



The Mystery of Intimacy with God

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- Supernatural activity is intended to draw us into relationship with a supernatural God.
 - Relationship is the way that two things are connected (Oxford Dictionary).
 - Supernatural activity was purposeful—it was intended to strengthen our connection with God.
 - God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He wanted them to know Him relationally. Even after the fall, he still came to them.
- God is still releasing supernatural activity today with people who walk with Him, and people who don't yet. He is pursuing relationship, and relationship requires communication. Think about the relationships we have:
 - With strangers, there is little or no relationship. There's not a connection.
 - With acquaintances, you often enjoy small talk. It's not deep conversation.
 - With Co-workers and neighbors, there's a lot more you would share, like their names how many children you have, how long they've lived in the area.
 - ◇ Conversations will revolve around shared experiences like local storms, and who just moved in down the street. You're beginning to know them more. They are becoming friends.
 - With friends, there is an affinity and affection—a respect.
 - ◇ The conversation now evolves into sharing our passions and dislikes, from outer things to inner things. We share the things of our heart because we trust them.
 - Trust is the key to relationship. Relationship is the key to trust.
- Commitment fosters trust and also leads to a deeper level of connection.
 - It could be unsaid, or clarified. It could be assumed or a written agreement.
 - At the highest level it could be a mutual promise and agreement that defines the expectations and the types of relationship that two people have.

- Marriage is the most recognized relationship covenant.
 - ◇ There are no longer any off limits signs on the heart. We share our deepest fears and our greatest hopes, our dreams.
- When it comes to interacting with the divine, people are in various positions.
 - Some are strangers—they're happy to be heading in the direction they've chosen for themselves; a family home, a place where they're accepted or needed. It could also be accomplishment, power or wealth, etc.
 - ◇ They do not acknowledge God, who is trying to speak to them.
 - ◇ When the façade of sufficiency falls away, they reach out to whomever they can.
 - ◇ When life falls apart, everyone prays.
 - For others, God is an acquaintance.
 - ◇ They grew up in a home where it was normal for them to go to church.
 - ◇ They say things like, "I know God, and I like Jesus!" They say they are Christian but not very religious. They faithfully go to church every Easter and Christmas. They always say "I'm a good person."
- There are levels of acquaintances—
 - Some we rarely see, and some we see all the time.
 - A close acquaintance with God is someone who attends church regularly. They pray over their meals and enjoy the idea that they are going to heaven when they die.
 - They enjoy God's presence, but then go away and aren't aware of Him being near. God is not on their minds unless other people or circumstances bring Him up.
- Closer walks with God—
 - Thank Him for meals
 - Have regular devotional times
 - Have light communion with Him
 - Consider Him a friend
 - Can accurately describe Him when asked
 - But do we know His heart? Do we share with Him our deep passions and feelings?
- Relationship of the heart—
 - Interactive and growing
 - Passionate about God

- We're aware of how much He's delivered us from.
- Grateful
- This is the goal.
- Communication is two-sided—
 - God desires a much deeper dialog than many of us are ready for.
 - Joel's prophecy starts out saying *"In the last days I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh."* All, not some.
 - The level of relationship that we have with Him, is the level at which we will hear Him!
- If you don't have that kind of relationship with God but have had a special dream or are seeing things others can't see, God is reaching out to you!
- Maybe none of these things have happened to you and you don't understand it when others talk about such things. But somewhere in the back of your mind you wonder. You have a purpose—He is reaching out.
 - *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whomever believed in Him may have eternal life.—John 3:16 It's easy to respond. Just tell Him—ask him to make himself known to you.*
- God calls Himself the Word—He likes to talk!
 - From the beginning He has longed for relationship with His people.
 - ◇ He walked with Adam and Eve in the garden.
 - ◇ He reached out to Cain
 - ◇ He enjoyed talking to Enoch so much that He just took Him up to Heaven to be with Him!
 - ◇ He spoke with Noah and revealed His plan to save humanity.
 - ◇ He spoke with Abraham, His friend and made astounding promises to him.
 - ◇ Moses spoke with God face to face.
 - ◇ Samuel met with him where the Ark of the Covenant was.
 - ◇ David spent so much time with God that he was known as a man after God's heart.
 - ◇ There are so many more—God is a God who speaks.
 - ◇ Jesus said, "No longer do I call you servants—but I call you friends."
- God wants relationship with us.
 - There's a hunger growing in the world for supernatural encounters. It is a hunger that God put in our hearts.

- The hunger we have can only be answered by going deeper with God, which means deeper communication.
- The deepest relationship (covenant) can only thrive in the context of commitment.
- Just as Eve came from Adam's side, so it was with us—His bride—when Jesus side was pierced.
- God said that a man and a woman shall be joined together and become one flesh. Just as it will be with us and Christ.
- Jesus and the bride of Christ is a mystery for yet another time.