

Alone With God

January 15, 2023

Prayer seems like it should be so simple. The truth is that prayer is simple.

It's like talking; It's simply being real with God. No matter where we are in life, God wants to talk with us.

As a local church, our goal during these 21 days of prayer and fasting is to go deeper with God. One of the keys to entering deeper into His presence is prayer.

The most important thing we can do in prayer is develop our personal relationship with our God.

On a certain occasion, a young man asked his pastor; Why is it taking me so long to grow as a Christian? I have been a believer for a while, and I have to confess that my lack of spiritual progress has really got me down. When I became a believer, I thought life would be beautiful from then on, but several years later I'm still not the person I want to be. I don't feel the presence of God like at first. What's wrong with me? Am I truly saved or not?

His pastor responded: There are no short or simple answers to your question. Part of the solution is to realize that salvation is not a matter of instant perfection. Instead, it is a matter of your relationship with God.

Relationship starts by giving your heart to God.

I know that seems like an obvious step. But I think a lot of people don't think of this as being one of the things that must be done to experience a deep relationship with God. Until you give your heart and fully surrender to God, you cannot have a deep relationship with Him.

I accepted Christ as my Savior at the age of 14. Without anyone telling me, I found myself in need of separating myself from all the bad influences. I found myself alone. Instead of letting loneliness consume me, I immersed myself in the presence of God. I talked to Him every day, and that formed the basis of a relationship with my Savior. I try not to let a day go by without talking to Him and even more importantly hearing from him.

I. If you want to grow in intimacy with God you have to invest time

1. Alone with God
2. This is not to say that intimacy with God requires hours on your knees.
3. But yes, every believer must prioritize time with God.
4. Intimacy with God requires an investment of time. The depth of our relationship with God is in part, established by the time we spend in contact with him.

W. S. Bowd said, "Prayer is weakness that rests on omnipotence" (Of God).

II. Take Time For God

1. In Psalm 63 David shows an intimate relationship with God, that is the fruit of having spent time with Him.

2. We learn a lot about intimacy with God by considering this Psalm. David's prayer of praise, communion, and fellowship.

Psalm 63 (The Voice)

¹ O True God, You are my God, the One whom I trust. I seek You with every fiber of my being. In this dry and weary land with no water in sight, my soul is dry and longs for You.

My body aches for You, for Your presence.

² I have seen You in Your sanctuary and have been awed by Your power and glory.

³ Your steadfast love is better than life itself, so my lips will give You all my praise.

⁴ I will bless You with every breath of my life; I will lift up my hands in praise to Your name.

⁵ My soul overflows with satisfaction, as when I feast on foods rich in marrow and fat; with excitement in my heart and joy on my lips, I offer You praise.

⁶ Often at night I lie in bed and remember You, meditating on Your greatness till morning smiles through my window.

⁷ You have been my constant helper; therefore, I sing for joy under the protection of Your wings.

⁸ My soul clings to You; Your right hand reaches down and holds me up.

3. David is writing this song while he was fleeing from his son Absalom, who was looking to kill him.

He was able to worship God in the middle of his storm.

4. THE MIRACLE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Lisa Beamer reflects on the loss of her father in her book "Let's Roll."

"Little by little I began to understand that God's plans for us not only include 'good things,' but the whole range of human events. I remember my mom saying that many people look for miracles, things that in their human minds 'fix' a difficult situation. Many miracles, however, are not a change in the normal course of human events; they are found in God's ability and desire to sustain and nurture people even in the worst situations. Somewhere along the way, I stopped demanding that God fix the problems in my life and began to be grateful for his presence as I endured them."

5. David was in one of the most difficult moments of his life. On another occasion he was pursued by King Saul, but in this situation, it was his own son who wanted to kill him.

