

# Intimacy with God

There are different areas of character within each member of the Trinity, where each deeply desires relationship with us. How can we know the triune God more intimately?

1. INTIMACY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ANOINTINGS - The Holy Spirit desires us to be the temple that He dwells in, Eph.2:21-22. To let Him dwell within us in deeper and fuller ways is to become intimate with Him.
  - A. By waiting on God we receive more anointings:
    - 1) As an eagle learns to fly high by discerning the wind currents, we must learn to discern the moving of the Spirit as we wait on God, Is.40:31, Jn.3:8.
    - 2) Joshua spent extra time in the tabernacle, desiring to know God as Moses did, Ex.33:9-11.
  - B. By waiting on God's servants we receive more anointings: Joshua sought God more intimately from Moses' example, Ex.33:9-11. Yet he also gained a further anointing directly from Moses, Num.27:15-19, Deut.34:9.
2. INTIMACY WITH CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS, Phil.3:10. The loneliest experience in Christ's life was His sufferings, when He wanted companionship, Mt.26:38, Lk.22:28, Mt.27:46. How can we enter into the fellowship of His sufferings?
  - A. We enter Christ's sufferings through having people react wrongly to Christ in us:
    - 1) Being with Jesus is like looking into a mirror: all our flaws are exposed! This because God's Word is like a mirror (James 1:23, Ex.38:8) and Jesus is the incarnate Word. As we become like Christ, the Word in us will do the same and reveal other's hearts, Heb.4:12.
    - 2) When people's personality flaws & sins are exposed, they will either repent or react back at the one who exposed them. The sufferings they can bring include:
      - a) Weak Supporters (Peter): desert us!
      - b) Insincere Friends (Judas): betray us!
      - c) Domineering Leaders (High Priest & Sanhedrin): oppose us!
      - d) Self-righteous Believers (Pharisees): condemn us!
    - 3) When other's faults make us suffer, if we react back with bitterness, criticism, resentment, unforgiveness, etc. we are suffering for our own faults and are *not* suffering with Christ.
    - 4) When other's sins make us suffer, if we can love & forgive them, we are suffering for Christ. We are becoming intimate with Christ's heart when we can fully forgive (Lk.23:34) and forget (Zech.13:6, Gen.41:51).
  - B. We can also enter Christ's sufferings through intercessory prayer, carrying the burdens and sins of others until we release Christ's salvation into those situations, Rom.8:26, Gal.4:19.
3. INTIMACY WITH THE FATHER'S LOVE – There are 2 different ways the Father shows His love to His sons, as evidenced in the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32.
  - A. To the unfaithful- the love that the father gave his prodigal son won him back into intimacy:
    - 1) The Prodigal Son was not content at home, he wished his father was dead! When we ignore God and want independence, He still patiently loves us.
    - 2) The father loved him enough to let him leave & fail, while waiting for his return. God allows everyone their opportunities to succeed or fail (like Adam & Eve) yet offers a way back.
    - 3) The father's love helped him return humbled, teachable, and thankful, ready for intimacy!
  - B. To the faithful- the father offered his elder faithful son his unconditional love and support, but the elder son allowed several things to limit his intimacy with his father:
    - 1) The elder son was *offered* continual intimacy "you are ever with me" although his legalism and self-righteousness limited this intimacy, Lk.15:29-31.
    - 2) The faithful son was indignant of how the prodigal son was generously received, yet forgot how he owned everything: "all I have is yours," Lk.15:31. The faithful gain a full reward.

CONCLUSION: Let us develop intimacy with each of the Trinity: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!