

# ROMANCING JESUS

My Lover is Mine and I am His

## Going Deeper

Online Self-Study Programme



MARK GAMBLIN

# Romancing Jesus

*My lover is mine and I am His*

**Going Deeper**

**Self-Study Online Programme**



Mark Gamblin

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# *Prologue*

## Introduction



Welcome to the 'Going Deeper Online Self-Study Programme' for the book '*Romancing Jesus*'. The programme is designed to help the reader of the book go deeper into the content. This programme is designed for both individual use and for small groups such as a house group. In fact this programme was created and refined from experimenting with '*Romancing Jesus*' in a house group setting.

Please feel free to print out this PDF to make it easier to follow along to the videos and the book.

It is my prayer that as you work through this programme in both the videos and this workbook whether as an individual or in a group that you will grow in your walk with Jesus. That you will experience a greater prayer-life and enjoy intimacy with Jesus.

## **How the programme works**

The programme works in three different aspects.

- I. The book '*Romancing Jesus*'.
- II. The videos.
- III. The PDF- which you are reading.

All three aspects should work together and complement one another.

### **I. The Book '*Romancing Jesus*'**

If you have not already done so read the book all the way through first. Then before each session prayerfully re-read the relevant chapter upon which the session is based.

### **II. The Videos**

After you have read the relevant chapter watch the video upon which that chapter is based. The videos are teaching discussions on each chapter giving more depth to the themes raised. The videos will be challenging, provocative, stretching, reflective, interesting and meditative, but all with a view to work with the Holy Spirit to grow you into a deeper intimate walk with Jesus.

You may find it helpful to have '*Romancing Jesus*' handy so to have reference to the book as the discussion progresses.

The good thing about the videos is once you have the link for the videos, you have access to them forever. For example, if in a few years' time if you decided to re-explore the content of the book; the videos will still be there to help you!

### **III. The PDF**

This PDF will work as a companion to both the book and the videos. After you have watched the relevant chapter video you can then turn your attention to the PDF- which you can print out to make it easier for you to write in.

The PDF follows the same layout as the book '*Romancing Jesus*' and operates as a 'workbook.' There are questions for reflection, meditations, prayers and additional teaching material to help you get the most out of the Study Programme. If you are in a small group you can work through the questions and discuss them in turn.

We hope you will find this programme helpful to your walk with God. Please as you work through this programme give space to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to guide you. Allow Him to speak to you. Allow yourself to go deeper into Jesus and enjoy romancing Him.

### **Starting Point:**

We are all on a different starting point to seeking a deeper walk with Jesus and there is no competition, and no one has ever achieved full intimacy with Jesus.

Please view the following questions and the exercises throughout the workbook not as judgemental or to make oneself feel bad. These questions although they are at times '*searching*', there are designed to make you think, reflect, meditate on areas in your life to bring a renewed focus and hunger for intimacy with Jesus. However, it is not this programme that will bring a deeper hunger for intimacy, but the Holy Spirit. So allow the Holy Spirit freedom to move how He wants and bring you into a deeper walk with the Lord.

If you are in a group setting, only share answers you feel comfortable with, unless you wish group accountability in those areas.

Indicate on the line where do you feel you are in actually *wanting* intimacy with Jesus?

Not interested in intimacy

Hungry for intimacy

---

Where do you feel you are on your journey in *seeking* deeper intimacy with Jesus?

No Intimacy

Very Intimate

---

Where do you feel you are *in* intimacy with Jesus?

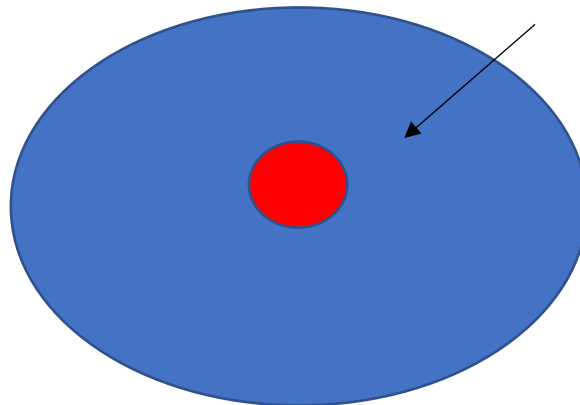
No Intimacy

Very Intimate

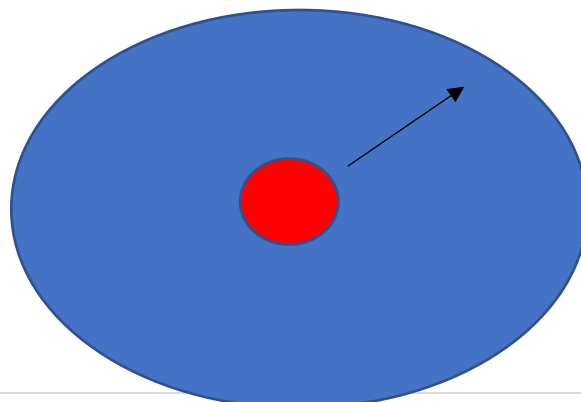
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Another way to reflect on the above question is by looking at circle. The outer circles represents your walk with Jesus. The inner circle represents the heart of intimacy with Jesus. Can you draw an arrow on where on the circle you currently are.

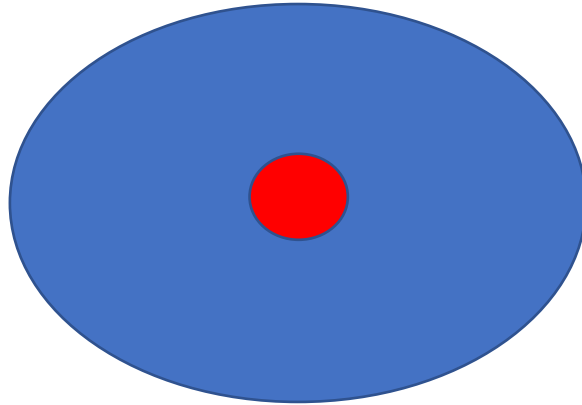
Here are two examples:



In the above example it indicates that a person has started their journey and moving towards intimacy.



In the above example it indicates that a person has been on the journey of seeking deeper intimacy with Jesus but has started to grow cold and they are now moving to the edge.



Draw an arrow to reflect you.

Remember we are all at different starting points and at different stages and seasons in our life. My goal is to help you move deeper into the red inner circle and towards a deeper level of intimacy with Jesus. My desire is for you to go into deeper intimate walks with the Lord.

# Chapter One

## The Power of Intimacy



Lets begin by examining intimacy.

The Cambridge Dictionary defines intimacy as:

- *'A situation in which you have a close friendship or sexual relationship with someone.'*
- *'The state of having a close, personal relationship or romantic relationship with someone.'*
- *'Things that are said or done only by people who have a close relationship with each other.'*

Jesus wants you to be intimate with Him. To walk close to Him. To feel His heartbeat. To love Him with all your heart. Obviously, I am not writing about a sexual relationship; that has been ordained by God to exist in the earthly realm.

Our relationship with God has been ordained to exist in the heavenly realm.

Intimacy as referenced above is having close, personal friendship with Jesus and things that are said and done between you and the Lord as He reveals His heart to you. This within itself is the cornerstone of prophetic ministry, because prophetic ministry reveals the heart of God.

How do you interpret intimacy?

How does worldly intimacy compare or shape how you view intimacy with Jesus?

