



Stew Pot: September

Stew On This...

“Marco!” > > > > “Polo!”

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“Marco!” “Gotcha!!!” “I Win!”

Do you remember that feeling when you finally got someone? You’d been screaming “Marco” for so long, hoping to hear another person make a move that would throw off where they were hiding. And then, all of a sudden, you knew you were close and *BAM!* You reached out your hand and tagged your friend and won! Game over.

I’m sure you see where this is going. God calls, we answer, eventually we find one another, everybody wins, and Game over.

But that’s the tricky part about playing with God – the game’s not over once we meet Him. In fact, the whole hide & seek is just a pre-game to the real meat and potatoes of it all – when the real fun begins. Because meeting God and saying “Yes, I believe you exist... And you created this world.... And you are Lord of my life” Is just one “Polo” to God’s “Marco”.

You see – we were designed in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). And He’s constantly saying “Red Rover, Red Rover, send (insert your name here) right over”. He wants to embrace us, shower grace and kindness upon us, and raise us up (see Ephesians 2). **We are His children!** (1 John 3:2)

It’s not Simon Says, where we *have* to do what He tells us. The whole Old Testament is a, well, testament to that! Deuteronomy 30:19 reminds the people “Today I have given you the choice... oh that you would choose life” and in Joshua it says “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve” (24:15).

And if we choose Jesus? If we allow the son of God to set us free (John 8:36) from all the trappings of *this* world? Then He tells us we can truly “have life, and have it to the full!” (John 10:10) We can stop ‘ringing around the rosie’ and playing all these games with God and find our victory in Jesus by saying yes! – with all we are.

With our **words**: “PRAY without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

With our **time**: “WORSHIP Him... in spirit and truth” (John 4:24)

With our **money**: “GIVE what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion” (2 Cor. 9:17)

With **others**: “use whatever gift you have received to SERVE others” (1 Peter 4:10)

With our **actions**: “LOVE because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19)

“GO and MAKE disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Bottom Line? “This is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, (so) let us **make sure we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads** or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives” (Galations 5:25).

So when God says “Tag! You’re it!” – seems to me we best get runnin’ towards the greatest win of our lives...