

## AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP

### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

**Topic: Intimacy with God**

**Text: Psalm 42:1-7, 63:1-3; John 15:7.**

**Wednesday, Dec 11, 2024**

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God is a Spirit. He wants us to journey with Him until we become affectionate and one with Him. Apart from man, God does not have the legitimacy to operate on earth. That's why He created man to be intimate with Him, to fellowship with Him. Gen 3: 8.

- Intimacy is a personal relationship with God - Psalm 42:1-7; 63:1-3; John 15:7.
- It's a decision to surrender, consecrate oneself and be focused on the pursuit of God - Romans 12:1-2. James 4:8. This happens in appreciation of the unprecedented sacrifice the Lord has made for our redemption.
- The Lord Himself draws us into intimacy because he wants to reveal himself to us in a deeper way, for us to know him deeper. It is a relationship of love. Psalm 42:1-11: As the hart (deer) pants after the waters- he wants to stay in God's presence, longing, craving, thirsty to appear before God. David went with the crowd, but there is something missing, so his soul is cast down, all the places mentioned represent the presence of God. Are you hungry for God's presence? Start to pursue him, look for him! The enemy may attack to distract you, but as the hart, you will hide in his presence because the smell of the hart disappears in the water and the enemy cannot get to him anymore.

#### **What does it mean to be intimate with God:**

**Abiding in his presence:** Psalm 91: 1 says he who dwells, not who has fleeting visits. We all want the promises of Psalm 91, but we don't want to abide like Joshua who remained in the tent of meeting after Moses had left - Exo 33:11. Psalm 63: 1, "O God, thou art My God; early will I seek thee: My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee In a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;" KJV.

**Following/Chasing:** Hosea 6:1-3 is the secret; we shall only know if we follow on to know. If we follow on to know, he will quicken us as in Psalm 80: 16-18; so we can call on his name. It is not in the flesh, it is not mechanical, not head knowledge. It is done by the spirit, and it is a daily walk, chasing after him. Picture a child going on a walk with his father, he then stops while the father kept on walking, there is a disconnection. The child can no longer hear the voice or conversation from the father, and he can easily make a mistake, In our walk, sin easily comes back; old habits that are contrary to God, because we are no longer connected, but we think we are where we are not walking in step with Him. Psalm 62:1 total salvation is when Jesus is in you in his fullness.

**Waiting:** Psalm 38:1 - I am waiting for you. Waiting is more than prayer; it is a place of communion and intimacy. You come to the Lord, make your request known, then you wait for the Lord to quicken you as in Psalm 80:4. But often after we have talked to him, we leave, without hearing from him which is when he would have quickened us. His presence starts to penetrate your heart, you regain your lost spiritual strength, and this is when you are strengthened with might in your inner man - Ephesians 3:16. Your ability to discern the presence of the Lord comes back, to know where his heart is, where the wind of the Spirit is blowing. Isaiah 40:31: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they

shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" This is like the eagle which soars with the direction of the wind to mount up. As you wait, the Lord takes you higher and higher, becoming more intimate. The higher place is the place of intimacy - Rev 4:1 - "Come up higher and I will show you things to come." This is where the Holy Spirit deals with your heart and we cry out like Isaiah 6: 5 that I am a man of unclean lips, meaning he is making you more like him by his Spirit. This is what we call alignment.

**Fellowship** in word, worship, prayer, spending time with God in intimacy is a daily experience, as we get these special moments with God but the next day, we become busy and lose that intimacy like in Genesis 3:8, while we think he is still there, but we have lost him - until he comes to quicken us again. Isaiah 26: 8-9 we wait for the Lord. We desire him with our soul, but we seek him with our Spirit.

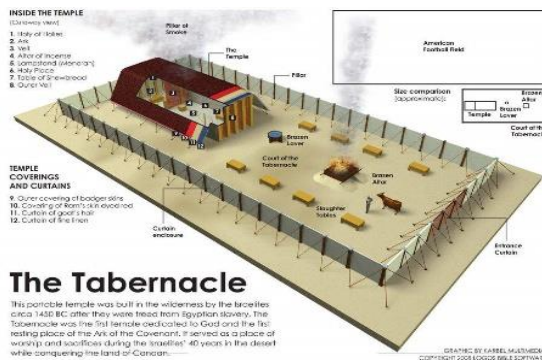
**How do we find this intimacy?**

**Luke 11: 9-13:** "Ask and you shall receive, seek you shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you." This scripture tells us about the steps into intimacy.

**Ask:** you talk to him, share your needs, like in the outer court, where the laver is set up to wash, but the real fellowship is after that place, if I leave at the outer court, I leave empty, so I must wait for him to quicken me.

**Seek:** If you stay like Joshua, then he quickens you, it may take 10 minutes or hours or days. This is why the scriptures says men ought always to pray and not to faint. He quickens you when your heart is sold out and he starts to reveal his secrets, the mysteries, revelations of the heavenly realms, where the riches of Christ are found; your heart explodes with love for him. The Holy place is the seeking realm. You cry out from your being for him, Jeremiah 29:13: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." This is when his presence becomes real. Deliverance takes place in the seeking realm - as in Psalm 40:1, "I waited patiently for the Lord; he brought me out of the miry clay." He deals with fear, anger, and old habits. Seeking realm brings you deeper and when Jesus walks in, the devil leaves. The light shines in darkness and darkness cannot comprehend it.

**Knock:** This is the 3rd realm; it is the abiding realm for those who dwell! He becomes real and you become constantly aware of his presence. His presence becomes the norm in your life as in Psalm 91 and Isaiah 40. Once he quickens you, you no longer need to wait for long. It's a daily seeking, if not, your soul loses the connection, and you will start afresh which takes longer to climb up. Jesus takes full control and starts to guide you. You keep knocking so you can enter and dine with him. John 14:23. He gives you things you never asked for; he answers before you call, he pours his love on you before you ask. Are you ready to become intimate with God or you are satisfied with the outer court?



**The Tabernacle**

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1480 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifice during the "wilderness" 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.