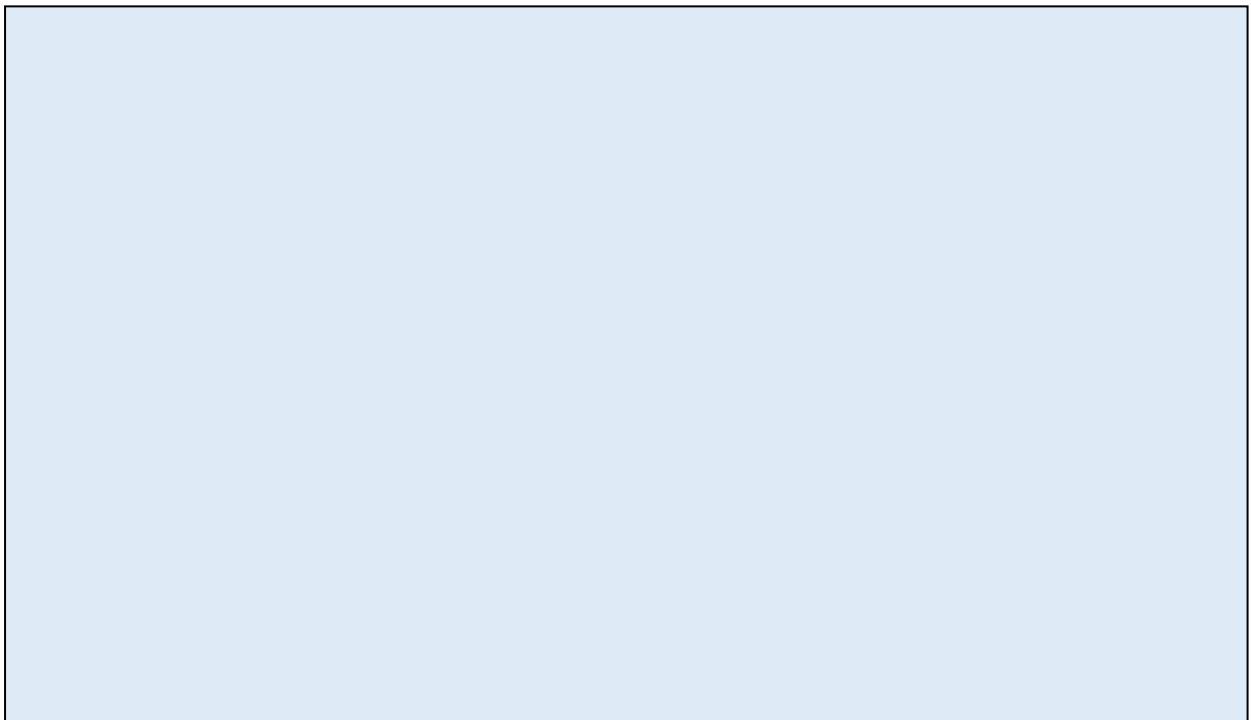
A great number of people struggle in the area of intimacy. They struggle both in worldly relationships and also in closeness with their heavenly Father. We live in a slightly upside-down world where situations in the world effect one's

situation with heaven. For example, the world says 'it is impossible!' the Bible says 'all things are possible in Christ Jesus!' (Matthew 19.26).

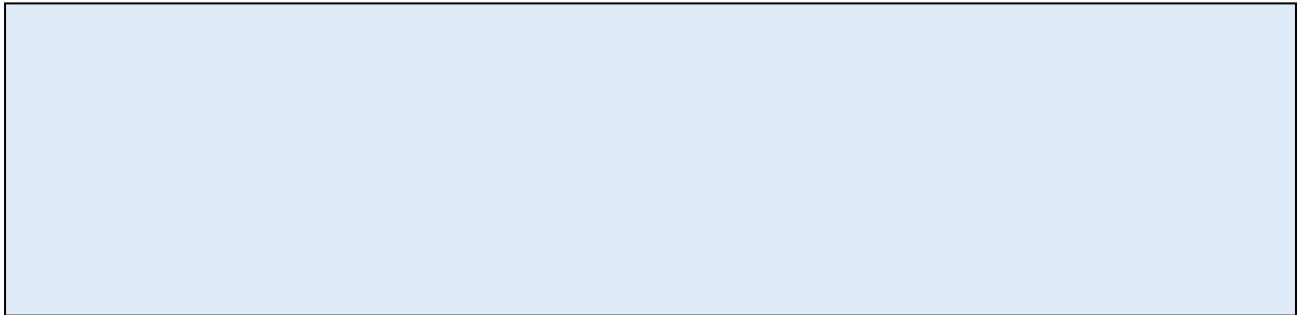
We must live and function out of heavens reality instead of the worlds. Instead of world situations effecting your view of heaven, heaven must effect your view of the world. A worldly abusing father effects one's perception of their heavenly Father, thus struggling with viewing God as Father.

Someone who struggles with intimacy because of abuse, broken trust and hurt may find this effect their perception of Jesus as the lover of their soul. But by living out of heaven's reality it turns these perceptions upside down. Because embracing God as Father releases forgiveness and removes the hurt of the worldly father. Embracing intimacy with Jesus, releases the hurt of worldly intimacy issues. Living out of heaven's reality effects one's approach to the world and the people within the world.

Do you struggle with intimacy? If so, can you identify the root of this struggle.

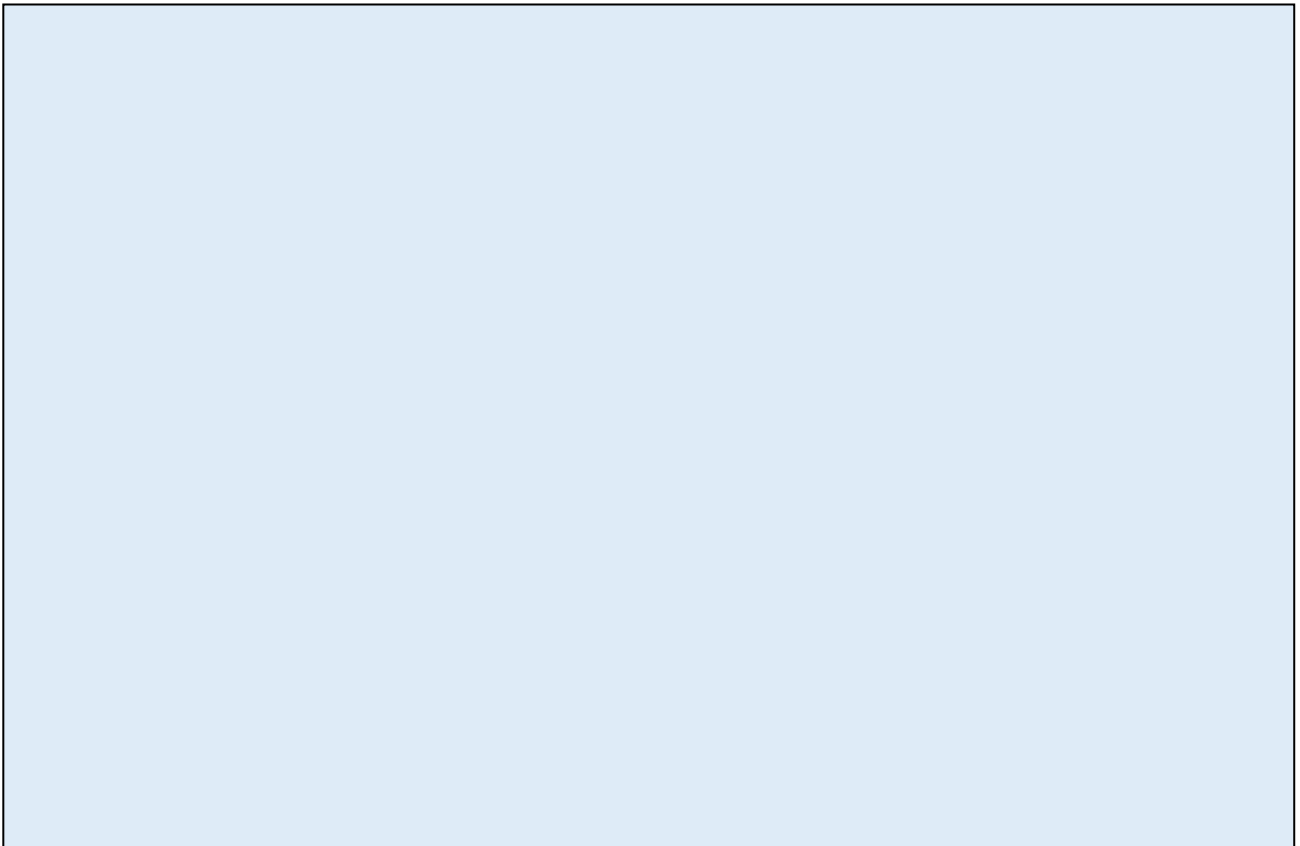


Does worldly relationships have an impact on how you view intimacy with Jesus?



If you are a man, then like me you may not find the topic of romance and love interesting (my wife likes all the romantic stuff, I don't).

So as a man how do you find the words of 'intimacy', 'love', 'romance', 'the Bride'? Do you struggle with this terminology, if so why? If not, why?



If you had a scale of intimacy right now where would you put yourself?

