



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“THE GREAT INVITATION”

Part 11 of Relationship Series

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“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28 - The Great Invitation). We are invited by Jesus to have a personal relationship with Him, to be one with Him because He wants us to know Him deeper (John 15:16). Indeed, all things have been committed to Him by the Father (Matthew 11:27). Moreover, accepting Jesus’ invitation is necessary because He is the only way to truly know God (John 14:6).

1. The Benefits of this Great Invitation

It is an honor to be invited by the Lord or by someone important and respectable. As we come to Jesus:

- 1.1 We experience peace that surpasses our understanding. In a world filled with turmoil and stress, Jesus offers peace that is always rooted in the unchanging nature of God. We experience peace that guards our hearts and minds from being anxious and afraid (Philippians 4:5-7).
- 1.2 We have the gift of eternal life (John 3:16). The invitation of our Lord to know Him is an assurance that someday we will be with Him eternally. God chose us so that we will bear much fruit (John 15:16); that fruit is a change of heart and an attitude to have a life of fulfillment.
- 1.3 We transform (2 Corinthians 5:17). As we follow Jesus, we will be ready to take up our cross daily (Matthew 16 and 19); we are not just improved or renovated, we are new.
- 1.4 We have a sense of belonging. Those who received Jesus as their Lord and Savior became children of God (John 1:12). We are no longer foreigners or strangers but

members of the family of God (Ephesians 2:19). In the Lord’s Flock Community, we call ourselves a global family. We are assured that God is securing us in all areas of our lives. It gives us a sense of identity, security, and acceptance that we cannot find anywhere else.

2. The Necessity of Coming to Jesus

- 2.1 It is born from our inherent human condition (Romans 6:11). We have been dead to sin and alive in Christ. By nature, we are sinners but saved by the grace of God.
- 2.2 Jesus offers a solution to our sin problem (Romans 5:8). He offers forgiveness and redemption even when we are undeserving.
- 2.3 It is the only way to truly know God (John 14:6). If we want to experience God’s love, God’s grace, mercy, and peace, we must come to Jesus. If we want answers to our prayers, we must come to Jesus (John 14:14).
- 2.4 It is the only way to eternal life (John 3:16). Without Jesus we are doomed to eternal separation from God.

Conclusion:

We may be carrying heavy burdens like sins, oppression, and persecution. The Lord sees everything and He wants to free us of these burdens with a promise of love, peace, and healing. We only have to accept God’s great invitation to have a relationship with Him. He will give us rest from our burdens.

Reflection:

1. What burden/s are you carrying now?
2. Are you ready to accept God’s great invitation?

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