

Intimacy with God

Developing a God-Centered Life

“... How to Develop a Heart after God”

An Orientation

Image-Bearer

The position of our heart is EVERYTHING!

Today's Learning Objective: *That we learn to position our heart to experience an ever-increasing intimacy and fullness in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.*

READY:

Not just any change will do ... this is personal:

- Our Goal: It's a journey with an _____ outcome ... an ever-increasing intimacy with God.
- Our Resolve: It's a journey that will involve learning, sharing, introspection, choices (some easy ... some challenging) and _____.
- Our Nature: It's a journey that will have to face problems/challenges; and the Bible reminds us that *our greatest problems are never around us; they are _____!*
 - Mark 7:21-23, “²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²² deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. ²³ All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”
 - James 4:1, “What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?”

SET:

INTIMACY ... What does intimacy with God really mean?

Intimacy with God is an on-going experience of ...

1. Closeness (Ps 139).
2. As a result of our _____ with Him (Jn 17:20-21).
3. The Lord is infinite in every way (Rev 1:8) and because He is, we can always draw _____ to Him (James 4:8).
4. He makes available to each of us an ever-increasing, infinitely deep _____ (Eph 3:17-18) that can never and will never be exhausted;

5. A _____ (Matt 11:28-30) and _____ (Eph 4:13)
6. That God intends every Believer to _____ (2 Pet 1:2-4), regardless of our circumstances, both in this life and _____ (Rom 8:38-39).

God's original design for intimacy between man and Him:

- Gen 1: 26-28
 - Man was/is the _____ of God's creation.
 - The only part of creation made in "His/God's own image/likeness".
 - The only part of creation given "ruling/oversight" responsibility.
 - Bearing/displaying the "image of God" is a _____. A permanent distinctive established by the Lord. (cf. Esther 8:5-8).
 - Created in the "image of God" does not signify a physical representation of God - God is Spirit; therefore being transformed into the "image of God/Christ is _____, with practical evidences following.
 - As an "Image Bearer" we are to be "God-like" for His glory; to be that, we need to have a proper view of God. – A. W. Tozer said, "The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him." - The Knowledge of the Holy
- Transcendent Attributes meaning those attributes of God that are "not or less shared" with us:
 - (Jn 5:26), God is _____ - _____.
 - (Ps 102:25-27), God is _____.
 - (Ps 90:2), God is infinite.
 - (Ps 139:7-10), God is everywhere always/Omnipresent.
- Communicable Attributes meaning those attributes of God that were shared us at the inbreathing.
 - Spiritual life and capacity – God is _____.
 - _____ - Moral and ethical will.
 - Truth - God is _____.
 - Potential for "truth" knowing – God is Truth (Rom 1:18-19a)
 - Potential for "truth" recognizing – God revealed in creation (Rom 1:19b-20)
- Genesis chapter 2:25 - unashamed intimacy with one another and God. IT WAS _____ INTIMACY!

Intimacy with God is a by-product, an outcome, a result of God-like-ness; or we would say godliness. In its fullness, it is the very Image of God (namely Jesus Christ) being displayed (2Cor 3:18).

So the nature of ...

1. *Intimacy with God is* _____. It's not some fanciful, made-up, emotional ecstasy. If God is true, then intimacy with God is _____.
(Eph 4:22-24)
2. *Intimacy with God is* _____. It's not some strategic bundle or set of human standards; man has no more power to change himself than to create himself! It is divinely _____. (2 Pet 1:3-4a).
3. *Intimacy with God is* _____. It is not some kind of magic carpet ride, "cloud-9", do what's comfortable, bed-of-ease life style. It is fervent in spirit. (Rom 12:9b-13; Ps 119:128).
4. *Intimacy with God is* _____. (Col 3:10)

GO:

Call To Action	Eph 4:22-24	James 1:19-25	Spirit Enabled Outcome
Cooperative Renewal	"lay aside the old self ... and put on the new self."	"putting aside all filthiness ... wickedness"	Our sinful nature is restrained, and our intimacy with God (Christlikeness) is increasingly manifested.
Ransacking The Truth and Quieting Your Heart in The Truth	"be renewed in the spirit of your mind" ... "which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."	"in humility receive the word implanted" ... "But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty" ... "this man will be blessed"	A blessed intimacy and increasing Christlikeness will result.

Homework Week#1 (Quest Commitment):

- Sign and return commitment card (3x5) "I Willingly Decide To..."
- Or if you're a creative writer ... write it out in the form of poetry - Eph 2:10, "workmanship" ποίημα, *n* "poy'-ay-mah" / poem).
 - Eph 2:10, "10 For we are His (poem), created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."