



WOW: Word Of the Week

Intimacy

March 24, 2021

After I wrote and taught about prayer for two weeks earlier this month, the question was raised, “Can we really experience that kind of intimacy with God?” For many, prayer is primarily about asking for things. But intimacy? Relationship? Hanging out? Simply spending time together?

When we are intimately transparent before God, our hearts are changed, formed, tuned, developed. We become like those we spend time with. When I hear you pray, your heart becomes intimately observable. I hear the depth, frequency, transparency, and comfort of your time with God. I know whether you are in the habit of spending time with God. When I hear you pray, I hear your passions and desires. Passion and love are hard to hide when you are praying about God’s eternal purpose and unsaved souls.

Intimate prayer is not measured by time spent or physical position. Put simply, intimacy is relational. Praying to the one we know and love, the one we worship, the one we want to be like, the one who listens, the one who answers. I call it “wasting time with God.” Leisure time, time spent with one I love. Growing intimacy in prayer changes what we talk about, and how we talk about it.

Praying says that God wants to spend time with us, he wants relationship, he wants communication. Community prayer becomes conversational, God is among us, shaping hearts and bringing thoughts into agreement. God joins the conversation, sharing the give and take, fellowship, communion.

Many Christians have shared with me that they would like more intimacy in their prayers. In these brief thoughts, I have attempted to suggest a way forward toward increasing intimacy. I close with an additional observation: a missing ingredient in many churches is intimate prayer as a part of shared assemblies and gatherings. Entering the very throne room of God, carried to the presence of God. When the church meets, it meets not only with itself, members meeting with other members. When the church meets, we meet together with God. It is a time for intimate transparency, wonder and worship, confession, and intercession for the hurting, the needy, and the lost among our families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

I am praying for you, praying that your prayer life will find new wings to carry you closer to God’s presence to develop his heart within your heart, praying that his heart will become your heart.