

Intimacy With God

One of the believer’s biggest dilemmas today is trying to develop a deep, intimate relationship with God while keeping up with all the demands of a busy life. However, the very nature and pace of our society often puts roadblocks in our way, preventing us from the most enriching aspect of the Christian walk...intimacy with our God.

Roadblocks to an Intimacy With God

The “tyranny of the urgent” often brings about a shallow relationship with Christ. This relationship becomes more task oriented than relationship oriented.

Many Christians today are trying to maintain a regular devotional life with Christ while operating within a daily schedule which often drives Christ out of their lives. Developing this intimacy with God becomes impossible.

Here are seven steps for developing a closer walk with your Lord – they should not be

viewed as a substitute for the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Seven Steps Toward intimacy with God

1. SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE

Often the Christian’s first priority is a daily schedule...doings things...busyness. To know God intimately we must often make significant changes on our daily schedules. When we make time for God each day we discover that there is always enough time for the other things.

Find a quiet place to be alone with your Lord (Matthew 6:6).

Pick the best time of the day to spend in prayer, meditation, and reading God’s Word. This should be a time when your alertness and energy are the highest. These are the “first fruits” of your time. All too often we give Him the leftovers of our time, like at the end of the day when we are exhausted and worn out.

Until we simplify our lives so that we have time for the Lord, we’ll always be fighting the “tyranny of the urgent.”

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” Rev 3:20 (NIV)

God wants to be our primary focus. He wants us to know Him intimately. Examine your priorities against Philippians 3:10. The word “know” comes from the Greek word “*ginosko*” meaning to know by experience not just from head knowledge.

2. GET ALONE WITH GOD

3. DON'T RUSH

God doesn’t speak to a hurried mind.

Our natural tendency is to rush through, or “attack” our personal time with God instead of waiting on the Lord (Lamentations 3:25, 26). The quality of our devotions is

Intimacy With God

often measured by how many chapters we read in God's Word, or how many verses were memorized.

Begin by meditating on who God is --- this will often help you to slow down to God's pace. Be still before God and know that He is your God (Psalm 46:10).

the natural intellect of our minds. He reserves intimacy for those whose hearts are completely His...for those who take time to wait for before Him.¹

The most meaningful dimension of life comes from knowing and understanding your God (Jeremiah 9:23,24).

hide from God (Genesis 3:8). When we hide, intimacy is lost.

Talk to Him as the most intimate, most understanding person to ever know you (Psalms 42:1; 147:1-5).

7. THANK GOD FOR WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE DOES

Recall all that you are in God's eyes and thank Him for it (Jude 23,24).

Thank Him for taking you through the experiences of life which are making you like His Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 8:28, 29; II Corinthians 3:18).

Thank Him for who He is to you (Deuteronomy 6:4-8).

■ ■ ■

Discovering intimacy with God may not always come through the natural intellect of our minds. He reserves intimacy for those whose hearts are completely His...for those who take time to wait for before Him.¹

4. REAFFIRM HIS LORDSHIP

God doesn't want us to put our "works" above our relationship with Him. This means giving up all rights to ourselves and giving them to Him. On way of doing this is by saying "Lord, I acknowledge and accept that you have the unconditional right and reign over every area of my life."

Ask God to reveal anything in your life which may be taking priority over your relationship with Him (Psalm 139:23,24).

5. FOCUS ON KNOWING GOD INTIMATELY

Read the Word with the primary purpose of discovering who God is and what He does.

Discovering intimacy with God may not always come through

Memorize scriptures which personally touch you (Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 7:1).

6. TALK TO GOD ABOUT YOURSELF

Talk to God about your relationship with Him.

Tell Him what you are experiencing.

Tell Him what is perplexing you.

Tell Him what is bringing you joy and peace.

Confess anything which crowds Christ out of your daily life.

Confess any sin which has crept into your life (I John 1:9). Sin makes us want to

¹ Charles R Swindoll, "Intimacy with the Almighty." Word Publishing, Inc., 1996. ISBN: 0-8499-1333-0.