

Seeking the Intimacy We Were Made For

Day One – Read Jeremiah 29:11,13-14a. Think about that amazing statement ... that “God has plans for you” ... that’s awesome! Especially the fact that they’re good! It’s amazing that He even knows who we are! As David says in **Psalm 8:4** (NLT) ⁴ What are people that you should think about them, mere mortals that you should care for them? Think about His plans for you ... “to give you hope and a future, and bring you back from captivity.” What might this mean for you?

Pray and thank God that He knows you, loves you, and has plans for you. Ask Him to help you Trust Him and obey His Word, so that you will fulfill His purpose in your life, and not miss any part of His very best for you!

Day Two – Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. What are the things that most people “brag” about or want to be known for? How about you? Do you want to know and understand God more than anything else? Do you value what God values? Do you value “kindness, justice and righteousness” to the point that you seek to model them in your life? They speak to healthy relationships and living for others and not ourselves. Is this where you “shine?”

Pray and ask God to help you value and seek to live what He values.

Day Three – Read Isaiah 1:13, 15-18; Psalm 50:7-15 & Matthew 11:28-29. Why do you think that at these points in Israel’s history their worship was so meaningless? What did God want that they weren’t giving? Was it “what” they were giving, or was it a question of “why?” Are we ever guilty of the same?

Pray and ask God to help you see what is really important to Him. Ask Him to help you really know Him, and love Him with all of your heart! Remember, you can trust Him and obey Him, because His plans for you are good! He loves you!

New Life Lessons
July 30th & 31st, 2011
Pastor Ron Salisbury

“Intimacy with God”

The Power of God’s Promises #5

Jeremiah 29:11,13-14a; James 4:8; Matthew 6:6

Jeremiah 29:11, 13-14a (NIV) ¹¹ I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ^{14a} I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity..."

What is Intimacy?

“Intimacy is a close and affectionate personal relationship with another person, with detailed knowledge and deep understanding.”

- Sexual Intimacy – One Body
Matthew 19:5-6; 1 Corinthians 6:16;7:3-4
- Emotional Intimacy – One Soul
Ephesians 5:1-2; Colossians 3:19; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
- Spiritual Intimacy – One Spirit
Galatians 5:25; Philippians 1:3-4; 2 Corinthians 6:4, 14; 1 Corinthians 7:12-13; 1 Peter 3:1-2

Mark 12:30 (NIV) ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' Romans 12:1-2

Genesis 1:27-28a (NIV) ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ^{28a} God blessed them ..." Genesis 2:9

Reflect Relate Reign
“worship” “relationship” “stewardship”

Genesis 3:8 (NIV) ⁸ Then (Adam and Eve) heard the sound of the Lord God as he was **walking in the garden** in the cool of the day, and **they hid from the Lord God** among the trees of the garden. Genesis 15:1, 5-7; Exodus 3:7-8a; 14:13-16; 20:1-17; 25:8, 10,22; 26:1, 33; 33:11 21-23; Joshua 3:5; Jeremiah 2:2-5, 13

God Seeks to Restore Intimacy

Ezekiel 36:23-28 (NIV) ²³ **I will show the holiness of my great name**, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when **I show myself holy through you before their eyes.** ²⁴ "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵ **I will sprinkle clean water on you**, and you will be clean; I will **cleans**e you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you**; I will remove from you **your heart of stone** and give you a **heart of flesh.** ²⁷ **And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees** and be **careful to keep my laws.** ²⁸ You will **live in the land** I gave your forefathers; you will be **my people**, and **I will be your God.**

Jeremiah 24:7; 31:31-34; Matthew 26:26-29

Seeking Intimacy with God

1. Seek to Know Who God Is .

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NIV) ²³ **This is what the Lord says:** "Let not the **wise man** boast of his wisdom or the **strong man** boast of his strength or the **rich man** boast of his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this: that he **understands** and **knows me**, that **I am the Lord**, who exercises **kindness, justice** and **righteousness** on earth, for **in these I delight,**" declares the Lord.

"Boast"- *hālāl* – *"to celebrate; be clear, seen for who you are"*
"Understands" – *śākal* – *"knowledgeable about"* Psalm 34:8
"Knows" - *yāda*- *"to see/experience for ourselves"* Job 42:5; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:16;10:22; John 17:3; Isaiah 45:3; Philippians 3:10

2. Seek to Know How God Gives .

James 1:16-18 (NIV) ¹⁶ Don't be **deceived**, my dear brothers. ¹⁷ **Every good and perfect gift is from above**, coming down from the **Father** of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ **He chose to give us birth** through the word of truth that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 1:21-23; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 1:3-8; Galatians 6:7-10

James 4:8 (NLT) ⁸ **Come close to God**, and **God will come close to you.** Wash **your hands**, you sinners; purify **your hearts**, for **your loyalty is divided between God and the world.** 1 John 1:8 & 9; Joshua 24:14-15; Psalm 51:1-2, 10

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV) ⁶ When you pray, **go into your room**, and when you have **shut your door**, pray to your Father who *is* in the **secret place**; and **your Father who sees in secret** will **reward you** openly. Luke 6:38; Matthew 6:14-15; 11:12; 18:19-20

3. Seek to Know What God Wants .

Isaiah 30:18 (NIV) ¹⁸ **The Lord longs to be gracious to you**; he rises **to show you compassion.** For the Lord is a God of justice. **Blessed are all who wait for him!** Matthew 11:28-29; Revelation 3:20; John 4:23

Isaiah 1:13, 15-18 (NIV) ¹³ Stop bringing meaningless offerings! ... I cannot bear your evil assemblies. ¹⁵ When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; ¹⁶ **wash and make yourselves clean.** Take your evil deeds out of my sight! **Stop doing wrong,** ¹⁷ learn to **do right!** **Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.** ¹⁸ "Come now, **let us reason together,**" says the Lord. **"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.** Psalm 50:7-15; Isaiah 58:6-12; Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 5:8-10

Hosea 10:12b (NIV) ^{12b} **It is time to seek the Lord.**