

## Intimacy with God

### Lesson #6: Some Practical Thoughts

#### I. Your relationship with the Lord affects the next two generations (at least!) Look at the three “chairs”

The First Chair	The Second Chair	The Third Chair
Josh. 24:1-15 Judges 2:7-9	Josh 24:16-31 Judges 1:1-2	Judges 2:10-23
“Joshua”	“The Elders”	“Another Generation”
Commitment	Compromise	Conflict
Knows God personally	Knows God personally	Knows God personally
#1 Chooses the Lord to be his/her Lord	#1 Looks like committed but does not trust or obey	#1 Doesn’t know God or His works
#2 Wholeheartedly serves the Lord	#2 Disobeys God for personal pleasure and possessions	#2 Worships and serve the gods of the land
#3 Trusts and obeys the Word of the Lord	#3 Accepts the values and lifestyles of the Third Chair – full tolerance as if equally acceptable	#3 Becomes one with the society
Christ as Lord	Christ as Savior	Christ as religious leader

#### II. “The private you equals the public you” (Luke 6:40)

Who you are in private determines who you are in public

Thought from Oswald Chambers: “My worth to God...in public...is what I am...in private.”

A. Do you have Passion for Faithfulness?

Hebrews 11:14-16: “God is not ashamed to be called their God.”

B. Do you have a Passion for Holiness?

Rev. 4:8b: “They do not cease to say, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty who was and who is and who is to come.”

*"To tell you the truth, I love Him because I by Him am eased of my burden, and I am weary of my inward sickness. I would prefer to be where I shall die no more, and with the company that shall continually cry 'Holy, Holy, Holy.'"* (Pilgrim's Progress)

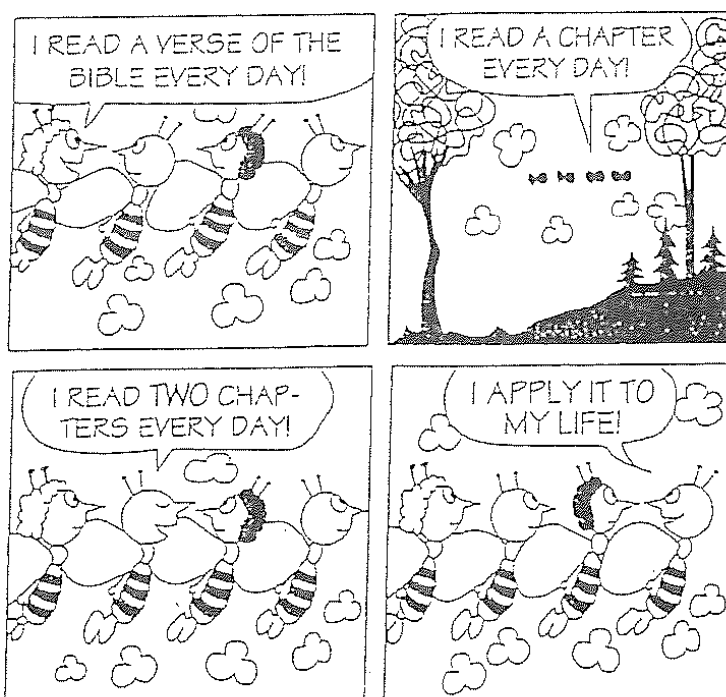
C. Do you have a Passion to Share Christ?

Rev. 7:9 "...a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..."

### III. Remember: "It's a relationship, not a religion"

Intimacy with God is meant to be creative. It's not a formula.

The hearing, reading, studying and memorizing of God's word builds a relationship. It's not a "by the numbers" kind of experience. It's a real expression of a real relationship.



### IV. So what? "Intimacy can be developed"

- A. Six simple methods that we can use to study the Bible and develop intimacy with God:
1. Be a news reports: Who, what, where, when, why how?
  2. Compare the Bible with the Bible. Read good commentaries.
  3. Be a psychologist: Do a character study. What did \_\_\_\_\_ do? Who did \_\_\_\_\_ know? What did \_\_\_\_\_ say? What characteristic is described or implied? How can I become like \_\_\_\_\_?
  4. Be a florist: Gathering verses on a theme from throughout the Bible. Use a good concordance.

5. Be a linguist: Study the definition of words (English, Greek, Hebrew). Use a good concordance, the theological wordbooks and dictionaries of words.
  6. Be an English student: Break the passage down in outline form.
  7. Be an artist: Use a variety of colors or symbols to mark up your Bible.
- B. Have a "holy huddle" with God on a regular basis. Ask these questions about the passage you are studying:
1. Is there an example for me to follow?
  2. Is there a sin to avoid?
  3. Is there a promise to claim?
  4. Is there a prayer to repeat? (for you or others)
  5. Is there a command to obey?
  6. Is there a verse to memorize?
- C. And don't forget the other ways to get intimate with our Lord:
1. Singing...
  2. Listening...
  3. Dancing before the Lord...
  4. Fasting...
  5. Journaling...

---

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Who is affected by your "spiritual work?" How are they affected?
2. What are you passionate about?
3. How do you like to study God's Word? What methods, times, situations, work best for you?