



I. It is also written – Intimacy - I

God is relational and intimacy is the goal of every relationship. In this two-part study we will explore what intimacy means to a Christian.

NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

Once Jesus said, “You have your heads constantly in your Bibles because you think you’ll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. These Scriptures are all about me! And here I am, standing right before you, and you aren’t willing to receive from me the life you say you want.” (John 5:39 – 40 MSG)

Jesus is clearly saying here, if you want the life you are looking for, come and receive it from me. Let’s begin an intimate relationship.

For Christians intimacy has two dimensions, intimacy with God and intimacy with our neighbours. In this study we will focus on the dimension of intimacy with God and ways to make it effective.

1. Intimacy with God cannot be outsourced

You can’t ask your spouse or parents to do it on your behalf. Using a proxy will not do. That would be like what the Israelites in Exodus 20:19 did when they made Moses their proxy telling him, “You speak (to God) and then to us and we’ll listen, but don’t have God speak to us (directly) or we’ll die.”

2. Adopt Moses’ attitude to intimacy with God

Moses’ attitude was completely different. His intimate walk with God is captured beautifully in Exodus 33:15 where he tells God, “If your presence doesn’t lead us, call this trip off right now. How else will it be known that you’re with me and your people?” That kind of relationship with God, should be our goal.

3. Become fluent in God’s word and intimacy with God follows naturally

My final thought on intimacy with God is built on the kind of intimacy and fluency that Jesus had with God’s word. I don’t mean how many verses we have memorised. It is more about having read, internalised and putting into action what God has told us. When Jesus was tempted by a scripture-quoting Satan who used God’s words out of context, Jesus’ intimacy with God’s words gave him the ability to respond by stating “It is also written.” (Matthew 4:7)

When tempted can we like Jesus be fluent enough with God’s word to notice how the tempter is trying to mislead us? Is our intimacy with God such that we can move from only saying, “It is written” in the Bible to the level where we can say “It is also written?”

4. Intimacy requires investment of time by us

Like all relationships, intimate relationships need an investment of time. For us it means investing more time in reading, meditating and living out God's word on a regular basis. It also means constantly communicating with Him through prayers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How important do you think intimacy with God is to the quality of life one leads?
- Do I have intimacy with God or an illusion of intimacy?
- Share one step you can take from today to increase your level of intimacy with God?
- *Apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15: 5)* Do you believe this statement of Jesus is “really” true?

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DID YOU KNOW?

Koinonia, the Greek word used for fellowship, is almost untranslatable. It expresses ‘a relationship of great intimacy and depth. It even became the favourite expression for the marital relationship – the most intimate between human beings. It is a rich word that describes a life together in which everything is shared. This is the word that John uses to describe our intimate relationship with god. (1 John v.3). – **Nicky Gumbel**.