Not Intimate

Intimate

0

10

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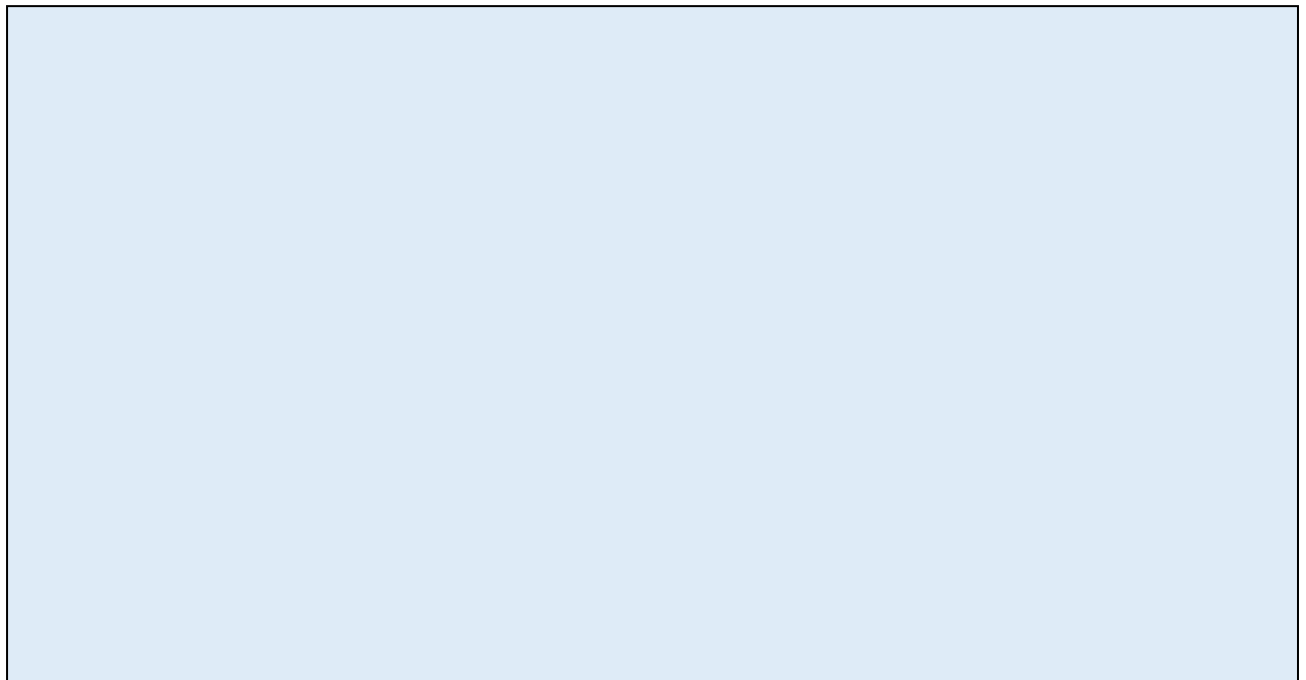
Why did you place yourself there?

If you have been a Christian for a long time then start reflecting on other periods in your life where you have felt more intimate with Jesus. Ask yourself where would you place yourself on the line back then? Why was that? What was taking place in your life at that point?

When you reflect back on that period in your life when you were most intimate with Jesus, was it because you were in a particular situation that you were facing which drew you to be closer to Jesus?

For example, a friend of mine experienced dangerous life changing cancer. However during that period in their life they found themselves drawing closer to Jesus than they had ever done before. The intimacy they experienced with Jesus during this time not only sustained them through the most challenging period of their life, but that intimacy had an effect on their walk with God years later.

If you have had a situation like this, can you replicate that closeness with God without having to go through that bad situation and what steps would you take to do it?



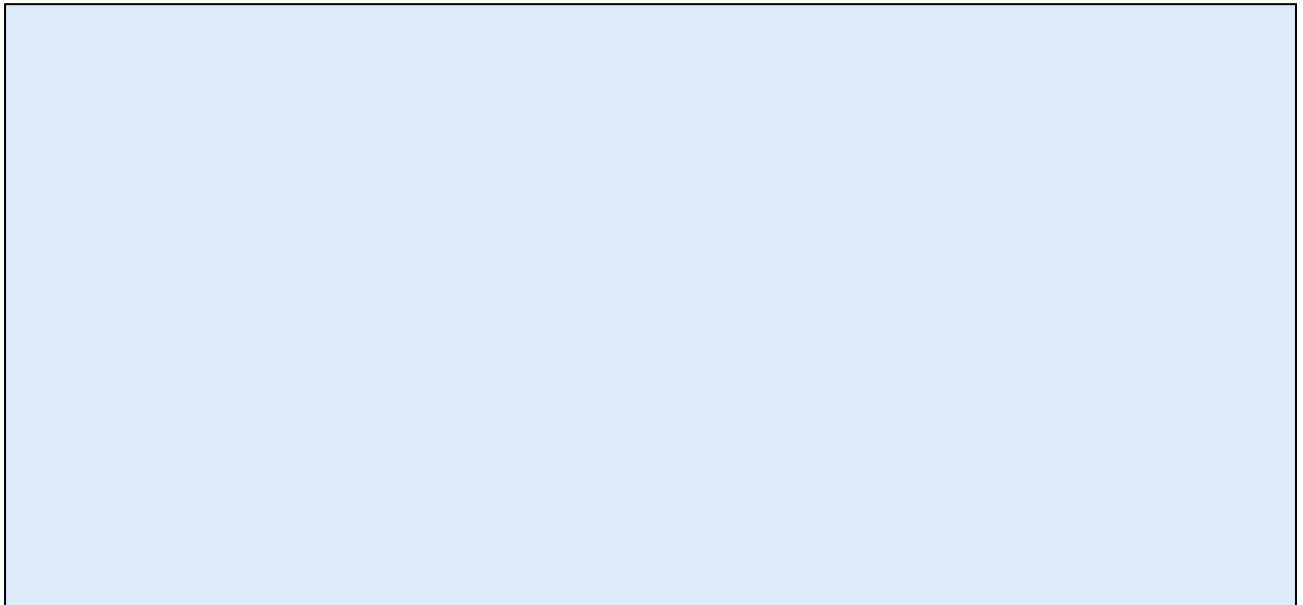
In any relationship, even in the natural there are up and downs; times when you feel close and times when you don't feel as close. It is the rhythms of life. With a married couple for example one day they are 'loved-up' and the next day they hardly talk to one another because of the busyness of life- one is at work whilst the other is at home.

These times can also reflect our relationship with God. One week you are deep in prayer experiencing closeness with God and the next week the Lord feels far away.

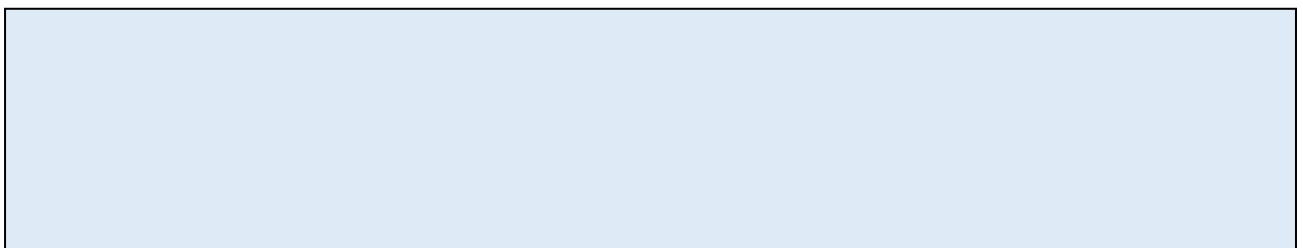
God moves in seasons on your life when maybe He emphasises intimacy at a greater depth and then you move on out of that season, yet you keep with you that notion of intimacy.

You may have all the desire to thirst after intimacy and closeness with God, but then **life** happens. Issues come along that seek to take your eyes off Jesus.

How does events and life issues distract you from entering the place of intimacy with Jesus?



Can you or how do you prioritise prayer with God amongst a busy life or situations in life? Can you make small offerings in your daily life of intimacy with Jesus?



You need to be intentional with seeking God. You have to be intentional in prayer. Sometimes closeness to God and prayer won't just happen. You need to be seeking and intentionally seeking God in prayer. Sometimes you need to go *out-of-your-way* to spend time with Jesus. To shut out all distractions and to focus purely on the Lord.

## *Chapter Two*

### The Most Important Thing in Your Life



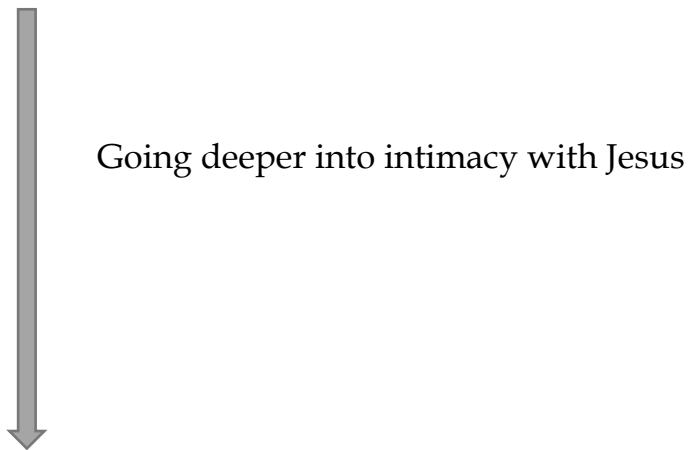
Your relationship with Jesus is the most important aspect in your life. Everything we do in life whether secular or ministry all comes out of that place of intimacy with Jesus. Whatever we do in our Christian walk; leading churches, ministries, healing, the prophetic, evangelism, children's work, stay at home parent and those doing normal day-to-day life in general, must all be built upon a firm foundation of intimacy with Jesus.

