

INTIMACY WITH GOD-YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE!

Part one

When I say the word intimacy what immediately comes to your mind? How would you define the word, intimacy? Most of us are at least familiar with the word and can probably give a somewhat textbook definition, but how many of us today understand and have embraced intimacy to the place of applying and living it in our daily walk with God? To know about, and to understand and apply intimacy, are two different things.

Intimacy! When we hear that word, reactions vary from smiles and nodding of heads to frowns and even scowls. As a pastoral counselor, I know from experience that the word intimacy often strikes terror to the hearts of many people. They clam up, freeze up, become angry, retreat, go into denial and even run! And then we see the attitudes, the reasons, and the copouts appear.

What are some of the reason we lack intimacy with God? Have you ever thought about it—really thought about it? How many of us cry out to God saying, “Why don’t I have the relationship with you that sister so and so or brother so and so has?” “How come they hear You speak to them God and I don’t?” “How come some Christians dream dreams and see visions and I don’t?”

“I don’t get blessed like other Christians do! Nothing good ever happens to me! In fact, if anything bad is going to happen, it seems like it has my name on it!” I am first in line for failures and last in line for the blessings.” What’s up with that God—what’s wrong with me—how come, God?” And out comes that bottom lip, here comes the whines—and the pity party, poor me, is just around the corner!

God’s heart is grieved, but before He can answer, we sulk and run off. Now we see the attitudes. We put up walls. Prayer is boring, so we don’t do it very often. We yield to irrational thinking (stinking thinking). Hearts become hardened, often filled with bitterness. Then pride creeps in and we are deceived by the enemy into thinking we can’t forgive or we’ll lose face, (I never have figured out with whom we will lose face—have you?) so we hang onto unforgiveness attached to past hurts and we toss aside what we need to do to keep us in right fellowship with God. *Bottom line—we snooze, we lose.* Broken fellowship, broken intimacy with God is the results.

Praise and worship is a large part of the solution. You know why the enemy fights us so hard in the area of praise and worship? Because he knows worship kills our flesh. It kills selfish desires. When our hearts are not in tune with God’s heart, we are at odds with Him. Our flesh opposes the very things of God. That’s partly why we get uncomfortable in the raising our hands and openly praising the Lord in

church. The flesh doesn't want to die. Pride hangs on until the very end. But know this; praise brings us into the throne room with the Father.

Psalm 116:117 says, *"I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord."* Your flesh may be shouting "I don't feel like it Lord!", but let your spirit be willing and say, "I will offer a sacrifice! I choose to die to self! I will praise and worship you with all that is within me."

Worst day of your life, what do you do? Do you turn to God or kick back into your old ways. Do you become obsessed with God or obsessed with worldly things? You do know that whatever you feed into yourself that is what will grow. If you chew on a bone of contention, then you will be an angry person. If you eat from the table of God, your words will be sweet and give life. The Word tells us to choose this day to serve the Lord. The benefit—so we can feed upon the good things of God and be filled with his fullness.

Psalm 34:8 says, *"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who trust in Him. Let the Lord's people show him reverence, for those who honor him will have all they need."*

The "I WILL'S" in this psalm can be achieved through your intimate relationship with the Lord:

I will praise the Lord as long as I have breath; **I will** walk in the Lord's presence, **I will** lift up a cup symbolizing his salvation; **I will** praise the Lord's name for saving me; **I will** keep my promises to the Lord in the presence of all his people; **I will** offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

Intimacy is marked by close acquaintance, close association. It is very personal and private. And lastly as a noun—it means a close friend or confidant. The Bible tells us that Jesus is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Psalm 116 tells us that He hears us when we talk to him, when we call out to him.

God's blessings come with intimacy and fellowship with God. David has always been one of my favorite people in the Bible. He had a close walk with God. He understood and strived for intimacy in his relationship with God. David's life said, *"I love the Lord!"* It is a perfect "Thank You!" to our Lord.