

# Seek Him—and Be Fascinated

*How to enjoy the five stages of intimacy with God.*

**H**ere's a question for you husbands: When you were dating your wife, do you remember how everything she said fascinated you?

Then, as the years passed, the nature of your love for her has changed and deepened. Together you have survived half a dozen crises. You think each other's thoughts, and you understand half-finished sentences.

Intimacy with God is much like this. It's wanting to know Him at the deepest level. It's wanting to be fully known and accepted for who—and what—you are. Intimacy with God means a full, fresh, moment-by-moment dependency upon His grace and mercy. And it grows deeper with time.

If you don't feel very intimate with God, you can get there from here. It happens through a fivefold progression of intimacy. Take a few moments to consider how one builds upon the other:

**Know Him.** God wants to be known by His men. His voice is all around us—in His works, His Word, His whisper, His witnesses.

Through the Scriptures God tells us about His character and His attributes. When we quiet ourselves before God, His Spirit whispers to our heart. And finally, God speaks through witnesses—other Christians who can testify to the life-altering power of Christ.

**Love Him.** The more we know God, the more we love Him. That's relationship. When Jesus was asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:28-30, NIV).

To love God with "all"

is to love Him with the totality of our being. We are to bring an intensity to loving God.

**Trust God.** The more experience we have with God, the more we discover that we can trust Him. The beauty of walking with God a good while is that you build "experience" with Him. In fact, you can come to a level of trust that, even when you see no way out of a gut-wrenching trial, you know from experience you can depend upon Him. Paul put it

this way: "[I am] confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6).

**Obey God.** When knowing, loving, and trusting God have become deeply etched in our own character, obedience to God will be our

natural (or perhaps super-natural) response. Jesus put it simply: "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15).

The fruit of intimacy with God is a simple obedience motivated by gratitude for God's grace. Obedience as a grateful response to knowing, loving and trusting God is far superior to obedience as duty.

**Serve God.** Intimacy with God cries out for an opportunity to express its appreciation in service. The more I grow to love my wife, Patsy, the more I want to serve and please her in every way. What could be more natural than serving the one you know, love and trust?

In fact, God has made us with an innate need to serve the one we love. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph. 2:10).

Does your soul thirst for God? Why not give yourself to these five ideas. Then, in grateful response to your new or renewed sense of intimacy with God, serve God out of a vibrant relationship with Him. **NIM**

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