However, activities although good and needed can if left unguarded take priority of spending time in prayer with Jesus.

How can your church activity become a priority over intimacy with Jesus?



We can characterise activity such as ministry and church work and our Christian life with a vertical and horizontal line.



Ministry activity



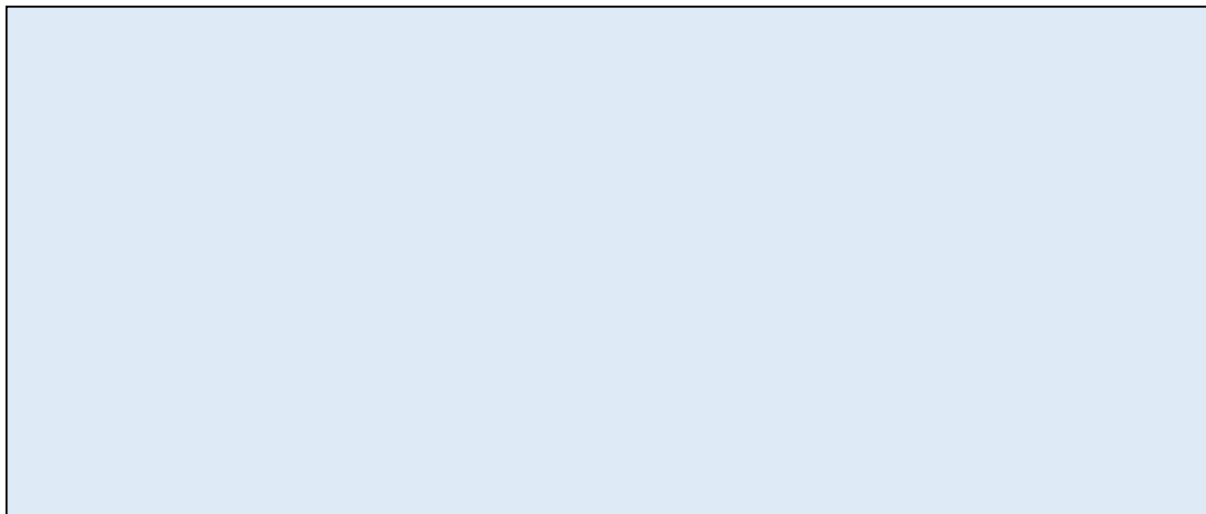
Ministry activity should be based upon intimacy with Jesus. The more you go out along the horizontal line, the more you should go deeper down the vertical line. Can you draw a mark on the vertical line indicating where you currently are in intimacy with Jesus? Then draw a second mark on the horizontal line, indicating where you are in undertaking Christian activity? Do you two marks equally correspond?



Ministry activity comes out of the place of intimacy with Jesus. Revelation 2.4

*"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance..... Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love."*

Do you think some of reasons that people in ministry 'burn-out' is because they lose sight of their first love?



How do you especially those in ministry keep your sights on Jesus as your first love? And how could this stop 'burn-out'?

Pastors get paid money to do the job of pastoring a local church, however distractions, problems and the issues of day- to-day pastoring can take over. It can be easy for Pastors to soon find that their eyes have moved away from pursuing intimacy and come close to 'burning out.' Pastors can often find themselves underpaid and overworked. This is a good reason to pray for pastors and keep them before the Lord.

Can you list all your distractions in your life which could keep you from seeking Jesus as your first love?

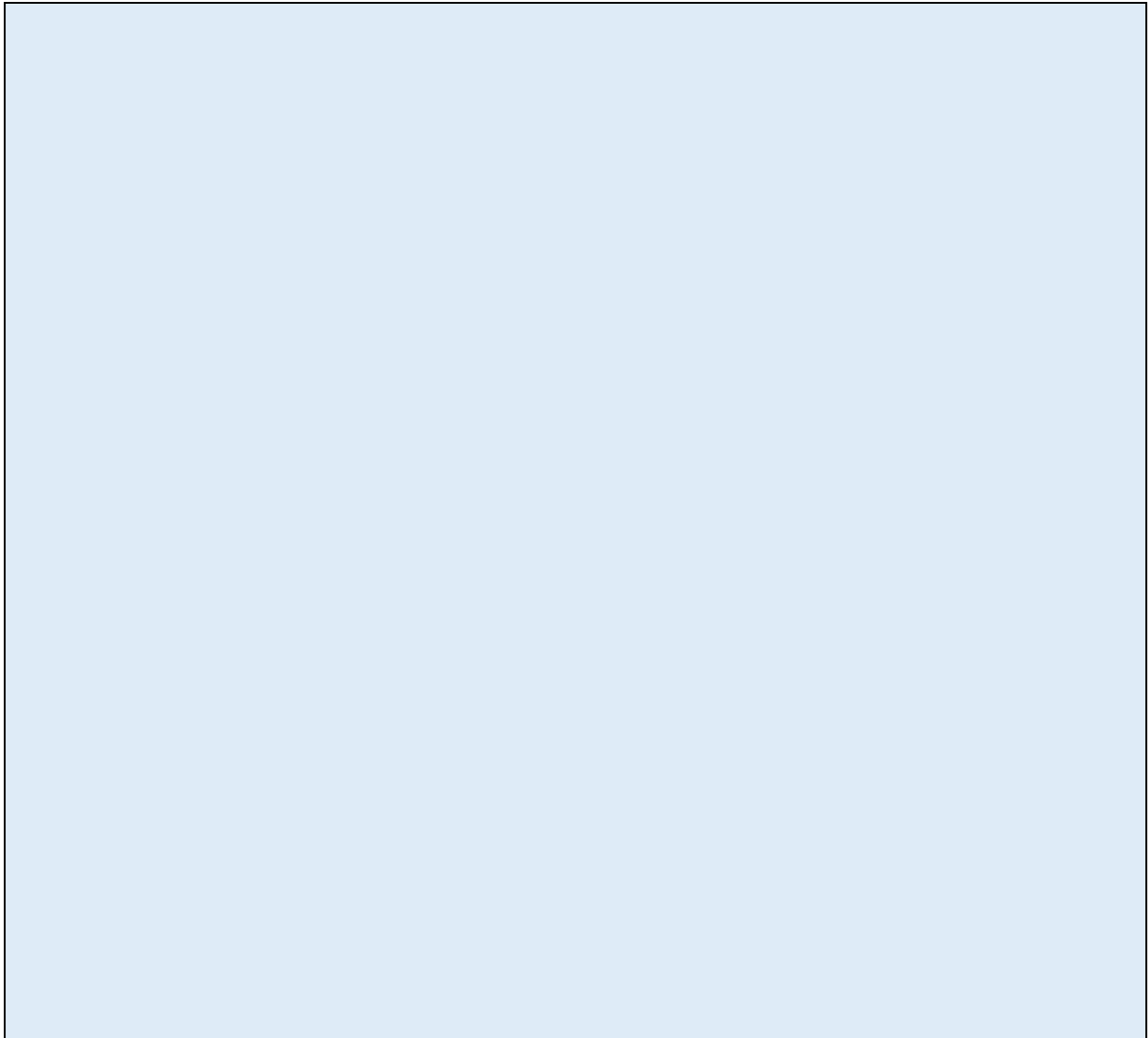


You can do a billion things for Jesus. You can go on missions, feed the hungry, help the homeless, fight injustice, help the oppressed. Preach, tell people the good news of Jesus and see them brought to salvation. You can see the sick healed and speak good prophetic words. You can help your church in great ways and give financially but completely miss the point of all of it. Because you can do all the above and still not have intimacy with Jesus.

Please do all the above, but let it come from out of the place of intimacy with Jesus and never let the work of above distract you from your first love.

If we cannot first have love for Jesus, then we cannot fully love His Bride- which is the church. If we do not have love for Jesus first, how can we fully love the lost- those whom Jesus's heart calls out to.

Do you agree with this statement 'At the end of the day, Jesus doesn't care how successful your ministry is or how successful you are at life, He just wants intimacy with you?' Explain your reasoning.



In an ideal world you have yourself, your little bubble and Jesus. Everything is great, it becomes easy to maintain your fire, zeal and hunger for Jesus. then life comes along; the storms the floods batter your world. You have crisis over here and you have crisis over there. Demands on your time this-way-and - that. Yet in all that chaos, you know you need to maintain your prayer life with Jesus.

