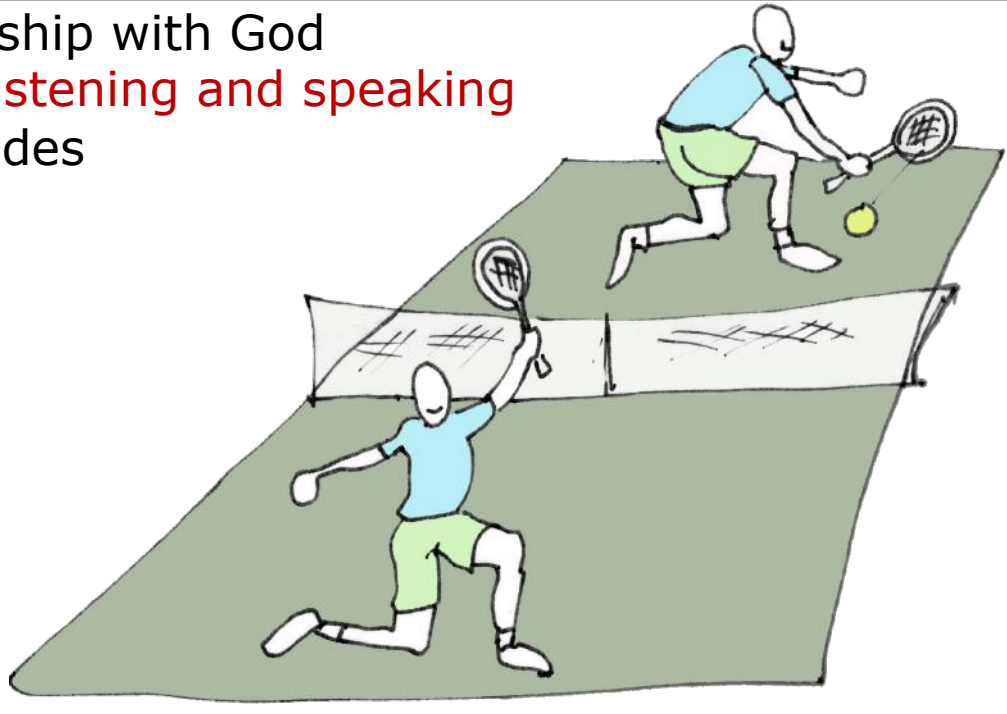
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Tennis requires
receiving and returning
by both players



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A relationship with God
requires **listening and speaking**
by both sides



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The Main Point

In a world with sin,
blessing comes through a **relationship** with God,
both **receiving** from Him
and **calling** upon Him

“Be alert and of sober mind. **Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” 1 Peter 5:8-9

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Application

Receive from God, especially in the Bible

➤ Comfort & encouragement

- “For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him”

Psalm 103:11

- We seek “the God of all comfort, who comforts us
in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those
in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves
receive from God.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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Application

Receive from God, especially in the Bible

➤ Comfort & encouragement

➤ Instruction (unlike Eve)

- The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the
other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said,
“Speak, for your servant is listening.”

1 Samuel 2:10

- “Therefore everyone who hears these words of
mine and puts them into practice is like a wise
man”

Matthew 7:24

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Application

Receive from God, especially in the Bible

- Comfort & encouragement
- Instruction (unlike Eve)
- **Correction** (unlike Cain)
 - “Stern discipline awaits anyone who leaves the path; **the one who hates correction will die.**”
Proverbs 15:10
 - “Whoever **loves discipline loves knowledge**, but whoever hates correction is **stupid.**” Proverbs 12:1

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Application

Receive from God, especially in the Bible

- Comfort & encouragement
- Instruction (unlike Eve)
- **Correction** (unlike Cain)
 - My typical goal: find an excuse not to have to act
 - Listening to God = enthusiastic embrace

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Application

Receive from God, especially in the Bible

- Comfort & encouragement
- Instruction (unlike Eve)
- Correction (unlike Cain)
- **When making decisions** (like Jesus)
 - “One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them”
Luke 6:12-13

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Application

Receive from God, especially in the Bible

- Comfort & encouragement
- Instruction (unlike Eve)
- Correction (unlike Cain)
- When making decisions (like Jesus)
- **When needing strength** (like the disciples)
 - “But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you**”
Acts 1:8
 - “And lead us **not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**”
Matthew 6:13

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Application

Receive from God, especially in the Bible

- Comfort & encouragement
- Instruction (unlike Eve)
- Correction (unlike Cain)
- When making decisions (like Jesus)
- When needing strength (like the disciples)

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Application

Call out to God (like Seth's family)

- Return to God
what you have received from God (unlike Cain)
- Pray through Scripture
- **Pray through** His comfort, His instruction,
His correction, His guidance, and His strength

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Application

Call out to God (like Seth's family)

- “You, Lord, are forgiving and good,
abounding in love **to all who call to you.**
Hear **my prayer**, Lord;
listen to **my cry for mercy.**
When I am in distress, **I call to you,**
because you answer me.’ Psalm 86:5-7
- What is the time delay
between trouble and calling out to God?
- Often **trouble is God's invitation to call to Him**

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Application

Help others listen and call out to God

- Have courage to call people to the right path
 - “My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: **Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”** James 5:19-20

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Application

Help others listen and call out to God

- Have courage to call people to the right path
 - “And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and **those who turn many to righteousness**, like the stars forever and ever.” Daniel 12:3
 - “Whoever **rebukes a person will** in the end gain **favor** rather than one who has a flattering tongue.” Proverbs 28:23

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Application

Help others listen and call out to God

- Have courage to call people to the right path
 - It doesn't always work
 - Not even for God!
 - Yet it is a powerful expression of love

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The Main Point

In a world with sin,
blessing comes through a **relationship** with God,
 both **receiving** from Him 
and **calling** upon Him

- How is your relationship with God?
- What will you choose to do to grow your relationship with God?
 - Schedule time