

I. Review

- a) In our series on worship called *Come Up Here*, we are focused on worship component six, which is *true worship flows out of our secret place relationship with Jesus*.
- b) Jesus told the woman at the well, "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews" (John 4:22).
- c) This could also be translated, "You worship *who* you do not know; we worship *who* we know."
- d) True worship is related to the depth of our intimate knowledge of God.
- e) We have taken a pit-stop at worship component six because this is the most important.
- f) Sometimes the Lord's path toward His goal takes a windy road with many "bunny trails."
- g) Last week, this week, and for the next several weeks, we are taking a deeper dive into knowing God practically. How do we know God in a practical way?
- h) Last week we focused on *how to get there*. This week we are focused on *what to do when we are there*.
- i) If we're honest, most of us don't really know what to do when we get alone with God. We might pray based upon our needs. We might read the Bible. Or we might read a book. But other than that, we don't really know what to do. When we don't know what to do, our time with the Lord can quickly become boring and then we will either keep doing it out of religious obligation or stop doing altogether.
- j) But what if there were some practical secrets that you could learn that would make your time alone with the Lord an unrivaled pleasure. What if you could learn practical secrets that would bring life, joy, delight, and even exhilaration in your relationship with the Lord? I'll tell you what would happen. You would get to the place where you couldn't live without seeking Him in the secret place.
- k) Last week, we looked at 20 practical lessons that I've learned over 20 years of seeking to know the Lord. These lessons were intended to *get you there*. This week I'll share practical lessons I've learned during this 20-year journey that have revolutionized my time with the Lord.

II. Getting There

- 1. Before going to bed, determine what time you need to wake up to seek the Lord.
- 2. Set your alarm.
- 3. Wake up whether you feel like it or not.
- 4. *Run* downstairs to brew coffee as fast as possible.
 - A 2012 Harvard study found that as God-seekers consumed more coffee, the amount of revelation that they received increased.¹
 - I've found that the better the coffee, the better the time with the Lord and the greater the revelation. I now use a French press with filtered water and Charleston blend coffee from Costco. It's better when the beans are freshly ground.
 - This secret is contained in the Bible, in the book of *He-brews*.²
- 5. Here's the tools that are essential when I seek the Lord in the secret place:

- My iPad mini, which has my Bible (mainly because I can't read the small print in my printed Bible) and access to BlueletterBible.org (which helps me study).
- My phone for soft background music.
- A notebook.
- A #2 Bic mechanical pencil. I've found mechanical pencils much better than pens.

III. What to Do When You Are There

1. I sometimes play soft instrumental worship music at a low volume.
2. Always ask the Holy Spirit to come and breathe upon your time.
3. If necessary, confess and repent of your sins.
4. Reach deep within, ask the Holy Spirit to lead your time, and then follow His direction.
5. From there, I usually go in one of the following directions:
 - Conversational intimacy;
 - Agreeing with the truth and renouncing lies;
 - Contemplative prayer;
 - Internalizing the Word, a message, or a book;
 - Reading and studying the Word;
 - Reading anointed and Scripture-saturated books.

IV. Conversational Intimacy

- a) Jesus told the Laodiceans, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me" (Rev. 3:20). Many have used this verse as a call to salvation. However, Jesus is not speaking to unbelievers; He is speaking to His church. Notice also that Jesus' knock is His voice speaking to us.
- b) In biblical days, table fellowship was a common image for deep communion and the strong bonds of affection and companionship. Dining brought people together where they shared intimate conversations, inside information, and secrets.
- c) In biblical times, dining was one of the most enjoyable experiences of life. Even in our day, dining is the place where we let our down guard and really connect with people. When we share a meal with someone, we usually become real and communicate with them at a heart-to-heart level. In the same way, Jesus yearns for deep fellowship with us. He longs for us to enjoy Him as He enjoys us. He wants us to hear His voice and talk with Him as two friends would over dinner. The Lord wants to share His intimate secrets with us. He wants to share what is on His heart.
- d) When Jesus invites us to dine with Him, He is offering us the opportunity to experience deep communion, intimacy, oneness, and friendship with Him.
- e) Conversational intimacy is two-way communication. You pour out your heart to the Lord and you listen to Him. But it is much better if we listen to Him first before we pour out heart. Then we can pour out our hearts after He speaks.

- f) I highly recommend John Eldridge's book *Walking with God* to learn more about conversational intimacy.³

V. How I Have Conversational Intimacy

1. I believe that Jesus wants to speak to me every day.
 - The Lord wants to speak to me more than I want to hear Him.
 - Doubt and unbelief are the greatest hindrances to conversing with Him.
 - "He who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" (Heb. 11:6).
 - If I feel doubt and unbelief in my heart, I try to pray through it.
2. I ask the Lord to speak to me and I wait in silence with pencil and notebook in hand for the slightest nudge in my spirit.
3. When I sense a nudge in my spirit, I begin to write in my notebook what I believe the Holy Spirit is saying.
4. When I begin, I usually only have one word or a phrase. But if I will step out in faith and write and listen in my spirit as I write, more always comes.
 - Romans 12:6 says to prophesy according to your faith.
5. I will then read and try to absorb in my heart what the Lord has spoken.
6. Then I will talk to Him and pour out my heart to Him.
7. I continue Steps 2-6 for however long I have.

VI. Examples of What the Lord Has Said

a) 10/10/2018

Bryan, I am a heart God. I look at the heart, the deepest part of who you truly are. Dwelling in your heart is My great desire. I want to be King of your heart. I want to establish My kingdom in your heart. Let me come in fully to your heart and live.

