

A CHRISTIANS CORE VALUES #4 INTIMACY WITH GOD

Eph. 3¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. NIV

Paul is speaking of the relationship that is made possible to us as believers. His passion is that we can know the fullness of the love of God. Love, of course, is the key to intimacy. We will go more into depth with this later.

God created man for the purpose of intimacy.

The Bible speaks of **different relationships that people have had with God.**

- **Adam and Eve** had visits from God in the garden
- **Abraham** was called “**the friend**” of God.

James 2²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. NIV

When God is going to destroy Sodom he shares it with Abraham. Gen. 18¹⁷ Then the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? NIV

- **Enoch walked with God** and was raptured into His presence leaving a testimony that he pleased God. Gen. 5 22-24.
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- **Moses knew God's ways**

He gives us the creation story, the revelation of God, the 10 commandments, and saw God's glory.

Psa. 103 ⁷ He made known **his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:** NIV

- **We are called "the sons of God".**

1Jo 3 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. NIV

We are sons because a relationship has been provided for us through Jesus Christ that has given a new birth. The "new birth" establishes our sonship.

Romans 8 ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. NIV

Though you are sons and daughters of God through Christ Jesus, **how would God describe his relationship with you? Would He say that you were close? Does the Father share His secrets with you? Do you know his ways?**

TWO KEY FACTORS FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. Have a love for God

Deu. 6 ⁵ Love the LORD your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your strength. NIV

Jude 1 ²¹ Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. NIV

2. Have a fear or reverence of God

Heb. 12 ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, NIV

HOW TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. It takes time.

The people we spend time with are the people that we love. Jesus, Moses, spent large amounts of time alone with God. The more time we spend with Him the more we should know Him.

2. It takes prayer- communication on both sides.

We learn more when we listen than when we speak.

3. It takes knowledge of the Word. Psa. 119

4. It takes a life of obedience to the spirit.

John 4 ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ **God is spirit**, and his worshipers **must worship in spirit and in truth.**" NIV

Intimacy with God is centered around truth.

John 3 ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the **Spirit gives birth to spirit.** NIV

Romans 8 ⁵ Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; **but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.**

⁹ You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. NIV

Intimacy with God leads to **revelation**.

Revelation from God leads to **inspiration**.

Inspiration from God leads to **supernatural action**.