

Intimacy With God

We have found in our ministry to others that consistent conflict in one's personal life or one's marriage is directly related to a person's level of intimacy and yieldedness in their relationship with their Heavenly Father.

Why is it that there is so much conflict in our personal lives, marriages and families today? I believe without question it is all wrapped up in man being more interested in pleasing himself rather than getting to know God and desiring to please Him only. James 3:16 tells us: "For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice." When we find ourselves pre-occupied with self it leaves little room for getting to know God and developing an intimate relationship with Him.

When Jesus prayed for His disciples in John 17:3, He shared the desire of His heart: "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent."

How do we get to know Him? The Bible tells us in Psalm 46:10 that we must: "Be still, and know that I am God,..." "Most of us feel we don't have time to be still, let alone getting to know Him. Paul expressed his desires very well in Philippians 3:10 by saying: "I want to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, being like Him in His death."

In order to know God and develop an intimate relationship with Him, change is required, which always involves suffering. Many desire to have an intimate walk but balk at any degree of suffering. Thus they walk in the knowledge of who God is but fail to develop an intimate relationship with Him. As a result they continue walking in personal and interpersonal conflict. God reminds us in I Peter 5:10 that "After you have suffered a little while, He will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

At this point you may ask, "How do I get to a place where I am willing to trust God, make Him my #1 priority, make the necessary changes in my life that He desires for me to make, and go through the related suffering in order to mature and get to know God vs. knowing about Him?"

First, we must change our focus from self and the world that we live in to heavenly things. (Colossians 3:2)

Then, we must be willing to die to the things of this world which includes death to self. (Galations 5:24) Out of this death will come a desire to know Him as we have never known Him before.

This process of knowing Him requires fellowship with Him by having a consistent daily time of seeking Him through prayer and expecting Him to respond. (Psalm 5:1-3, Matthew 6:9, Luke 18:1)

Additionally, we get to know Him by spending time daily studying and meditating upon His Word. This includes hiding His precious Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him in order that we might live our lives as a testimony to Him. (Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:9-11, II Timothy 2:15)

Living a life of obedience and abandonment to the Lord will produce in all of us an intimate relationship with Him that will set us free from consistent personal and interpersonal conflict.