

## **Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 9/7/09**

*The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson*



### **Thought of the Week:**

God is Personal

### **Verse of the Week:**

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Former Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda had one of the most magnetic personalities of any professional manager. Whether joking about his diet (he said the clams keep looking up out of the linguine and declaring that they're stronger than he is!) or his plans for burial (he wanted the Dodger's schedule on his tombstone so when people come to see him they'll know what the team is doing!), Lasorda had the ability to communicate and relate to his fellow man.

Sometimes we think of God as being very distant and passive, rather than being close and vital. But our God has a dynamic personality, and He relates to us even better than any baseball manager ever could! In fact, man's personal qualities merely indicate that we are created in God's image! Personal qualities enable us to relate to a personal God!

Our God has all the qualities of personality. He has an audible voice with which to speak (Deuteronomy 4:33-40; 5:4-5, 22-33). Most of the time, however, we (Christians) hear Him speak via the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. We must learn to discern and obey the inner voice of God's Spirit which indwells all believers.

As the Supreme Intellect, God thinks profound and beautiful thoughts. He has wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (Proverbs 3:19-20). Creation reveals the intellect of an intelligent God who is behind it all.

God has emotions, though they are not "mixed" emotions, and they contain no human imperfections. God gets angry (Judges 10:7), He grieves (Ephesians 4:30), He is jealous (Deuteronomy 5:8-9), He hates (Psalm 5:5), He has compassion (Psalm 103:13-14), and He expresses joy (Isaiah 62:5).

God has a will which He actively fulfills apart from constraint or obligation. He is purposeful, and He plans ahead (Ephesians 1:11; 3:11). He has both the power and the will to finish anything He begins (Psalm 135:5-9). In athletic terms, He is not a quitter!

Jesus Christ, who is God incarnate, perfectly revealed all aspects of God's personality. He is the example of the God who intimately loves His creation (John 3:16). We love Him because He first loved us (I John 4:19). Therefore, we can cry abba ("Daddy") as an expression of our love and dependence (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6).

Do you know Him personally? Is He more to you than a powerful Being somewhere out in space? When we realize how much He loves us and desires fellowship with us, we'll want to know Him intimately.

As a son becomes like his father, so we become like the God we worship. Managers with vibrant personalities are great to be around, but God has the richest personality in the universe.

Time Out:

- 1) How do you know God?
- 2) How do we know that we know God? (I John 4:7-8)
- 3) When was the last time God spoke to you?