Are you on Speaking Terms with GOD?

Intro:
A. We all have had the experience of not being on speaking terms with someone - maybe it is our choice, other times it is theirs. Month’s, years decades go by and not a word.
   1. In many of these cases - no matter how much you want things to change - it is out of your control.
   2. However, it may be in your control and you choose just to let it be. You have no desire to re-connect and no desire to have a relationship - ie. Father/Son; or Mother Daughter etc.
B. But, the question I’m going to ask this morning is one of the most important questions you can ask yourself - because it is fully in your control to change (no one can do this for you, no one can force you to) this is all about “YOUR CHOICE”.
   1. Are you ready to ask yourself - “AM I ON SPEAKING TERMS WITH GOD?”
      a. This is not just someone - this is your Creator!
      b. It is thru His Love, His Grace and His patience that we have the opportunity to be with Him thru Eternity.
   2. Just like our earthly relationships suffer conditions were we have become estranged from each other (ie. Not on speaking terms with each other), so our spiritual lives become estranged from God.
      a. Like Adam and Eve - we sin (Romans 3:23 NKJV - 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,) and we are thus worthy of death (Romans 6:23 NKJV - 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.) and in and by ourselves we can not do anything to save ourselves; this alienation can ONLY be fixed because God has reached out to us by His Son (John 3:16-17 NKJV - 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.)
      b. The question once again comes right back to us - “HAVE YOU REACHED OUT TO THE OUT STretched HAND OF GOD?” to rekindle the relationship once had from birth? -
      c. When you were born into this world you were born free from sin, into a world polluted with sin.
         (1) Given freewill/choice by your Creator and like so many before - “we all have gone astray into sin”- YOU have broken the hand of fellowship, YOU have severed the relationship with GOD and YOU have broken the bond of trust with your BROTHERS and SISTERS in CHRIST!
         (2) This is YOUR choice and it is YOU who have cut off “Speaking TERMS”.
   3. It is IMPERATIVE that you realize that NO ONE CAN FIX this except YOU!
   4. This is Your CHOICE and as a sinner or a child of God who has returned to the VOMIT, God’s out stretched HAND IS WAITING - for you to come home"
C. Daniel 6:10; 9:1-23; Isa. 65:24
   1. Daniel 6:10 (NKJV) - 10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.
   2. Daniel 9:1-23 (NKJV) - 1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— 2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. 3 Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and
supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. 4 And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 5 we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. 6 Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. 7 O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. 8 “O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. 9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. 10 We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. 11 Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. 12 And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem. 13 “As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. 14 Therefore the Lord has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. 15 And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly! 16 “O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us. 17 Now therefore, O Lord our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord’s sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. 18 O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. 19 O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.” 20 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, 21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. 23 At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

3. **Isaiah 65:24** (NKJV) - 24 “It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.”

   a. Take NOTE HERE: GOD’s out stretched HAND - is waiting ready and Willing, but He is not coming to grab you out of the fire - He is wanting YOU to take His Hand.

   b. He has done His part and He is waiting for you to do YOUR part.

      (1) It is crucial to NOTE as well - that the fire will soon consume you, and time is of the essence - **James 4:13-17** (NKJV) - 13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”;

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whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

4. BUT - with everything that has been severed there are conditions of return.
   a. Just as if a weld is broken, the broken edges must first be cleaned up before they can be re-welded.
   b. If not the weld will just break again and again.

II. To BE ON SPEAKING TERMS WITH GOD - REQUIRES:
   A. Being in a Right Relationship with God
         a. Luke 11:2 (NKJV) - 2 So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.
         b. Matthew 13:38 (NKJV) - 38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.
         c. 1 John 3:10 (NKJV) - 10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.
         d. John 8:44 (NKJV) - 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
         e. John 9:31 (NKJV) - 31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.
         f. 1 Peter 3:12 (NKJV) - 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”
         a. James 5:16 (NKJV) - 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
         b. Isaiah 59:1-2 (NKJV) - 1 Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.
         c. Psalm 66:18 (NKJV) - 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.
         d. Proverbs 28:9 (NKJV) - 9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.
         e. 1 John 3:22 (NKJV) - 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
   B. A Proper View of Yourself and God
      1. Humility - Luke 18:9-14 (NKJV) - 9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified
rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

2. **Selflessness** - [James 4:2-3 (NKJV)] - 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

3. **Sincerity & Fervency** - [Matthew 6:5-7; Colossians 4:2; James 5:16](NKJV)
   a. [Matthew 6:5-7 (NKJV)] - 5 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.
   b. [Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)] - 2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;
   c. [James 5:16 (NKJV)] - 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

4. **Honoring God’s will & asking in faith** - [1 John 5:14-15; James 1:5-8; Eph. 3:20](NKJV)
   a. [1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)] - 14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
   b. [James 1:5-8 (NKJV)] - 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
   c. [Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)] - 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

C. **Persistence** - [Luke 18:1-7; 11:5-13; 1 Thess. 5:17; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2](NKJV)

1. [Luke 18:1-7 (NKJV)] - 1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: ‘There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ ” 6 Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?

2. [Luke 11:5-13 (NKJV)] - 5 And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; 7 and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. 9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

3. **1 Thessalonians 5:17** (NKJV) - 17 pray without ceasing,

4. **Romans 12:12** (NKJV) - 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

5. **Colossians 4:2** (NKJV) - 2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

D. **A Right Relationship with Others** - **Matthew 6:12-15; Mark 11:25-26; 1 Peter 3:7**

1. **Matthew 6:12-15** (NKJV) - 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. 14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

2. **Mark 11:25-26** (NKJV) - 25 “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

3. **1 Peter 3:7** (NKJV) - 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

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III. **In Conclusion:**

A. Are you On Speaking Terms with God?
   1. Are you a righteous child of God?
   2. Do you pray humbly, fervently and persistently in faith?
   3. Are your relationships with others what they should be?

B. I do not know of anyone here or all over the world including all of the hosts of heaven who will not rejoice - if you will just reach out your hand and take hold of GOD’s outstretched HAND and restore the fellowship and relationship with YOUR CREATOR.
   1. Won’t you humbly bow the knee in OBEDIENCE to HIS CALL - “Come Sinner Come Home!”
      a. Sing Song “Softly and Tenderly”

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