



CHRIST COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

Dgroup Discussion Guide

July 8, 2012

NOW MORE INTIMATE

WORSHIP: Remind Me Who I Am by Jeremy Camp/ Your Name by Paul Baloche/ Breathe on Me by Hillsongs/ In the Presence

WELCOME:

After four months into our series of Intimacy with God . . . we now ask ourselves: Are we now more intimate with God?

WORD:

"The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" Exodus 33:14-16

How do we know that we have become more intimate with God?

These are proofs of the presence of God in our lives:

1. We are favored by God. (v15)
2. We are rested in God. (v14)
 - a. We are provided for
 - b. We are protected from
3. We are distinguished people. We are chosen to be different. (v15)

These do not come automatically. They only happen when we are intimate with God.

When we are intimate with God – we know God's ways and He calls us by name (v12b).

When we are intimate with God – we are obedient. We are faithful.

When we are intimate with God we are Christ-like. We are transformed.

We have to remember that Spiritual Formation is the intentional, communal process of nurturing of the spiritual person in the likeness of Christ by the power of a spirit-filled life, so as to fulfill the will of God concerning us. (Rev E. Chan)

This reminds us that the Gospel is not about transportation (just being brought to heaven), but more importantly the Gospel is about TRANSFORMATION. Our journey into Christ-likeness.

We cannot be in the presence of God and not be changed! Abram when he became intimate with God, became Abraham (Genesis 17). Moses after his encounter with God, was seen to have his countenance changed. Saul after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus became Paul.

Keeping this in mind, when we look at ourselves in the mirror – who do we see? Do we see Christ in our mirror image? If not yet then maybe we are not yet really becoming intimate with God.

What are the reasons that make us UN-intimate?

1. We are not convinced that living in the presence of God is vital. That it is essential in the same way that we need air.
2. We continue to believe that it is all about us and our plans and purposes. We have become purpose-driven.
3. We do not believe that God deserves the highest place in our lives.
 - We have been convinced by the world that we are important. That everything is about us and what we want.
 - *Heb 11:6 reminds us that "without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a re-warder of those who seek Him."*

We have to understand that...

Until we realize that we need God's Presence more than we need our next breath. . .

Until we realize that we need God's presence more than we need anything in this life. . .

Until we realize that ONLY in His Presence do we find all we need in life and more . . .

We will remain in the wilderness of our spiritual mediocrity and far from the spiritual Promised Land.

As we go about our everyday lives, we tend to forget that we are in fact already connected to the source – everyday we go through our routine and often only come to God when we have our backs up on the wall. We have the power of God at our disposal and yet we prefer to get by on our own strength.

We must understand that in order for us to experience an intimacy with God – we should be able to tap into His power, His presence. So instead of going through our day being purpose driven, we should become PRESENCE DRIVEN.

Moses was a presence driven man. He would not move without the presence of God with Him. Even though his purpose was clear, he continued to pursue and desire God's presence with him as he journeyed to the Promised Land. . . because He understood that although purpose was important, even more valuable than that was to have God's presence and His favor with him as he continued to fulfill his purpose.

What happens to us if we only have purpose but none of God's presence?

We are working with our own strength, on our own power. . . but this will not take us very far. We have to consider that with God's presence, Moses and the Israelites were able to journey safely to the Promised Land. God protected them against their enemies, He guided and led them, fed them, guided and governed them, He quenched their thirst and even clothed them. Those who believed that God's presence was important in their lives were allowed to enter the Promised Land, while those who didn't died in the wilderness.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever feel like you are going nowhere in your spiritual life? What did you do or what are you doing to find your way out of your spiritual wilderness?
2. What has changed in your life now that you are more intimate with God?
3. Are you purpose driven or presence driven?
4. What are you doing or planning to do to find favor in God's sight?

WORKS:

We are called to a spiritual life that is filled with God's presence. God wants His presence to permeate through every aspect of our life. These are some of the roles that God has asked of us:

1. A Christ like husband – a loving servant leader of our wife
2. A Christ like wife – respectful and submitting to our husband
3. Christ like parents – good examples of being presence driven; encouraging and training our children to become Godly presence driven as well
4. Christ like children – respectful and obedient to our parents as unto the Lord
5. Christ like employees – doing what is right and best for the boss, our God
6. Christ like disciples – who are making other disciples

7. Christ like church – evangelizing and making disciples; who are examples of radical Christianity that distinguishes us from the rest

As we ponder on the roles that God has asked of us, what are we committing ourselves to do so that we can fill our lives with His presence? What are the things that can hinder us or stop us from keeping these commitments?

Together let us pray for God's grace to sustain us as we radically make changes to our lives that will allow us to find favor in His eyes, so that we can find rested-ness in His presence and finally distinguish ourselves as we continue to bring glory to His powerful and wonderful name.