



# Life Principles Notes™

## Living the Extraordinary Life

### Part 3: Intimacy With God

#### Summary:

**How close are you to God?** How close could you become? The answer is, as close as you wish. All that is required is a desire for intimacy with Him.

A close, personal, private relationship with God results in a strong desire to know Him, trust Him, obey Him, and accept His love. An intimate walk with the Lord brings every aspect of your existence toward its highest potential. Therefore, nothing else

in your life is nearly as important. The apostle Paul understood this truth. From prison, he wrote that he counted “all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord” (Philippians 3:8). Because he knew Christ, even a prison was a wonderful place to be; otherwise, any place can become a dungeon.

My friend, if you can be just as close to God as you choose to be, your only remaining question is, “How close do I want to be?” Living the extraordinary life means seeking perfect intimacy with God.

#### Scriptural Principles:

**1 Intimacy comes at God’s initiative.** God shows no partiality. Any person who wants to know Him can grow as close to Him as he or she desires. Jesus had 12 disciples, but John was the closest to Him. The *degree* of our intimacy is up to us, but the Lord always takes the initiative. It was God who spoke to Abraham, to Moses, to David, and to all the prophets; it was Jesus who said, “Follow Me.” Intimacy with God is available only because He initiates the process, and because He longs for every one of His children to know Him well, just as He already knows us well.

**2 Degree of intimacy depends only upon the believer’s desire.** After God takes the initiative and invites us to fellowship with Him, we can know Him as intimately as we wish. The only limitation is our own desire. Peter, James, and John pursued the knowledge of Christ more than the other disciples, so Jesus responded by revealing more of Himself to them. They were invited to witness His Transfiguration on the mountain (Matthew 17:1-2) and to share His final moments at Gethsemane. (Matthew 26:36-37) In the same way, the more we pursue Christ, the more intimately He will allow us to know Him.

**3 Intimacy with God requires time.** Jesus spent three years building intimacy with His disciples. He prayed with them, taught them, lived with them, traveled with them, ate with them, and shared His joys and sorrows with them. In other words, He gave them the gift of His time. There is no way to build closeness—with people or with God—unless we give our time. In John 13–17, Jesus had one final opportunity to share with His beloved disciples the profound teachings about abiding in Him. In giving them His wonderful wisdom, Christ also reveals to us what intimacy with God is and what it requires.

**4 Intimacy with God involves affirmation.** During His final evening with the disciples, Jesus showed His love to them in many ways. He washed their feet, demonstrating humility and servanthood. He assured them that although He was leaving, He would send the Holy Spirit to help, teach, and guide

them. In many remarkable ways, Jesus showed tenderness and love for these men who were His most intimate companions on earth. We draw close to one another by affirming each other—and not just one time, but repeatedly and in many ways. Likewise, intimacy with God involves His affirmation of divine love for us, as well as our affirmation of devotion to Him.

**5 Intimacy with God offers transparency.** On several occasions, Jesus told His disciples that He wanted to disclose Himself to them. In other words, He wanted to open Himself up in honesty and let them know His deepest truths—even His suffering in the garden later that evening. He said that He no longer called them “servants”; He considered them “friends” who could be as close to Him as He was to the Father. (John 15:15) Transparency is the word for such openness; intimacy never involves being reserved or secretive. Jesus was willing to make Himself fully vulnerable to every one of us, all the way to the cross.

**6 Intimacy with God means sharing joy.** Jesus delighted in fellowshiping with His Father, and He wanted His disciples to know that same joy. When we experience excitement and wonder, we cannot help wanting to share it with those who mean the most to us; we are bursting to share the joy of marvelous events we have been privileged to witness. Jesus felt that way about His disciples, and He feels the same way about you. The profound depth of joy that He experiences in the Father is available for you to claim, simply by desiring to know Him more intimately.

**7 Intimacy with God creates an abiding unity.** John 17 contains Jesus’ awesome prayer, in which He reveals His desire for His disciples to reflect the fellowship of the Father and the Son. In verse 21, He prays “that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.” He wants His disciples—which includes you and me—to abide in Him, as He abides in them. He wants every single one of us to experience the full and powerful fellowship that the Father and the Son share with each other. What’s more, He wants us all to dwell in that unity.

**8 Intimacy with God requires effort.** Anyone who understands the value of knowing God will surely make such intimacy his or her greatest goal. Yet most believers live the “settled-for” life. They never accept Almighty God’s invitation to draw near to His throne and feel the joy of His complete love and affirmation. They make very little effort to grow nearer to Him. What are you doing every day to gain more intimacy with your Lord and Savior? How hungry are you for more of Him? If you have that hunger, you will spend more time in prayer, more time seeking Him, and more time learning to walk in the Spirit moment by moment.

**9 Intimacy means that God wants us to know Him.** What are God’s motives? He wants to build a relationship with every single one of His children. Jesus came to earth so that He might reveal Himself to you and to me. The Lord God desires that every moment we are in this world, we will see things as He sees them, think as He thinks, and act as He would act. He wants us to be strong in the harshest challenges we face, using His wisdom and His power. The only way for that to happen is by knowing who He is and understanding His ways. Then you and I will surely be living the extraordinary life.

## Conclusion:

My friend, you can begin to have a more intimate connection with the Lord Jesus Christ. As in any relationship, intimacy with the Savior deepens whenever we share ourselves truthfully with Him. That means not only spending more time talking to God but also listening more intently to Him.

What barriers should you avoid? Willful, known sin is an obstacle. When you stumble,

confess your sin to God immediately and repent. You must also rise above the human determination to take charge. Instead, let God have full control. Avoid self-centeredness, fear, unbelief, and even staying too busy. Intimacy with God is worth any sacrifice. As James 4:8 says, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” 🌿

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