*When the wicked advance against me to devour me, though an army besiege me, though war break out against me, one thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:*

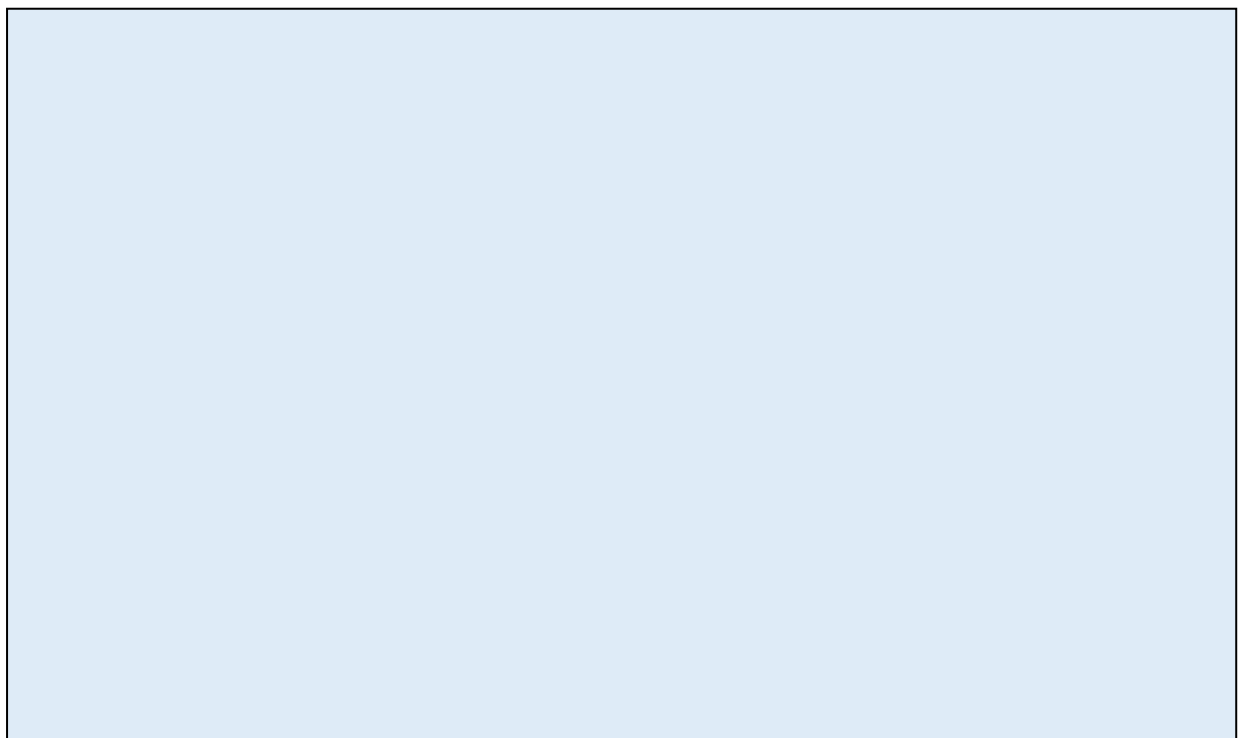
*that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple (Psalm 27.3-4).*

Our hearts cry is important, it comes out of the place of hunger for Jesus. And reaching the point of brokenness and surrender needing Jesus in your life. This is when we invite the Holy Spirit to take over and to lead you.

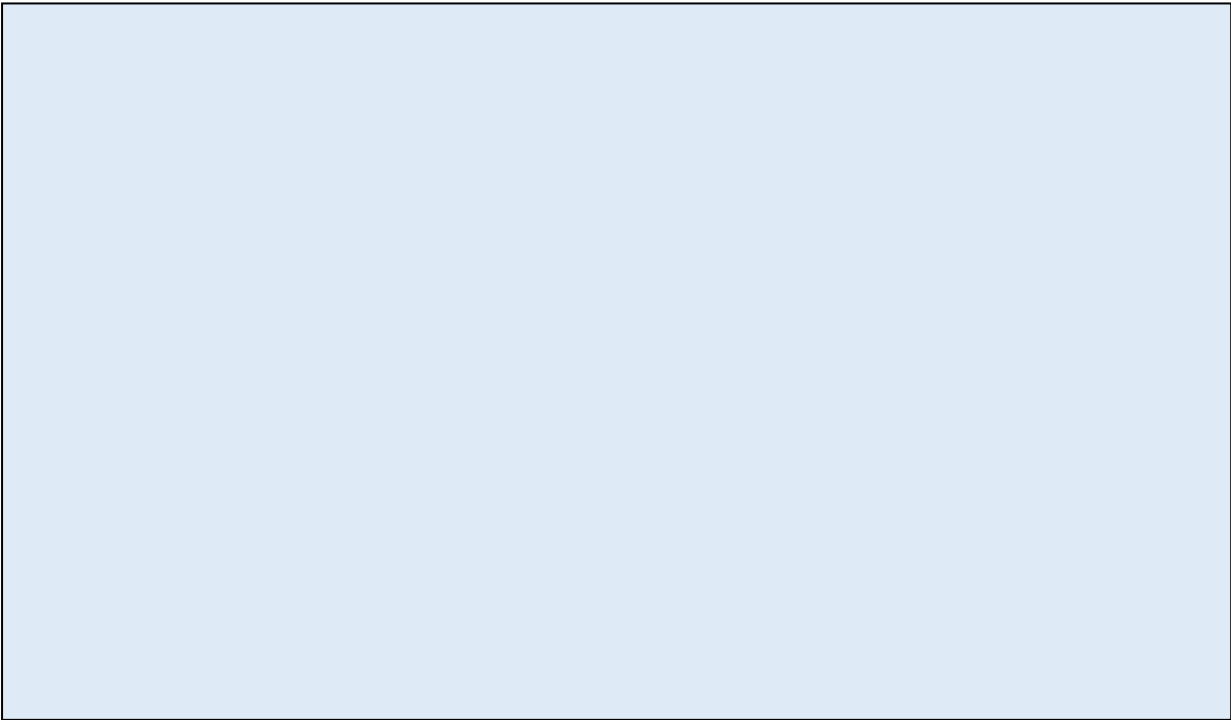
Our starting point in intimacy with Jesus is surrender because we don't know how to pray like we should (Romans 8.26). We don't know what true intimacy with Jesus looks like. A holy hunger for intimacy invites the Holy Spirit to take over and to lead you into those deep places with the Lord. We can't achieve intimacy through striving, but it comes through surrender. There is a supernatural element to being lead into intimacy and this is our starting point.

I would argue that intimacy is about wanting to be close to Jesus, not for an ulterior motive such as a blessing or to answer a prayer, not for worries or troubles, economic issues, spiritual gifting, issues of the Kingdom or even revival. We want to be close to Jesus for no other reason than we *love Him* and we want to be close with Him, because we want to gaze upon His beauty.

What is the motivation of your heart for seeking intimacy? Examining your heart do you find this statement a challenge and why?



How do you personally express love for Jesus?



## Chapter Three

### Identity Theft



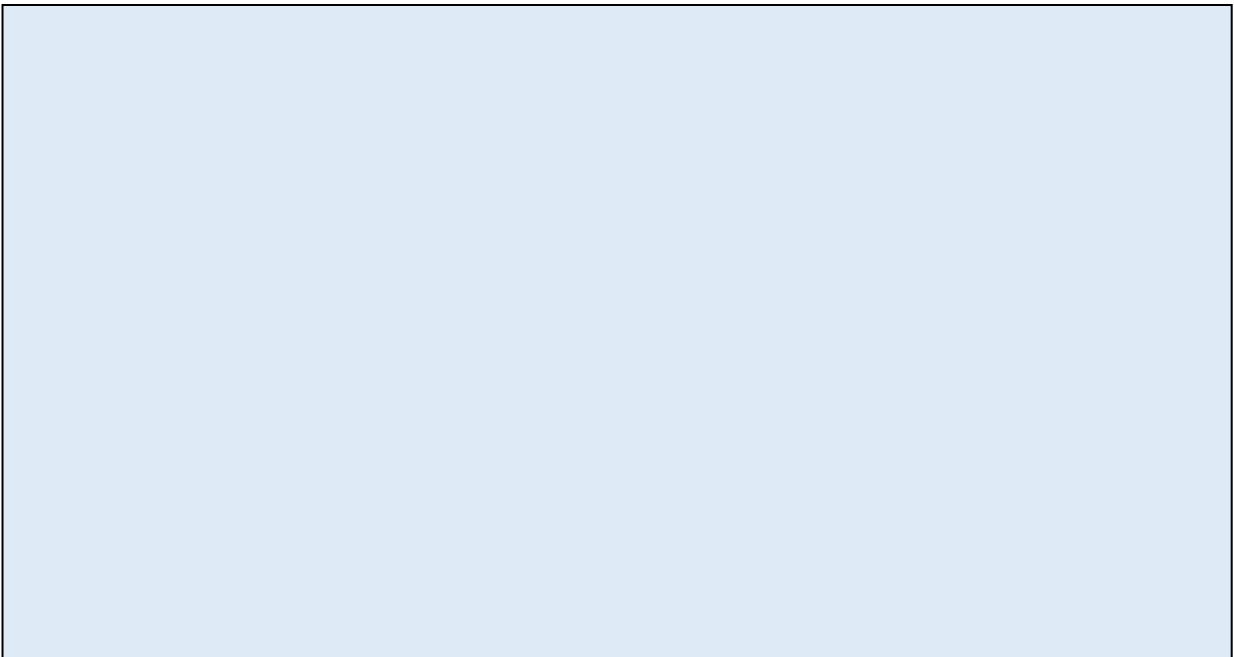
Your identity is a lover of Jesus. Which comes from the first commandment.

