

Intimacy With God

- Ron Stullenbarger -

"Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:12-13). "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

Do you want to know who God is and what He cares about most in your life? You may have stored up lots of intellectual information about the Bible, and that is important, but it's not the main issue. You may serve the Lord, which is also necessary. And you may give generously to the church -- another significant aspect of the Christian life. But what matters most is the depth of your personal relationship with the Lord. Knowledge, "church work," and giving can never replace intimacy with God.

King David understood this truth, and it strengthened him in times of trouble. When his son Absalom tried to take over the throne, David fled to the wilderness, where he wrote these words: *"But You, O Lord, are a shield about me ... I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who set themselves against me round about"* (Psalm 3:3, 6). He knew that even in adversity, he could count on God's unflinching love and protection.

Throughout David's Psalms, we repeatedly see his unwavering dependence on the Lord. It was that passion -- not his brute strength, charisma, or ability to command an army -- that made him a great man. And even though he had a number of failures, the Bible describes him as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22).

It's not enough to merely read the Bible, volunteer your services to the church, and give money to the church. God wants to know you personally -- and he wants you to know Him personally. While tangible expressions of our devotion are important, they should be the result of a mature, loving, trusting relationship with God. **When we seek Him first, the rest will follow!**