

CouplesInBloom.com – Drop Your Net

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Being lost can cause confusion, panic, or terror. Thankfully, communication with God gives us peace and direction for all of life's many unknowns ⇒ Philippians 4:7. But what is this communication made of? How does it work? How can we more readily access it?

We put a lot of emphasis on Jesus Christ because He is the only way to God and His eternal salvation. The Holy Spirit is also important; He is our communication with God now that Jesus Christ is back in Heaven ⇒ John 14:24-28. How did *Jesus* communicate? How does the *Holy Spirit* communicate? **By following and leading.**

To those who follow God, the Bible says: The greatest among you is your servant ⇒ Matthew 23:11. Servants are followers of a leader. This is the first pattern in intimacy and, as always, God initiated it. As crucial as Jesus is to Christianity, He did *NOT* do His own will on earth, but rather followed His leader (that is God, His Father) ⇒ John 6:38.

We need to understand following and leading to have good communication. Although giving (step 1) + receiving (step 2) = communication (step 3), **good** communication is clearer than that. Both giver and receiver have a unique **position** to take, a kind of job description that equips and energizes them for informational and emotional exchange.

This is where intimacy starts. We will do well to have this heart in our life:

Followers become leaders by following leaders. Receivers become givers by following givers. The apostle Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ (and Christ followed God) ⇒ 1 Corinthians 11:1. **Following is part of (and inseparable from) good communication.** Following is *NOT* democracy, which follows *followers*. Servants follow their *leader*.

Marriage application: As the disciples ***immediately dropped their nets to follow*** Jesus to become the intimate Bride of Christ ⇒ Matthew 4:20-22, so we as Christian spouses need to ***immediately drop our selfish ways*** to maintain an intimate marriage. Not doing so, hesitating, or making excuses opposes our servanthood and intimacy ⇒ Luke 9:59-62.

Wives in the Bible: Eve, Sarah and Rebekah all had trouble following, which initiated global grief still strongly impacting the entire world thousands of years later. Following is serious to God. Sarah *knew* what to do, and was commended *when* she did it, which was remembering to ***immediately 'drop her net'*** for her husband's leadership ⇒ 1 Peter 3:6.

Husbands in the Bible: Adam, Abraham and Isaac also had trouble following, having part in the worldwide misery. They followed their wives instead of God, failing to ***'drop their own net'*** for God's order (God being their spiritual husband just as we are the Bride of Christ). God commanded husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church ⇒ Ephesians 5:25. Christ followed *God's* will, *not* the church's will ⇒ John 6:38. Husbands who love their wives *God's way* sometimes learn that *God's* will is *not* their wife's will.

A reverse perspective: *Leaders* follow by meeting needs according to *God's* direction. Remember great leaders are great servants ⇒ Matthew 23:11; serving is God's heart and is central to Godly leadership. Even God ***'dropped His net'*** to serve us by saving us, which we did *not* deserve. We have no justification to give our spouse less grace than God gives us, His Bride. **Communicate love: Drop Your Net.** ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone