

INTIMACY WITH GOD—YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE!

PART TWO

Would you say that David has a close walk with God, and that he understood intimacy in a relationship? David throughout the psalms is simply saying, *I love the Lord!* And it is the exact response God's heart desires as a result of God's interventions into our lives. It is a perfect "Thank You!" to our God.

God's purpose is always to bring us into a place of maturity--He doesn't leave us where we are. One of the greatest joys for any believer is to discover the pleasure of a life filled with praise. Psalm 116 is a psalm which highlights the joy of answered prayer. I believe that the psalm is telling us deliverance from death stimulates praise and personal commitment to the Lord. It is believed that this psalm is talking about deliverance from maybe a terminal illness, but I believe it can also apply to the terminal illness of our soul.

The disturbing affairs of daily living often become the instruments by which the adversary attempts to wear down the saints. Once the truth of praise and its power grip the soul, the resisting efforts of one's flesh and the world must give way to the beauty of praise and worship and heed the advice of David when he says, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8).

Selfish pursuits bring consequences into our lives. God is looking for His Church to serve Him with reverent fear, which means to honor, to respect, mingled with awe, adoration and affection for our Lord.

Those are steps toward intimacy with God.

What about our pursuits? What are we chasing, pursuing, and striving for? Are our pursuits praise and worship to the Lord? Are they praise and worship to our God who created us? And are they praise and worship through the Holy Spirit that releases us to serve Him with reverent fear and rejoice with trembling? If not, they should be. These are questions that believers need to know and apply in clarity and truth in their lives. Intimacy with God opens wonderful and exciting doors to us. God's plans are for what is best for us. His, timing, His way brings positive results.

Briefly, the soul is best understood as referring to the mind, will and emotions. Paul refers to the whole of a person when he discusses the "spirit, soul and body" in 1 Thessalonians 5:23. *Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until that day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.* It is this totality—the spirit, mind emotions, will, and body—that the psalmist has in mind when he cries, *praise the Lord, I my soul!*

Would you agree with me that we are living in tough times and getting a grip on life is often difficult? It's like someone keeps greasing the rope we're hanging onto (our life line) and we keep losing our grip. We keep flipping around in circles trying to see who's doing the greasing so we can protect ourselves, but we can't always catch the culprit.

But you know, there's a parable that says, "*All sunshine and no rain make a desert.*" What that means is, if you never have any up and down times, any tough times in your life, you never face any difficult circumstances, any heart breaking, painful and often earth shaking issues, then you're going to be dried up and Satan can blow you away! You won't have any root system in life to anchor you. You will never develop the maturity that God wants you to have as a believer. And you will be found lacking in the intimacy department with God.

It takes experiencing the good times and the bad times both to make a mature believer. It takes ups and downs, boring and exciting, pain and pleasure, victory and defeat, failures and successes and mountain tops and valleys to come into the place of balance and maturity in our lives through God. It's all part of our daily walk. Do we like it? NO!!! But it is the reality of life and when we learn to accept those times and TRUST in God, we can make it. We move on. Our relationship, our intimacy with God deepens; God is our true source of satisfaction.

INTIMACY WITH GOD! We serve a mighty God. We are a blessed people. We serve an eternal, universal, majestic King. Psalm 139:1-7 shows that God knows all about you. Where you are going, where you have been, when you sit, stand, what you think, and yet he places his hand of blessing on our heads and cares for us. Why? Because he loves us and desires to have a close fellowship with us, the people who seek his heart. INTIMACY WITH GOD! We don't serve a "far off" God, we serve a personal—"hands on" God.

Don't let anything come between you and the Lord that would move you away from Him. Desire and purpose to daily deepen the relationship. We may spend the rest of our lives trying to sort through issues of trust, control and faith, but one comforting thought remains—God hasn't moved. He is always there. He is always faithful to his people.

Hear the Lord speak to your heart this day. Hear Him saying, *Come, my child, come and sit with Me. I love you! I desire to spend time with you. Oh, how I want to bless you and walk in fellowship with you. I want you to know My voice when I speak to you. I want to be with you on the mountaintops and be with you in the valleys. Take my hand. Let me share my heart with you. Let's walk and talk together. I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will be with you always! You are mine. I enjoy your company, our personal time together. I will love you always. Your loving heavenly Father.*

