

CS4. Developing Intimacy with Father

Sons are Worshippers

I. Practical Ways to Cultivate Intimacy

- *Joh 4:23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*

Joh 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- **Sons are worshippers.** They love to engage their Father and fellowship with Him
- Intimacy with Father God is a deeply personal experience that will differ from person to person
- Intimacy cannot be reduced to a sequence of steps. It is a relationship that flows from the heart
- Below are some practical actions that can assist the development of intimacy
- We should not limit ourselves to these steps, but they can help establish pathways of connection

Develop a life-time vision and passion to know God intimately.

- **David Had that Passion:**
 - *Psa 27:4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.*
- **Paul had that Passion:**
 - *"That I may know Him....Let us therefore, as many as are perfect [mature], have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you" (Phil. 3:10,15).*
- **Knowing God intimately is the most important thing about you and your life.**
- **Knowing God intimately requires Revelation and Pursuit**
- **Knowing God intimately is a lifetime journey**

It won't happen in one day, one week, or one year. It is a journey of deepening friendship

- True success in the kingdom is not what you do for God, but whether or not you truly know Him.
- Make knowing God intimately your life pursuit.
- *Joh 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

II. **Practical Action Steps**

Build A Personal Altar

- What is an Altar?
 - Place of sacrifice....something is surrendered and consumed
 - Place of exchange...spiritual trading
 - Place of covenant commitment
 - Place of meeting with God...from Genesis to Revelation
 - Place of Fire from heaven

How do You Build an Altar to the Lord?

1. Commit to a Lifetime Vision and Passion to know God Intimately

○ **David Had that Passion:**

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○ **Knowing God intimately requires Pursuit and Revelation**

(i). "Pursuit"....the act of making a personal effort to seek or follow after

- **Knowing God intimately is the most important pursuit of your life.**

(ii). "Revelation"...the uncovering and making known the things of the spirit

- The Holy Spirit is given to us to reveal the secret things of God

1 Cor2:11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of a man which is in him? Even so, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

1 Cor 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

Knowing God intimately is a **lifelong journey**

True success in life is not what we can do for God but in **knowing Father intimately**

Make Knowing God Intimately your Life Purpose

2. Build An Altar

Create a Daily Habit of Connecting

- *Luk 22:39 And He came out and went, as was His habit, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed Him. AMP*
- A habit is a recurrent, often unconscious pattern of behaviour that is acquired through frequent repetition
- Schedule your weekly time with God and stick to it until it becomes a habit
- Cultivate a habit of going to the same place daily to pray
- Cultivate a habit or rhythm of daily prayer
- When a habit is developed then there is an unconscious pattern of encountering God.
- As you enter your prayer room, start your music and begin praying, you quickly move into the spirit
- If you miss a day, don't condemn yourself

3. Find a Place Alone

○ *Mar 1:35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a **solitary place**; and there He prayed.*

○ *Mar 6:46 And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.*

Mar 6:47 Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land.

- Seeking God is a concentrated fixed time alone with God
- Establish a place where you can be alone and undisturbed
- Intimacy requires privacy. That is why it is called the “**secret place**”

4. Eliminate Distractions

○ *2Ti 2:4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

○ “Distract”...to cause someone to have difficulty paying attention, to attract away from original focus

- To cultivate intimacy requires focussed attention without any distractions
- **Distractions shift your focus away from God and interrupt meaningful connection**
 - Eg. Face to face personal connection requires eye to eye contact.
 - Roaming eyes mean broken focus
 - When focus is broken through distraction of eyes or attention there is an immediate loss of feeling connected. The person is “no longer present”
- **Some possible distractions to overcome:**
 - Mobile phone
 - Messy room
 - Wandering thoughts
 - Condemning thoughts...”not good enough”
 - Remembering things you need to do
 - Children
 - Noise
 - You may need to rise early to avoid interruptions and distractions
- If you have young children work out with your spouse how you can help each other have a private time with The Lord

5. Have a pattern for your time with the Lord

Begin with Joy and Praise

- *Psa 95:1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.*

Psa 95:2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

- *Psa 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.*

Psa 100:3 Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Psa 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

- **Move your Body....**
 - Wake you body up, walk, clap, don't allow yourself to be passive
 - *Psa 47:1 Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!*

Psa 47:2 For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.