*“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”*

*Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment (Matthew 22.36-38).*

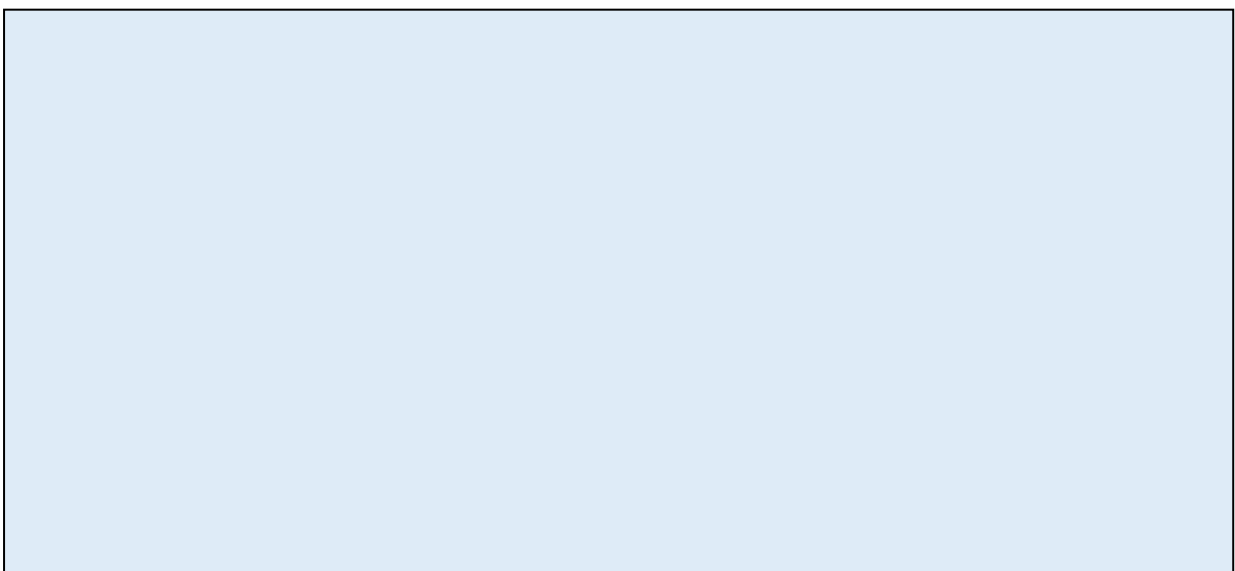
You are not a husband/ wife a profession, a job, a son or daughter, a sinner; your identity is a lover of Jesus. This is how Jesus views you, someone who is saved and brought into a relationship with. You now belong not to your sin or your past but to Jesus. Your identity is found in Him.

To what extent have you seen your identity as a lover of God? And if not then what have you seen your identity as?

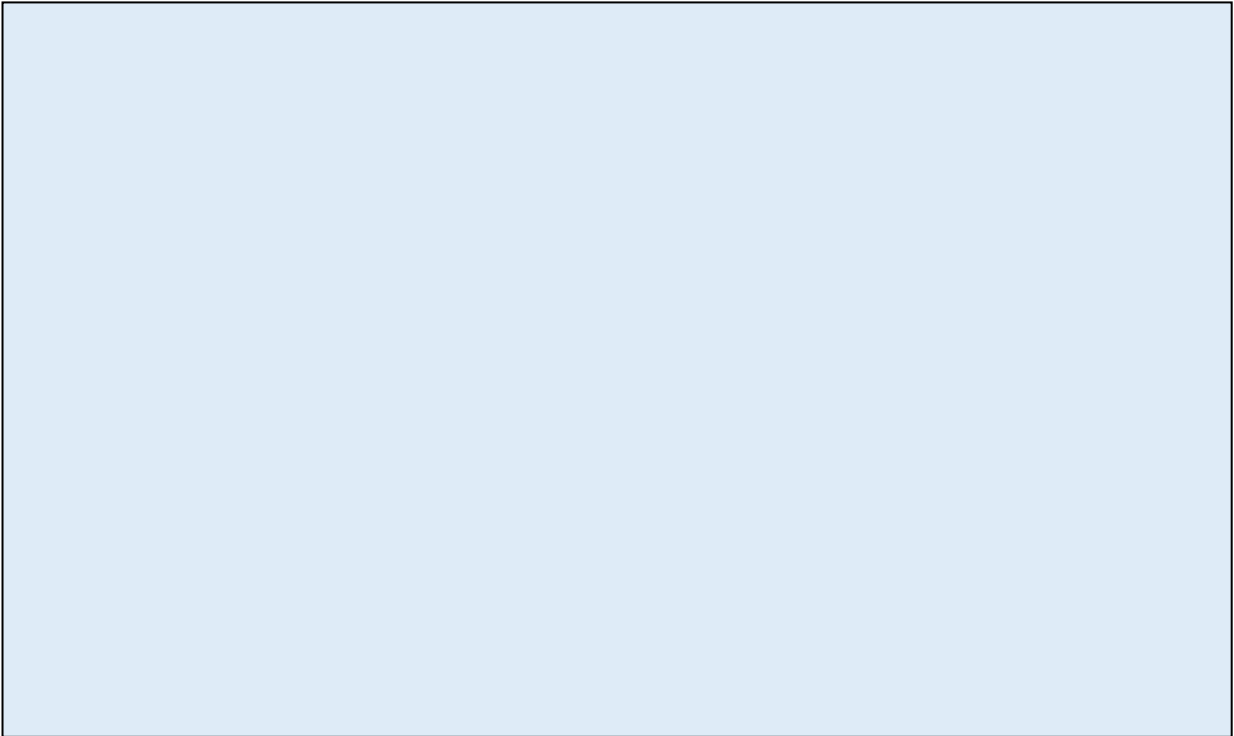


A lot of people see their identity first and foremost as something else before being a lover of God. Maybe that is even in a ministry title or ministry gift? Maybe you believe the whispers of satan about your life or maybe your understanding about your role in the world and identity within it the world is upside down?

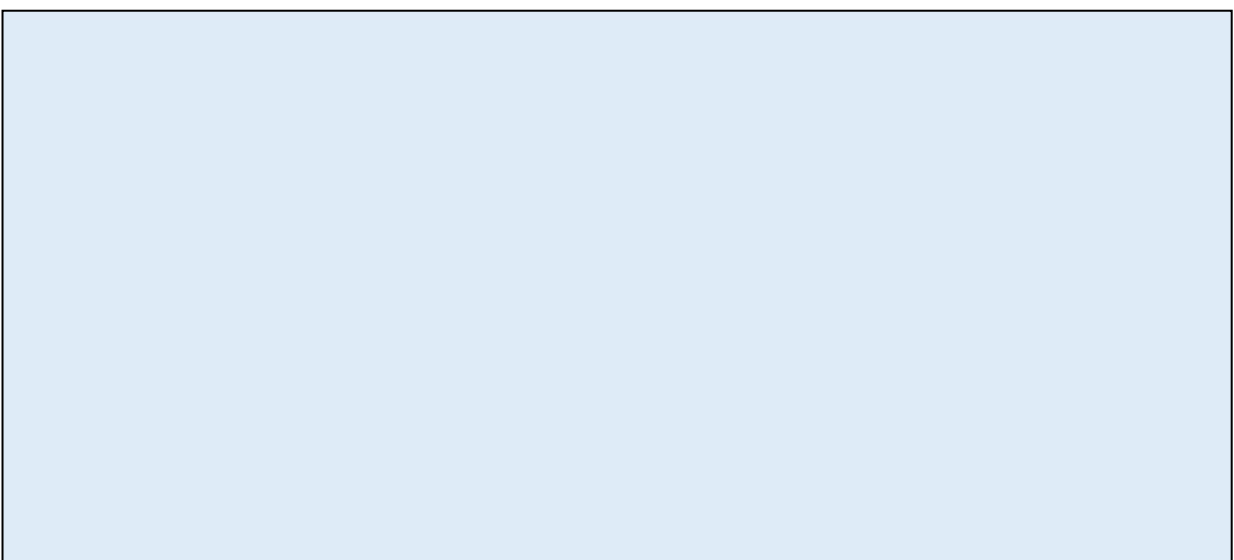
If this you, then why do you believe what your identity is?



