



# Pursuing Intimacy with God

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# Language of Intimacy

- ▶ How we talk about God.
- ▶ Our songs
- ▶ The Psalms
- ▶ Images in Scripture – The Bride of Christ

# Experience of Intimacy



How would you describe your experience of intimacy with God?

- ▶ I am aware of God's presence throughout the day.
- ▶ I am aware of God's Voice and seek to obey His Word.

# Intimacy with God



Intimacy with God requires turning away from sin, unforgiveness, our false identities and our busyness and actively pursuing God's voice and presence.

# Intimacy with God

## Matthew 7:21–23

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

# Intimacy with God



John 10:3–4, 27

3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

# Barriers to Intimacy with God



Intimacy with God requires turning away from sin, unforgiveness, our false identities and our busyness and actively pursuing God's voice and presence.

# Obstacle – Unconfessed Sin

1 John 1:6–7

6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 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 cleanses us from all sin.



# Obstacle – Unconfessed Sin

Psalm 24:3–4 (ESV)

3 Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

# Obstacle – Unforgiveness

Matthew 6:12

12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

# Obstacle – False Identities (Lies)



John 8:31–32

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

# Obstacle – Busyness

Psalm 46:10

10 “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

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# Pursuing Intimacy w God



Revelation 3:20

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 eat with him, and he with me.

# Pursuing Intimacy w God



John 15:4–5

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

# Pursuing Intimacy w God



Psalm 63:1 O God, you are my God; earnestly **I seek you**; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Matthew 6:33 But **seek first** the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.



# Practical Ideas for Pursuing God

- ▶ Develop a quiet time.
  - ▶ KEY QUESTIONS: What is God telling me? What am I going to do about it?
  - ▶ Make it non-negotiable...
  - ▶ Learn what disciplines feed your soul. (worship music; praying scripture; journaling; prayer walks; ...)

# Practical Ideas for Pursuing God

- ▶ Let your first thought be on God.
- ▶ Use scriptures or short prayers to center yourself
- ▶ Sabbath
  - ▶ Day off
  - ▶ Mini-retreats throughout your day
- ▶ Regular reflection on scripture...

# Practical Ideas for Pursuing God



- ▶ Silence & Solitude
- ▶ Sacrifice

What do you need to sacrifice to increase your pursuit of God this week?

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