



[Revelation 3:18-20](#)

(18) I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. (19) As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. (20) Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

New King James Version

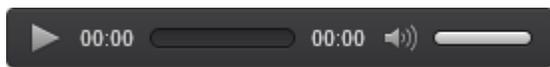
Christians are the victims of an age that is apathetic to a true relationship with [God](#). Would anybody honestly admit that he would not care to eat a meal with and fellowship with [Jesus Christ](#)? Yet, He is reporting that in His own church, some know that He is at the door, yet will not rouse themselves to answer it and fellowship with Him! They are refusing to fellowship with Him. They are so far from Him that they do not even see their need. If there is no awareness of need, there is no desire; no desire, no prayer; no prayer, no relationship, and back to no awareness of need. It runs in a vicious circle.

God hopes that He can stir us up enough to [repent](#) and break out of the cycle—by rekindling an awareness of need. Awareness of need is in us because we are close enough to Him to see clearly how holy, gracious, kind, [merciful](#), and good He is, and then we will want to be like He is. In other words, we so admire and respect Him and His qualities that we want to be near Him and will *chase* after Him, diligently seeking after Him like a lover seeking after his [love](#). We will exalt Him and seek to honor Him by being like Him. This is what happens when two people are in love. That is why God uses the Bridegroom/Bride and wedding analogies. It is our responsibility to seek Him with all our might—with everything in us.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Prayer and Fervency](#)



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