

INTIMACY WITH GOD

There are two types of relationships with God:

- A distant relationship – almost by association – you know of Him but you don't know Him!!! A relationship based on head knowledge but has not transferred to the heart.
- And an Intimate relationship with God – closer than a brother – a relationship that satisfies everything within our being and a spiritual connection.

GENESIS 2:7 – BREATH “The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**, and the man became a living being.”

God took a deep breath and breathed life into Adam in the creation story – this deep breath gave Adam life. Why I believe that this breath also symbolised a sense of intimacy between God and man. When God created man it was not from a distance as when he spoke the earth into being and the creatures that he created. He created man different from anything else that he had created this with the intimacy of a breath of life – His breath into ours an exchange happened, a Godly implantation for Intimacy with the Father – God has created this void in us for intimacy that nothing else but Him can satisfy, an intimate relationship with the father.

GENESIS 3: 8-10

God from the beginning wanted intimacy but through sin man had become afraid (the forbidden fruit in the garden). That trend has extended right to us today as we are still hesitant and afraid when it comes to intimacy because to be intimate with God is to give all your rights as a person away.

NB: YOU ARE AS CLOSE TO GOD TODAY AS YOU CHOOSE TO BE

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- Trials brings us closer to God
- When you are closer to God you can handle stressful situations better – more peace & Joy!!!
- Still your own voice and listen - wisdom

PSALM 63: 1- 4

This is a Psalm of David when he was hiding from his enemies in the barren desert of Judah, “O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live and in your name I will lift up my hands.”

Bruce Wilkinson tells of a time with his walk with God when he felt far from God. Nothing he did could give him that close feeling and connectedness with God. He was busy with a lot of things, writing books, giving seminars, attending Church meetings. In the midst of the season he had a spiritual awakening and he said “God did not want me to do more for him; he wanted me to be more with him. He was calling me to a place of intimacy.”

JOHN 15 -5

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

Intimacy connects us to the vine – without this connection we can do nothing!!!!

Jesus makes sure that we understand that intimacy is a result of being close to God.

American Pastor John Wimber said the following: “The ability to hear what God is saying, to see what God is doing and to move in the realm of miraculous comes as an individual develops the same intimacy and dependence on the father. Just as Jesus did. How did Jesus do what he did? The answer is found in his relationship with the father. How we do the “greater things than these” which Jesus promised in John 14 vs. 12 is by discovering the same relationship of intimacy, simplicity and obedience to the Father.”

God loves you with intimacy that surpasses all your dreams. This is an extraordinary honour and privilege that we can enter into this intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

HOW DO WE DEVELOP INTIMACY WITH GOD

James 4: 8 “Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

We need clean hands and a pure heart in our intimate relationship with God!!!!

1. QUIT DABBING IN SIN

Wash your hands and have a clear heart. We will never know what would have happened if Adam and Eve ran to God and asked him for forgiveness and confessed their sin, but we know what happens when we do. God forgives us and removes our sin as far as what the East is to the West. The enemy is tricky he does not tell us to abandon God but he offers seemingly good things and harmless things that draw us away from the best thing intimacy with God. Important lesson – Watch the company that you keep.

2. PURIFY YOUR INNER LIFE

Proverbs 27: 19 “As water reflects a face, so a man’s heart reflects a man.”

What happens in our hearts has great importance to our heavenly Father. Lust, hate, greed, unforgiveness, anger and rebellion and many other forms of sin and separation. God does not want these types of things in our lives as it effects are relationship and intimacy with the Father.

1 JOHN 1: 5 – 7 walking in the Light, “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.** If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.”

3. HUMBLE YOURSELF

James 4: 10 “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

“Get down on your knees and humble yourself before your master it is the only way to get back on your feet again!!!!”

Humbling ourselves means recognising that our worth comes from God alone; this involves working with His power according to His guidance. Humbling ourselves is part of drawing near to God.

4. FEED ON GOD’S WORD DAILY

Matthew 4: 4:-

“But he answered and said it is written man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”.

Intimacy flows from our relationship with God and an intimate knowledge of His word.

The bible tells us in 2 Timothy 3 : 16 that all scripture is God breathed, this means that as you read the Bible you are taking in the very breath of God which gives you life. As God is coming back for a spirit filled Church He is also coming back for a word filled Church.

STORY – Supernatural power.

Proverbs 4: 22 tell us that God's word is life to those who find them and health to all their flesh." So God's word is life and health to our bodies.

5. A RELATIONSHIP OF OPENNESS, VUNERABILITY AND HONESTY

Psalm 35: 11 – 18:

There were times when David was down his soul was empty (v 12) he was honest and open enough to talk about his challenges to God. He faced the following: -

- Opposition – David faced great opposition from those who paid evil for good and attacked him. You may also face great opposition from those who repay evil for good and attack you, slander you and maliciously mock you (v 15 & 16). Opposition does not only come from the world it can also come from God's people.
- Unanswered prayer – There may be times when your prayers do not seem to be heard (vs. 13) he said my prayers returned to me unanswered and he said to God how long are you going to stand there doing nothing? (V 17).
- Failure – We all stumble (v 15) we can feel we are walking with the Lord quite happily and then we suddenly stumble. Being a Christian does not mean that we never stumble. There may be times when we fail to meet our own standards let alone God's standards. Like David speak to God about these challenges. Do not pretend that all is well. It is this openness, vulnerability and honesty that draws you into an intimate relationship with God.

David ends of verse 18 with the following: “**Lord, thank you that I can come to you and speak from my heart. Thank you that you listen to the cries of my heart. Thank you that you rescue me and enable me to say, “I will give you thanks in the great assembly, among the throngs I will praise you.”**

6. STAND STILL AND LISTEN

You cannot develop an intimate relationship with God without setting aside time to communicate with him. As we look at Moses life in Numbers chapter 7 and 8 God spoke to Moses and Moses spoke with God it was a two way conversation. In the age of the Holy Spirit we are even in a better position than Moses was.

There are times when it is not always clear how God is guiding us but Moses again gives us a good example when the people asked Moses a difficult question to which he did not know the answer he replied wait until I find out what the Lord commands concerning you. If you do not know the right answer it is wise to ask people to wait. This gives you time to pray and find out from God the right way forward. We need to still our busy lives and everything that takes our focus away from Him to be able to hear His voice.

“LORD, THANK YOU THAT I CAN MEET WITH YOU EACH DAY, SPEAK WITH YOU AND LISTEN TO YOU. HELP ME TO HEAR WHAT YOU ARE SAYING TO ME AND TO LIVE TODAY IN THIS RELATIONSHIP OF INTIMACY, SIMPLICITY AND OBEDIENCE.” AMEN