

"INTIMACY: KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING"

John Tulio

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INTIMACY WITH GOD IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY BECAUSE:

1. God Created Us for an Intimate Relationship with Him.

Rev. 4:11 *"You created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created."* (NLT)

Ex. 34:14 *"He is a God who is passionate about His relationship with you."* (NLT)

2. Loving Relationships Flow Out of Our Intimacy With Him.

Mark 12:30-31 *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."* (NIV)

God Wants Us to Relate to Him with . . .

Our passion - *"all your heart"*

Our emotion - *"all your soul"*

Our intelligence - *"all your mind"*

Our bodies - *"all your strength"*

1 John 4:7-8 *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.* (NRSV)

3. God Wants to Love and Bless Us in a Close and Personal Way.

John 17:21 *"My prayer for all of them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one, Father – that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me."* (NLT)

John 15:9-13 *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."* (NIV)

WE PURSUE INTIMACY WITH GOD . . .

1. In Our Personal Time With God

a. Quiet Time

- I listen to God

- I read God's Word and receive "rhema" for the day

b. Praise Time

- I sing out to God

- I bless God with His Word

c. Worship Time

- I enjoy God's presence

- I "soak" in the Lord

d. Commitment Time

- I offer my life for the day

- I visualize my day with God

e. Ministry Time

- I consider my service as continuous worship

- I talk to God continuously throughout the day

2. In Our Time Together With God

a. Praise - magnifying the beauty of God's holiness (God is wholly devoted to loving us) through words, physical acts, music, and the arts.

b. Worship - our response to the manifest presence of God through songs, prayer, and declaration of God's Word.

c. Proclamation - preaching of God's word in the context of what the group has experienced in the presence of God.

d. Consecration - the individual's response to God's personal message and His presence.

e. Ministry - we leave the group to serve in a personal way (beyond reliance on the group's programs and activities).

3. In Our Prayer Life

Usual Types of Communication With God

a. Cry or petition for help.

b. Request for information or clarification regarding some issue.

c. Expression of gratitude for answer to prayer.

d. Expression of admiration and praise.

e. Expression of love and affection.

MARY'S CHOICE WAS TO KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING.

Luke 10:38-41 *Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."* (NKJV)

Mary's Extravagant Worship (Luke 7:36-48; Matt. 26:6-13/Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8)