What steps, practically and emotionally do you need to readjust towards a healthy identity as being a lover of Jesus first before anything else?

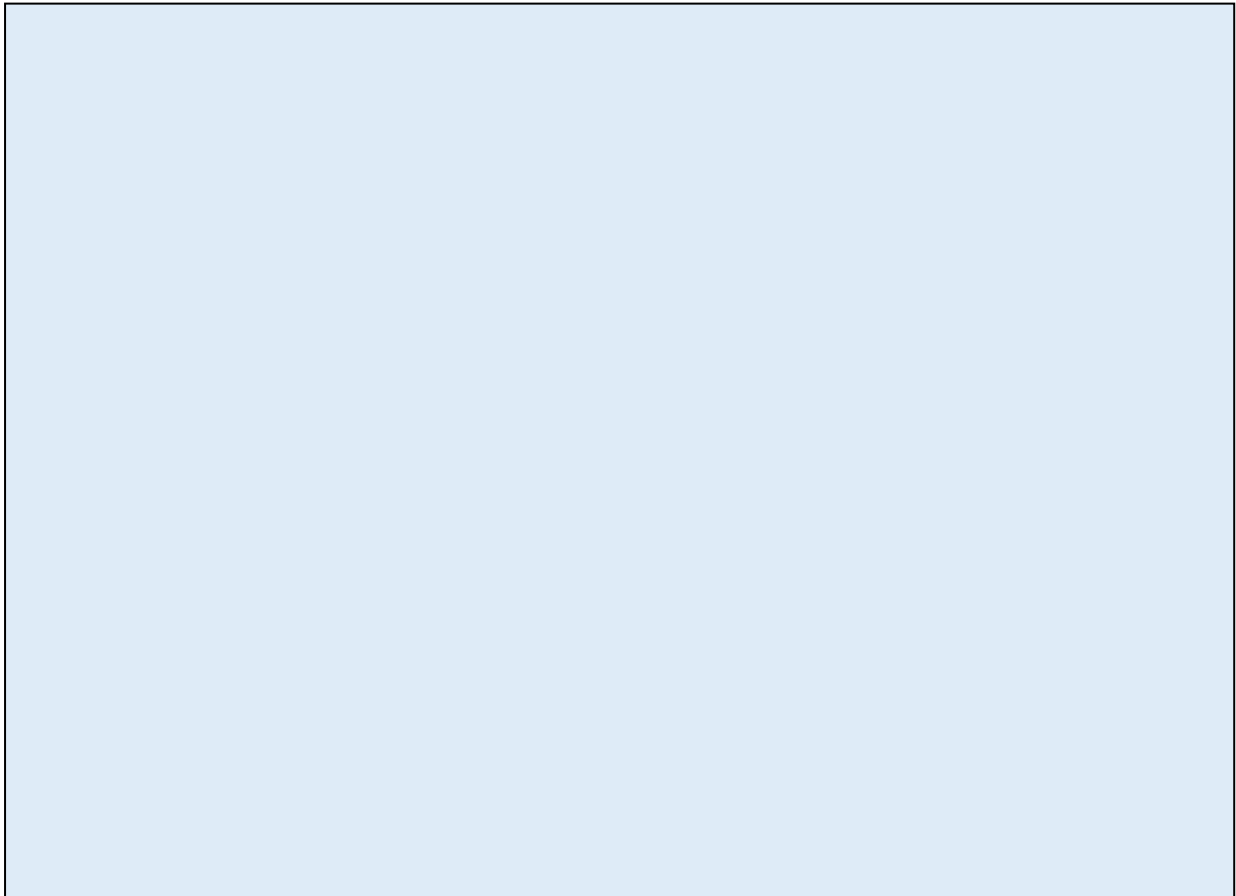


Most of us including myself, feel they are not as intimate with Jesus as they would like to be. It is something that we always desire more. Do you think there is a difference between being a church going 'Sunday Christian' and being a lover of Jesus?



A trap that some people fall into is believing that they need to work and strive for intimacy. These people may often feel that they are not doing enough of intimacy with Jesus, or they feel they *should* be doing intimacy because that is what is expected of them, and it is expected in order to be a good Christian, that they *should* be seeking intimacy.

Do you think intimacy with Jesus is something you actually want? Or is it something you think you should be seeking? And why?



Intimacy with Jesus should never be based on duty or because you think this is what my life needs to look like to be a Christian. Intimacy should always come from your heart. It is your hearts response towards Jesus because you seek more of Him in your life, and you want more of God and His presence in your life. If you feel that intimacy with Jesus is lacking in your life, then this is actually a good place to be!

Because you then can come before God in humility and in surrender acknowledging that you want to love Jesus more and you desire His intimate

presence more. We love Jesus because He first loved us (*1 John 4*), the focus is on God not on oneself. It is the Holy Spirit within you that stirs your heart to seek deeper of God, it is God that leads you on in this journey.

This is the starting point to intimacy. All you do is take a small step and you simply ask God to take you onto a journey and invite Him to show you and help you in seeking Jesus as your lover and seeing yourself as a lover. Sometimes we just need to *let* (allow) God love us. Let Him call you 'my beloved' first.

## *Chapter Four*

### Deepening Romance



Personally for me, Moses, David and John are among my favourite people in the Bible, they are among my favourite people because of their relationship with God for example.

-Moses knew God as a friend.

-David had a heart and thirsted for God.

-John knew Jesus as his best friend.

Who do you relate to in the Bible, and why do they personally resonate with you? Can you identify a correlation between them and your own life?



Let's look at barriers to having intimacy with Jesus.

I would argue that there are two barriers that exist in seeking intimacy with Jesus.

1. **External.**
2. **Internal.**

### **External Barriers**

External barriers are those barriers that exist outside of yourself. For example, life issues. Demands on your time. Responsibilities. Life around you which you cannot always control can seek to create barriers to limit you seeking intimacy with Jesus.

### **Internal Barriers**

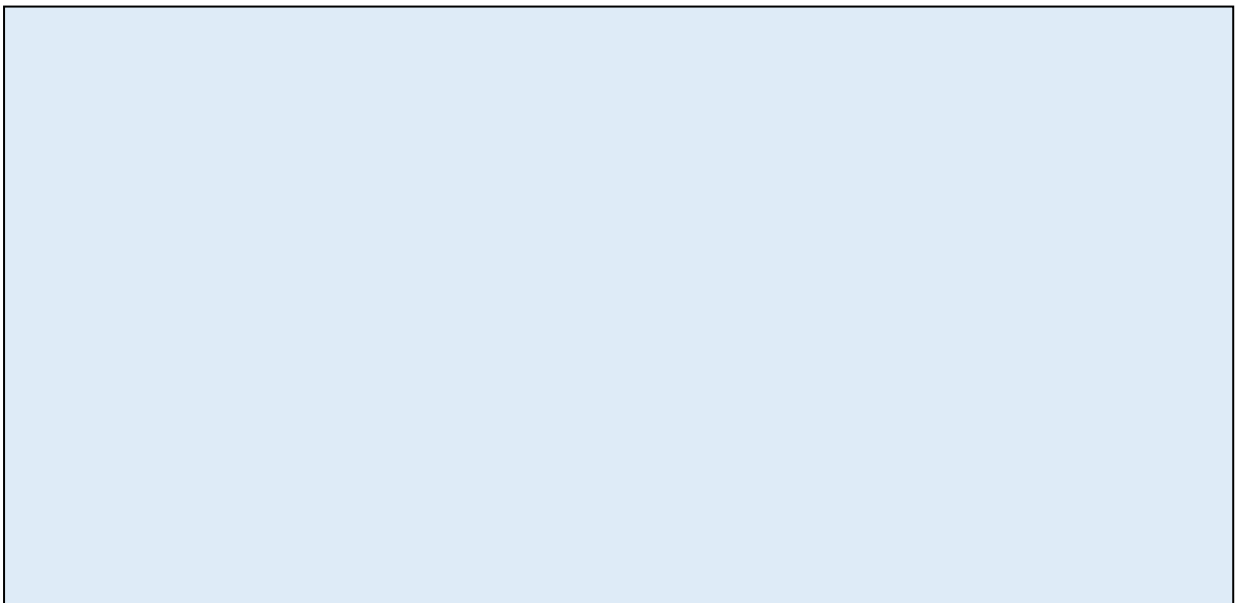
Your own internal barriers that you put up. These could be hurt, theological questions. Emotional issues that you put up in front of you.