Your heart is the channel that connects your spirit (and My Spirit) to your soul. Me living in you begins when I *dwell* in your heart. So that Christ may dwell in your heart by faith. Not by feeling. Not by reasoning. By faith.

b) 10/1/2018

Bryan, the Sermon on the Mount is the constitution of the kingdom of God. It is what the Law and Sinai were to the Old Covenant. It is the requirements of the New Covenant that My Spirit will establish within My people.

Seek first My kingdom and all these other things will be added to you. I am seeking a people who have the kingdom fully established within them.

I am looking for a people. My leaders are building Babels by using people to help them build towers to glorify their own name. None of that means anything to Me. All of that will be burned at the judgment seat. It is worthless.

VII. Agreeing with the Truth and Renouncing Lies

- a) Everything in this world operates by truth or lies. Jesus is the truth and everything He speaks is true. The devil is the liar and everything he speaks is a lie or at least half-truth mixed with lies. The war we are in is a battle between truth and lies.
- b) When you break everything down, life is about believing what Jesus Christ has spoken and is speaking or what the devil has spoken and is speaking through his many agents. The devil is the prince of the power of the air. He is the god of this age. So many cultures are rooted in the lies and doctrines of Lucifer.
- c) The kingdom of God operates by faith. The just shall live by faith. Our soul is saved by faith. God moves in our life when we believe Him.
- d) God created the human heart and every heart operates by faith, including the Christian, the Jew, the Muslim, and the atheist. Think about it. Even the atheist lives by faith. They believe that God doesn't exist. They believe that there are no moral absolutes. And they live accordingly.
- e) Faith, belief, doubt, and unbelief are all issues of the heart. When you believe right you will live right. When you believe wrong you will live wrong.
- f) Since God designed the human heart to live by what we believe, believing the truth is crucial. Wrong beliefs are the trigger toward a life of defeat. Wrong beliefs keep us trapped and drive us deeper and deeper into bondage.
- g) Jesus said, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32). Believing the truth in our heart liberates us.
- h) The law of faith is as simple as this: If we believe the truth, we will obey the truth and live a righteous life (Rom. 3:27). Conversely, the opposite is also true. If we believe a lie, we will obey the lie and live an unrighteous life.
- i) Who we are, who we become, and what we do all hinge on our heart beliefs. Beliefs inspire thoughts. Thoughts inspire actions. Actions establish habits. Habits produce character. And character determines destiny.
- j) This is all revealed in the parable of the sower and the parable of the wheat and the tares.
- k) The devil's fiery arrows are the lies that he shoots at us, hoping that we will agree with him in our heart and form a heart-belief that is aligned with him (Eph. 6:16).
- l) Here's a list of possible lies (the possibilities are virtually limitless):
 - You are a hopeless hypocrite and you will never please God;
 - You are stupid and will never do good in school;
 - You are going to get cancer and die prematurely;
 - Christianity is a fable and myth;
 - You have these great skills and talents and deserve more in life (creating an entitled mentality).

I. How I Agree with the Truth and Renounce Lies

1. I might go a few days or even a week in a funk, feeling anxious, down, discouraged, tempted, or far from the Lord.

2. When I feel this way, 99% of the time it's because I have agreed with the lies of the devil.
3. In my time with the Lord, I will write in my notebook something like this: "Lord, I feel discouraged or down. Are there any lies that I'm believing? Please reveal to me the lies that I have agreed with."
4. Deep down, I usually know some of the lies, so I will begin writing while listening in my spirit for more.
5. When I am done writing down what I am believing and what the Spirit has illuminated, I will go back and read it.
6. Wherever there was a lie, I find the truth in Scripture so that I can replace the lie with truth.
7. Then I will confess out loud, "I renounce this lie or that lie. I break my agreement with the lies of the devil. I take authority over the enemy and declare that you are defeated by the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus said that the truth will set me free and the truth is..."

II. Example of Agreeing with the Truth and Renouncing Lies

- a) You are struggling in school.

In your time with the Lord, ask Him, "Lord, why am I struggling in school? Are there any lies that I'm believing? Please reveal to me the lies that I have agreed with."

Then the Lord might bring to your thoughts what a person confessed about you, such as "You are stupid and will never do good in school." Or perhaps the devil lies to you and says, "You are dumb. All the other kids are smarter than you. You will never do good in school."

As you wait on the Lord, you realize that you agreed with these lies. These lies took root in your heart and you agreed with them. Then you began to think this way and develop a mindset that you were not going to do good in school. Then your thoughts became actions and actions became habits.

Seeing the lies, you read Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. You also read that you have the mind of Christ.

Now you confess out loud, "I renounce the devil's lies that I am stupid. I renounce the devil's lies that I am dumb and will never do good in school. I take authority over the devil and confess that the blood of Jesus Christ has defeated you. I confess the truth that I can do all things through Christ, I have the anointing in me and the Holy Spirit will teach me about all things, and I have the mind of Christ. Be gone Satan. I declare that Jesus Christ is Lord."

- b) You believe that you will get cancer and die prematurely.

In your time with the Lord, ask Him, "Lord, why am I struggling with this irrational fear? Are there any lies that I'm believing? Please reveal to me the lies that I have agreed with."

Then the Lord might remind you about how fear entered when you saw a movie where someone died of cancer at a young age. You then realize that a spirit of fear began tormenting you after this.

You then confess out loud, "I will not get cancer and die prematurely. By the stripes of Jesus Christ, I am healed. I praise and thank the Lord who heals all my diseases. He is my Healer and I don't need to be afraid. Be gone Satan. I declare that Jesus Christ is Lord."

¹ This is obviously a joke.

² I know, this is really corny. I have now crossed over into the realm of "dad jokes."

³ https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00HTJYQM8/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i51