

Make Your Appointment with God

Philippians 3:10-11 (NLT)

“I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead”!

Praying is intimate ...because we are talking to the One that is most intimate with us in this world

God is intimate with those who trust Him - the more we trust God, the more intimately we come to “Know” Him

To know” here in this passage in the Greek is “ginosko” an intimate knowing of God

- * how many of you know that suffering is not easy to our flesh - hardship and loss is no joke — but when you “know” God as your intimate friend - you know your friend is with you through the suffering (like Job he wouldn’t curse God in his suffering - “yet will I trust Him”**
- * The love of being connected to an intimate friend (we are a friend of God) Abraham was known as a friend of God**

When we feel “distance from God” is often due to a disruption in our trust (ie. As a sin or disappointment) but we rekindle our love by reviving our relationship with God in prayer

The more you pray, the more He begins to speak to you...Intimacy is deepened by fervent prayer, simple obedience and genuine worship.

6 Simple ways to Deepen your intimacy with God in prayer:

1- Through the Scriptures: As you read your Bible, ask God to show Himself to you through the guidance of the Holy Spirit

Spend time writing down what God teaches you about Himself as you are reading and studying (the importance of journaling).

With expectancy - expect God to speak to you when you draw near to Him in the study of His word

Make God's word your personal "tent of meeting" with Him

Ex. 33:7 - "Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting, And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp"

Jeremiah 33:3 (ESV) "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and an hidden things that you have not known". (A promise to us)

2- Through Creation - Spend time through out your day looking around you and paying attention to all that God has created. Creation gives us confidence that God is what He says He is. Through meditation of his handiwork and creation, we give Him thanks and praise

Psalms 8:3-5 - " When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; (***I ask***) What Is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty!

Now this is the kind of God you want to be intimate and stay in love with!

3- Through Worship - When you truly come into God's presence to worship Him, we are able to lay down our list of needs and wants and just enjoy being with Him. Simple times of sharing with Him on how wonderful and amazing He is — This will allow your heart to grow closer to Him A mutual exchange of love - from one heart to another. Find worship music that honors and glorifies the Father and join in.

Psalms 42:7-8 (NKJV) - "Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me. The Lord will

command His lovingkindness in the daytime. And in the night His song shall be with me - A prayer to the God of my life”

4- Through Listening - Most of us want to talk at God. Take time to say as young Samuel did:

1 Samuel 3:9 - “Speak Lord, your servant is listening”

Write down whatever you may hear that lines up with God’s character - as simple as “I love you” ...or it maybe something He wants you to do...or something He wants you to share

If you aren’t sure if He is speaking to your heart - show a matured, trusted believer what you have written to get confirmation or not.

5- Silence - There are times we just sit quietly in His presence with no expectations other than just enjoying being with Him — the most intimate moment of developing your relationship in prayer with God. No agenda, no wants, or needs expressed...just being alone with no distractions. Uninterrupted fellowship with your friend.

Psalms 46:10 - “Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth”

In a world of busyness - we must learn the discipline of being still before God in prayer, that He may speak and we may experience His love and the guidance of the Holy Spirit

6- Asking - There are times we have needs of our own or those of others that we want to express to Godthere is no need for flowery words...it’s just like you coming as a child to sit in your father’s lap bringing a request.

God is continually present with us in each moment of our lives as we abide in His word

John 14:23 - “Jesus answers and said to him, If any one loves Me, he will keep my word and My Father will love him and we will come to him and make our abode with him”

This cultivates our nearness and affection for Him in prayer...

James 4:8 - "When you draw to God, He will draw near to you"