



# STEP INTO A NEW DAY Intimacy With God

## Day Three

### How to Cultivate Intimacy With God

God gave us a clear picture of what He's like. Throughout the scriptures we see how God interacts with humankind, how He communicates, and the steps we can take to draw close to Him.

I am not a proponent of methods, however, I am a firm believer in practical, principled steps. I don't consider the following steps as exhaustive. There are additional steps that will lead us into intimacy with God. Furthermore, it's vital to allow space for certain steps that represent your personal uniqueness as an original one of a kind creation of God (Remember the kid's lesson with the paintings?).

#### Step One: Mutual Submission

Mutual submission is one of the most powerful intimacy/relational builders you'll encounter. Mutual submission is expressed when two parties voluntarily act to harness or leverage everything they are for the benefit of another person. Mutual submission says I commit to investing my love, my strength and my ability in ways that serve you.

When both parties commit to mutual submission, intimacy and relational depth compound very quickly. This occurs on the basis of a mutual understanding that the

other party is committed to your very best interests. In other words, they are completely for you! They have counted the cost and are all in.

If we're serious about cultivating true intimacy with God mutual submission is key and the Lord Himself has made the first move. When Jesus left His heavenly throne to clothe Himself with humanity He did that for you. When Jesus resisted temptation and lived a perfect life by the grace of God He did that for you. When Jesus was falsely accused and wrongly convicted by a kangaroo court He did that for you. When Jesus was nailed to the cross and became your sin, although blameless, He did that for you!

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (NIV)*

Consequently, God submitted Himself to us first. He literally put us and our sin before Himself and His glory. He put our eternal salvation before His seat at the right hand of the Father. Through God's submission to us He extends an invitation to us to submit to Him. I feel like we get the better deal!

Submission to God will take our relationship to incredible depths of intimacy and will lead us far outside the realm of ritual and religion.

## **Step Two: Transparency**

*May my integrity and honesty protect me, for I put my hope in you - Psalm 25:21*

Could you imagine sitting with your closest friend, week in and week out speaking to one another in formulas or a prescribed, memorized script? Of course you can't! Because if you did you wouldn't have a best friend let alone any friends! We wouldn't talk to our closest friend in that manner so why do we regurgitate the same things over and over to God?

If the Lord was provoked by formulas, memorized prayers and creeds He would have died for a religion not a relationship. God gave us models for prayer and communion with Him not mantras. If we want to cultivate intimacy with God we're going to need to can our memorized prayers for a while.

If we desire intimacy with God there has to be transparency and honesty in our communion with Him. We've got to learn to pour out hearts. Tell the Lord when you're angry, jealous or hurt. Tell Him if your heart is full of lust or fear. Don't be afraid to pray an r-rated prayer if need be. Don't hold back! Where there is true intimacy there is transparency.

### **Step Three: Know Your Identity In Christ**

You are known and loved as a son, as a daughter! You are not only saved by God, but you are saved to God. Together, we are a part of God's family. This means we enjoy a Father-child relationship with Him.

*And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' Galatians 4:6*

We live in God's very presence. We can speak with Him, worship Him, and even ask for help. If you are in Christ, you have an infinite, almighty, and caring Protector and Provider. Again, and let it sink in deep: You are known and loved!

### **Step Four: Quality Time**

What does 'Quality' time look like with God? It's private, unrushed, unstructured, unguarded time. That is all!