- **Activate your Spirit....**

- Strongly pray in tongues to stir and energise your spirit
- 1Co 14:14 *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.*
- Give yourself to praying and praising the Lord...put your heart into it

- **Play Praise Music....**

- Sing or use music to stir your inner man to make a sacrifice of praise
- The words of the song can resonate with your heart and stir response
- Repeating the same song can greatly stir your heart response

6. Use Music to Build Atmosphere

- 1Sa 10:5 *After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying.*
1Sa 10:6 *Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.*

- 2Ki 3:15 *But now bring me a musician." Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.*

- **Music is the language of the heart.**

- Music can be of immense help to build an atmosphere of worship to encounter God
- We need to understand how to use different types of music to assist us in experiencing God
- We also need to recognize what music stirs and touches our heart. This varies from person to person

- **Praise:**

- Songs that are energetic, inspire movement, and express the greatness and works of God

- **Worship:**

- Songs that are simple, short, slow and totally focussed upon Him

- **My Personal Current Song List**

- **Praise**

Raise a Hallelujah (Bethel)

- **Exalting Jesus**

You are Holy (Roberson)

How Great thou Art (Aaron)

Worthy of it All (Onething)

Revelation Song (Gateway)

Forever (Bethel)

- **Hunger and longing**

In your presence. (Dube)

Oh how I love him (Dube)

Jesus Jesus (Dube)

The Greatest challenge. (New Wine)

As the deer (New Wine)

I want your heart (New Wine)

I want to see your face (New Wine)

Face to Face (New Wine)

- **Waiting**

When I see the cross (New Wine)

To the Lamb that was (New Wine)

My God is King (Perez)

How He loves (Harbridge)

I surrender all (Larsen)

7. Focus your Attention

- *Psa 63:6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate and thoughtfully focus on You in the night watches, AMP*

- What ever you focus your mind and attention upon you open your mind and heart to.

- Many people have not trained their mind to focus. They have constant random thoughts
 - Random thoughts come from someone....it may be demonic interruption
- Meditation can be a great assistance to meaningful connection
- “Meditate” ...to revolve in the mind repeatedly, to picture or imagine
 - Use your imagination to picture scriptures of being in God’s presence
- Meditation enables you to train your mind to remain focussed for long periods of time

8. Worship

- *Psa 95:6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*
- Worship has a posture of surrender and yielding.
 - This may be expressed through your body posture
 - Eg. Bowing down, kneeling, arms lifted
- Praise until the spirit of worship comes...you become aware of His presence
- If you are using music, change the songs to a worship flow
- Worship is the beginning of intimate connection and loving deeply. Don’t hurry this
 - Take time to dwell in His presence enjoying Him.
 - Sometimes this is just silent surrender

9. Flow with the Holy Spirit

- *1Th 5:19 Do not quench [subdue, or be unresponsive to the working and guidance of] the [Holy] Spirit. AMP*
 - When you are in the presence of God there is a flow of spirit life
 - ○ Stay sensitive and responsive to this flow and don’t just go through a routine
 - ▪ Allow Holy Spirit to guide you and respond to His flow.
 - ▪ He leads us in different directions and activities
 - ▪ Eg: Waiting upon God, silence, weeping, listening, intercession, prophesying, warfare,
- praying or declaring the Word of God, surrender, repentance, forgiveness