6. This drives David, NOT to complain, but to this Passionate Prayer of praise.

III. Passionate Prayer

1. David had the ability to pour out his heart before God. *¹ O True God, You are my God,*
2. His prayer was more than words or a series of requests that he presented to God each day.
3. It was a passion and a fire that was born from the depths of his heart.
4. You might have had a moment when you felt like you would explode if you didn't express some thought that burned within you....

Finally!!! An A on my exam! I got the promotion! I found the love of my life! Our baby is born! My car is finally paid for!

5. None of that could compare with David's explosive praise to God.

Psalm 63:1 (*The Voice*) *O True God, You are my God, the One whom I trust. I seek You with every fiber of my being. In this dry and weary land with no water in sight, my soul is dry and longs for You. My body aches for You, for Your presence.*

6. David says: Oh God, You are my God.....

7. This simple statement says a lot. It says you are the object of my search, what I need, what I long for, what I adore. YOU ARE MY EVERYTHING!

"God is not trying to grow a following that knows how to visit him on the weekends. No, He is raising up an Army of passionate workers who desire above all else to live in the radiance of His continence."

(Bob Sorge, In His Face)

8. David was a great man of prayer because his prayer time was focused on God, and on the expectation of having an encounter with his God.

9. Look how it feels to him.....*In this dry and weary land with no water in sight, my soul is dry and longs for You.* The image is of a desert cracked by drought.

God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life.

John Piper

10. He realizes His God is better than life itself.

IV. Better than life

² *I have seen You in Your sanctuary and have been awed by Your power and glory.*

³ *Your steadfast love is better than life itself....*

1. Can you imagine the degree of David's love for God to say there is nothing that compares to your Love & mercy? There is nothing this world can offer that can compare to who God is to us.

4 I will bless You with every breath of my life; I will lift up my hands in praise to Your name.

5 My soul overflows with satisfaction, as when I feast on foods rich in marrow and fat; with excitement in my heart and joy on my lips, I offer You praise.

6 Often at night I lie in bed and remember You, meditating on Your greatness till morning smiles through my window.

4. Think about it. David is saying that he is fully satisfied, just as if you have eaten a big meal and nothing else fits. I have no appetite for worry, fear, anxiety, sleeplessness, hate, gossip, drugs, drinking, or clubbing.

5. Ultimate satisfaction is found not in making much of ourselves but in making much of God

David Platt

6. When you spend time with God you begin to experience an intimate love for him that is unlike anything or anyone else. And you gain a deep intimate trust in Him.

V. An intimate trust in Him. v.7-8

1. By spending time with God, David knows he can trust him.

2. ⁷ *You have been my constant helper; therefore, I sing for joy under the protection of Your wings.*

⁸ *My soul clings to You; Your right hand reaches down and holds me up.*

Malachi 3 ⁶ *“For I am the Lord, I do not change; (constant helper)*

3. The word cling in v8 is the same Hebrew word used in Gen.2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife and they shall be one flesh.

4. Here we see a very beautiful painting, his soul is clinging to God, but it is God who sustains him.

Dr. A. C. Dixon: “When we trust the organization, we get what the organization can do; when we trust in education, we get what education can do; when we trust eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. But when we trust in prayer, we get what God can do!”

Application:

1. There is no better time than today to start talking to God.

2. "Take time. Give God time to reveal himself to you.

3. Give yourself time to be silent before Him, waiting to receive, through the Spirit, the assurance of His presence with you, His power working in you."

C.S Lewis, in his book “Miracles” writes, “The presence of God is the most real thing we ever encounter.”

Get Real with God

Conclusion: Intimacy with God requires an investment of time.

Be passionate about your time with Him

There is no better life than the one lived for Christ

Trust Him he will see you through.

Dear God, thank You for being my GOD, who is able to do anything. Thank You that Jesus broke down every barrier between you and me so that we could have a beautiful and intimate relationship. I want to talk to You and spend time with You every day. Please help me make that a priority in my life, I want You to be my everything. In Jesus' Name, Amen.