

The Pathway to Intimacy with God

What are the practical steps we can take to ensure an intimate relationship with our Creator God?

1 Understand that God desires to have an intimate relationship with us.

Psalm 27:8 [Living Bible] *“My heart has heard you say ‘Come and talk with me, O my people.’ And my heart responds, ‘Lord I am coming.’”*

Revelation 3:20 [Living Bible] *“Look! I have been standing at the door and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with Me.”*

The invitation is to individuals and also to church fellowships.

Both of these scriptures express the longing in the heart of God for fellowship with Him.

God longs for us to meet with Him spiritually *“face to face”*.

God longs for all of us to open the door of our hearts to Him.

How often have we gone ahead with our worship services and church activities and **not** even realised that Christ was **not** there with us?

2 Take time to be alone with God

The next step toward intimacy with God is to respond to His desire to meet with us.

Take time every day to be alone with Him.

All those whom God previously used in the past spent time with God on a daily basis.

Psalms 119:147-148 [NIV] *“I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word. My eyes stay open **through the watches of the night**, that I may meditate on your promises.”*

David’s example of spending time with God.

Psalms 55:17 [NIV] *“**Evening, morning and noon** I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.”*

Three times a day in God’s presence.

Psalms 37:4 [NIV] *“**Delight** yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.”*

Prayer and study of God’s Word will become a great joy.

The word translated *“delight”* is *“anag”* in Hebrew, which describes a soft and pliable attitude of mind – very teachable.

Daniel 6:10 [NIV] *“Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened towards Jerusalem. **Three times a day** he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.”*

Daniel risked his very life because of the decree of King Darius to pray to God three times a day. That is how important it was to him to spend time with God.

Mark 1:35 [NIV] *“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”*

Even Jesus, who was sinless, took time to be alone with His Father.

How much more, then, should we!

3 Learn to listen to God’s Voice

As we study the written Word of God, His **Handbook For Life**, the Holy Spirit will place thoughts in our mind that God wants to share with us.

As we pray, pause at times to allow God to speak to us, by placing thoughts into our mind and spirit.

Intimacy grows out of sharing what is upon our heart and also listening to what is upon God’s heart.

1 Samuel 3:9 [NIV] *“... speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening...”*

The great Old Testament servant of God, Samuel, learnt at a very young age to listen to God’s voice.

4 Become a worshipper of God.

Intimacy with God grows deeper as we take time to worship Him.

When we come into God’s presence during our “quiet time”, pour out your love, adoration, awe and thankfulness to Him.

Recognise who He is, what He has done for all His children.

Speak words of gratitude and praise for His greatness, power, mercy, forgiveness and love.

John 12:1-5 [NIV] *“Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.”*

Be generous as Mary was as she expressed her love and devotion for Jesus.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

Give God our best. Give God our all.

Worship is like pouring out sweet perfume.

Not only will this honour God and deepen our love for Him, it will also fill our lives with the sweet fragrance of His presence.

5 Share the deep levels of our life with God

Just spending time with a person does **not** guarantee intimacy, the level at which we share will determine how deep the relationship becomes.

Intimacy comes out of sharing that which is from the heart.

Sharing **not** just what we think but who we really are, what is deep within us.

Share our fears, failures, hurts, anger and resentment.

Even share our unholy thoughts (as we confess and seek forgiveness and repentance.)

God knows everything about you anyway!

Intimacy will **only** develop when we are willing to open up fully to God.

“Lord this is what I am.”

“This is how I feel.”

“This is what I’m struggling with.”

“I’m angry with this person, I can’t release the hurt he has caused. I don’t want to forgive him.”

“I know these are wrong thoughts and attitudes but I still have them.”

“Help me please.”

As long as we keep such deep areas of our life unexpressed to God, He cannot deal with them.

When we bring them into the light, God will heal, forgive, cleanse and restore, for He is light and always lives in the light.

6 Be obedient to what God tells us

Intimacy grows when we respond to His prompting and obey His commands.

John 15:4 [NIV] *“**Remain in me**, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”*

James 2:23 [NIV] *“And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “**Abraham believed God**, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he **was called God’s friend**.”*

Abraham was a friend of God not only because he listened to God but he responded to God’s Words.

John 14:23 [NIV] *“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will **obey my teaching**. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”*

Isn’t this the ultimate goal for all of us to live in God’s presence?

John 17:3 [NIV] *“Now **this is eternal life**: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

The word translated “know” is the intimate word used for the physical relationship between a husband and wife.

1 John 5:11 [NIV] *“And this is the testimony: **God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.**”*

Note **we have eternal life now**, this is stated in present tense.

How is this?

By intimacy with God now when we spend time alone with Him, and get to “*know*” Him.

7 Live a Holy life

God is Holy.

God is totally separate from sin.

If we are to draw near to Him we must be Holy also.

Holiness means:

- a) **being separated from sin**, through confession, repentance and cleansing by the blood of Christ;
- b) **allowing ourselves to be set apart** from others for God’s use.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

The total sacrifice of our body, mind and spirit to God.

Holiness is never the result of self-effort in observing laws and trying to measure up to certain standards.

Holiness is only the result of our surrendering to the “*spirit of holiness*”, the Holy Spirit, to allow Him to rule our lives.

Only the Holy Spirit can make us Holy, through His indwelling.

Ephesians 2:18 [NIV] *“For **through him** we both have access to the Father by **one Spirit.**”*

Through “*Him*” – Jesus Christ we have access to the Holy Father through the Holy Spirit.

This is why, when the Holy Spirit comes in revival, He always brings conviction of sin first then a revival of holiness in our lives.

But don’t forget one important fact.

Luke 11:13 [NIV] *“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**”*

We have to ask for and invite the Holy Spirit to come into our lives.

No greater decision or request can ever be made.