10. Journaling: Share and Listen

- ○ *Rev 3:20 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.*
- ○ **Jesus is pictured being outside a shut door knocking and seeking entrance**
 - ▪ •A door is a place of entrance and access from one place to another
 - ▪ •The door can represent your heart, closed and insensitive, and unaware of His presence
 - ▪ •We must choose to open the door, to open our heart and become aware of His presence
 - ▪ •If we open our heart in faith He promises to enter and dine with us
 - ▪ •Dining in the Bible meant close relationship, deep sharing, friendship
- ○ **We must cultivate hearing and responding to Jesus voice**
 - ▪ •“if anyone hears my voice” this means we must cultivate hearing the voice of God
 - ▪ •Jesus is reaching out to be intimate with us but we must intentionally open our heart to His voice
 - ▪ •If we respond with hunger and seeking Him, he will come and fellowship intimately with us
 - ▪ •We must believe that God desires to speak with us
- ○ **What does the Voice of God sound like?**
 - ▪ •*1Ki 19:12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.*
 - ▪ •God speaks to us spirit to spirit. We are joined spirit to spirit with Him
 - ▪ •If you want to hear God you must tune into your spirit and spirit impressions
 - ▪ •**Characteristics of God’s Voice**

Gentle.....God’s voice is a “still small voice”
Spontaneous.....Comes as a spontaneous flow
Easily ignored or cut off.....May be so small, or judged to be mine, it is ignored and is cut off
- ○ **How God’s Voice is received**
 - A Thought
 - A Picture
 - An Impression
 - A Knowing within
- ○ **One way to develop hearing the Voice of God is through Journaling**
 - *1Ch 28:19 "All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans."*
 - ▪ •In the presence of God David experienced a flow of thoughts from God which he expressed through writing
 - ▪ •As he responded and began to write the flow strengthened and the complete plan of the temple was downloaded to him
- ○ **Practical Steps**

- ▪ •Sit quietly and worship the Lord maybe with soft worship music if this helps
- ▪ •Fix you attention upon Him with expectation
- ▪ •Write out the thoughts of your heart in a prayer. Pour out your heart
- ▪ •Express your love, your longing, your pains, your struggles, your fears.....be intimate
- ▪ •Ask The Lord to speak to you and wait expectantly for the Holy Spirit to speak and be ready to write
- ▪ •When you sense spontaneous thoughts, pictures or an impression in your spirit begin to write
- ▪ •Often you will only have one word or a phrase, but step out in faith and write
- ▪ •Write out words as a flow from your spirit of the thoughts of God, personal thoughts
- ▪ •Keep doing this until the flow stops
- ○ In doing this you cultivate sensitivity to Father's voice and awareness of His presence
- ○ It is a quality time, not being aware of the clock but enjoying His presence and fellowshiping with Him

11. Develop a Love for the Word of God

12. Learn to Wait Upon the Lord

- ○ *Isa 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*
- ○ "Waiting on the Lord "means quieting the inner noise and demands of our flesh to just enjoy His presence
- ○ There is often a warfare against distracting and demanding voices which we must strongly resist
- ○ "Waiting on the Lord" has to do with expectancy.
- ○ This is not the time in which we are to make our requests known, or to "passively" wait.
- ○ It is a time in which we "actively" wait (worshipful anticipation) to be filled with His presence and to fellowship with Him
- ○ *"Wait" means to look for, to look eagerly for, to linger for, to entwine together*
- ○ As we wait upon The Lord there is an impartation and exchange of His life into us
- ○ It requires a determination and perseverance but afterwards we carry the fruit of His presence in our lives
- ○ Once you have tasted times of intimacy you can never be satisfied without Him

13. Example of My Journaling:

As you reorder your times with me to include just dwelling in my presence and journaling I will minister into these areas of your heart and life and bring change.

Your work and your distractions into media are like fig leaves and trees where you hide.

This will raise your awareness of me.

You come to me for visitation but I want to make a habitation with you. I want to share your life and be there with you moment by moment.

You have grown up with an orphan spirit.

You have grown up as if you do not have a loving father who is interested in your life, your plans, your success and your destiny.

This is why you behave in this way. You behave as if you are alone in this world.

My Son I love you and I wish to dwell with you.

I want you to dwell with me and be with me where I am, seeing what I am doing.