Maybe these people believe there is too much sin in their life, or they are not a good enough Christian to seek after intimacy with Jesus. Some people allow these barriers to exist in their internal world, but they can create a wall in going deeper into intimacy with Jesus.

Can you identify External Barriers in your life?



Can you identify Internal Barriers in your Life?



Sometimes the Internal Barriers can be harder to overcome. However, I would argue that the key to overcoming those barriers is humility. Complete Surrender to Jesus. Asking God to break you, to mould you, stripping

yourself back and surrender everything that you are to Jesus and lower all walls and come before Jesus from that position of seeking intimacy.

We need to lower our walls to Jesus. We need to become lower so that God can become higher in our life (John 3.30).

Is your barrier predominantly external or internal?

God is with you. His Spirit is within you. You are unified with God. God is in every part of your life because you carry Him around with you in your life. You have access to God. You are unified and in union with God. Therefore intimacy is open to you. Intimacy is about spending time with Jesus. The more you spend time with Him the more you get to know Him. You can know *about* God but knowing *about* Him is different to *knowing Him* and that comes through reading the Bible and spending time being with Jesus. Jesus often spent time away during the night or up a mountainside to be alone being with God. Jesus knew God because of intimacy. Jesus knew the heart of God.

## *Chapter Five*

### Being with Jesus

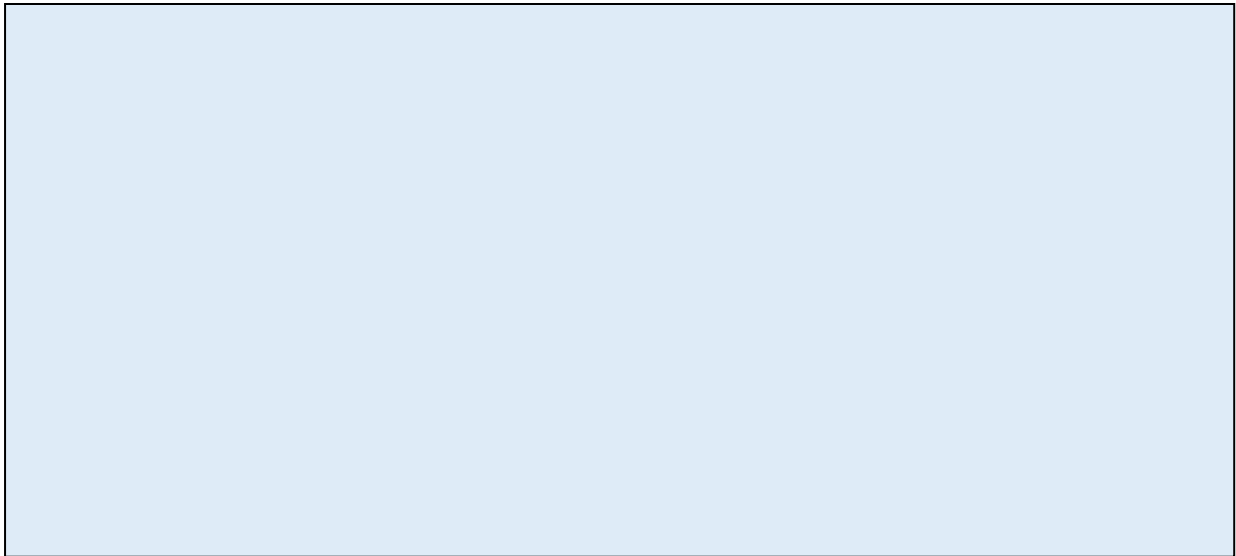


As you become more intimate with Jesus, you start to view other people through the eyes of Jesus. You start to see how He sees them. Does being more intimate with Jesus led you to see other people as the Lord sees them?

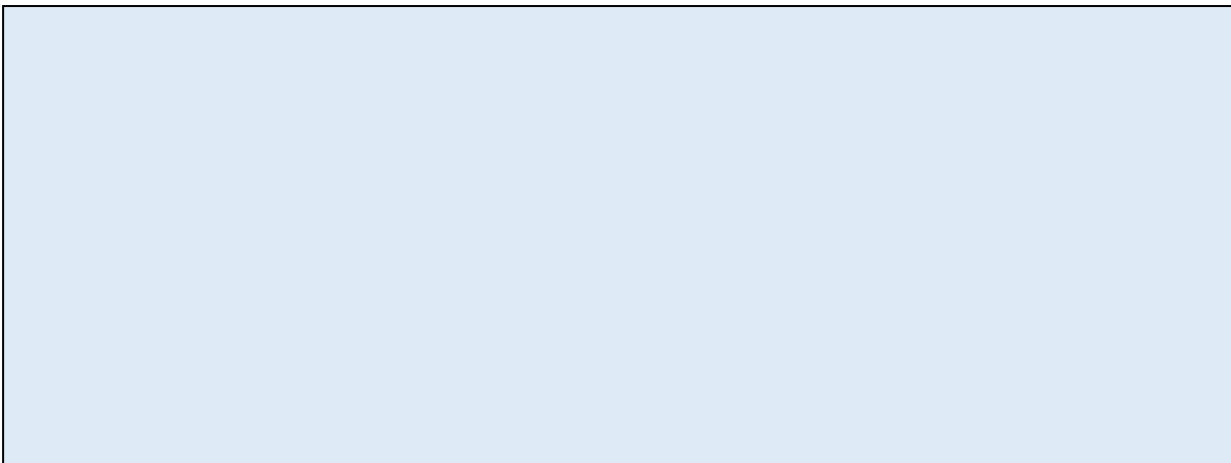
Do you think there is a difference between personal prophesying to people compared to giving personal prophesying to people from out of a place of intimacy with Jesus?

If you don't spend time with Jesus, how well will you get to really, deeply know Him? Spending time with Jesus is key to intimacy with Jesus. I would argue that intimacy with Jesus is prayer. Intimacy and romancing Jesus is prayer.

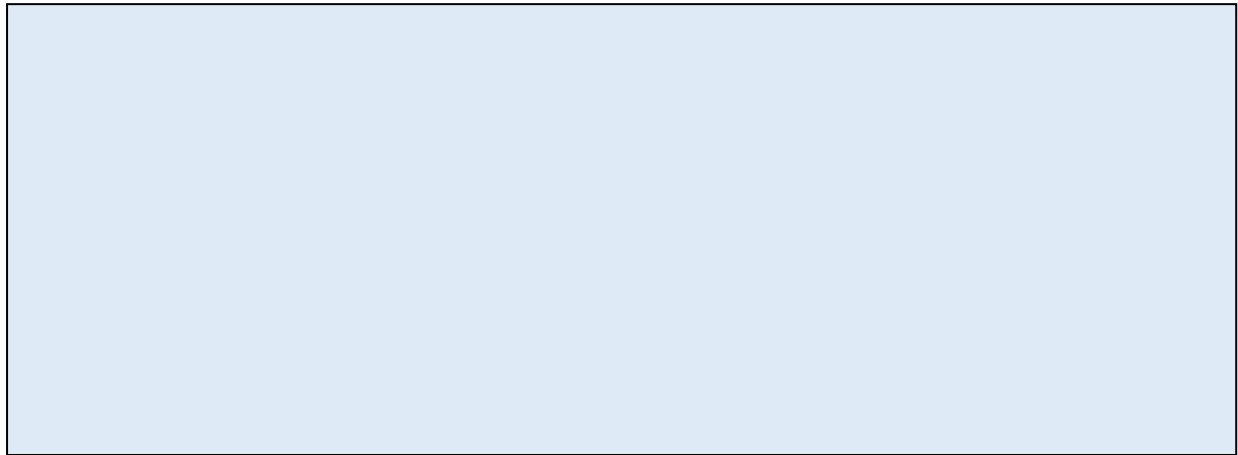
'Intimacy with Jesus will only be as deep as your prayer life'. Do you agree with that statement? If so, to what extent do you see that true in your life?



How do you define prayer? Does prayer mean to you a list of petitions and requests? Does it mean worship? Warfare? Intercession? Meditative and contemplative prayer. There are different types of prayer. How do you feel intimacy prayer fits alongside other types of prayer?



Intercession prayer, warfare prayer, petition prayer are all valued. However if all one does in their prayer time is for example, 'ask, ask, ask' or 'bless me, bless me, bless me,' then they are missing out on just simply being with Jesus for no other reason than wanting to 'be' with Jesus. How do you view prayer? Is it a chore? is it a duty? Is it something you just simply need to do as a Christian? Or do you view prayer as an invitation for intimacy with Jesus?



'Knowing Jesus comes from our heart and not works' we don't have to work at loving Jesus, because He first loved us. Do you have to work at loving Jesus? Is it natural for you? Some people have to spend time reflecting on what Jesus has done for them first to get into that heart connection with the Lord.

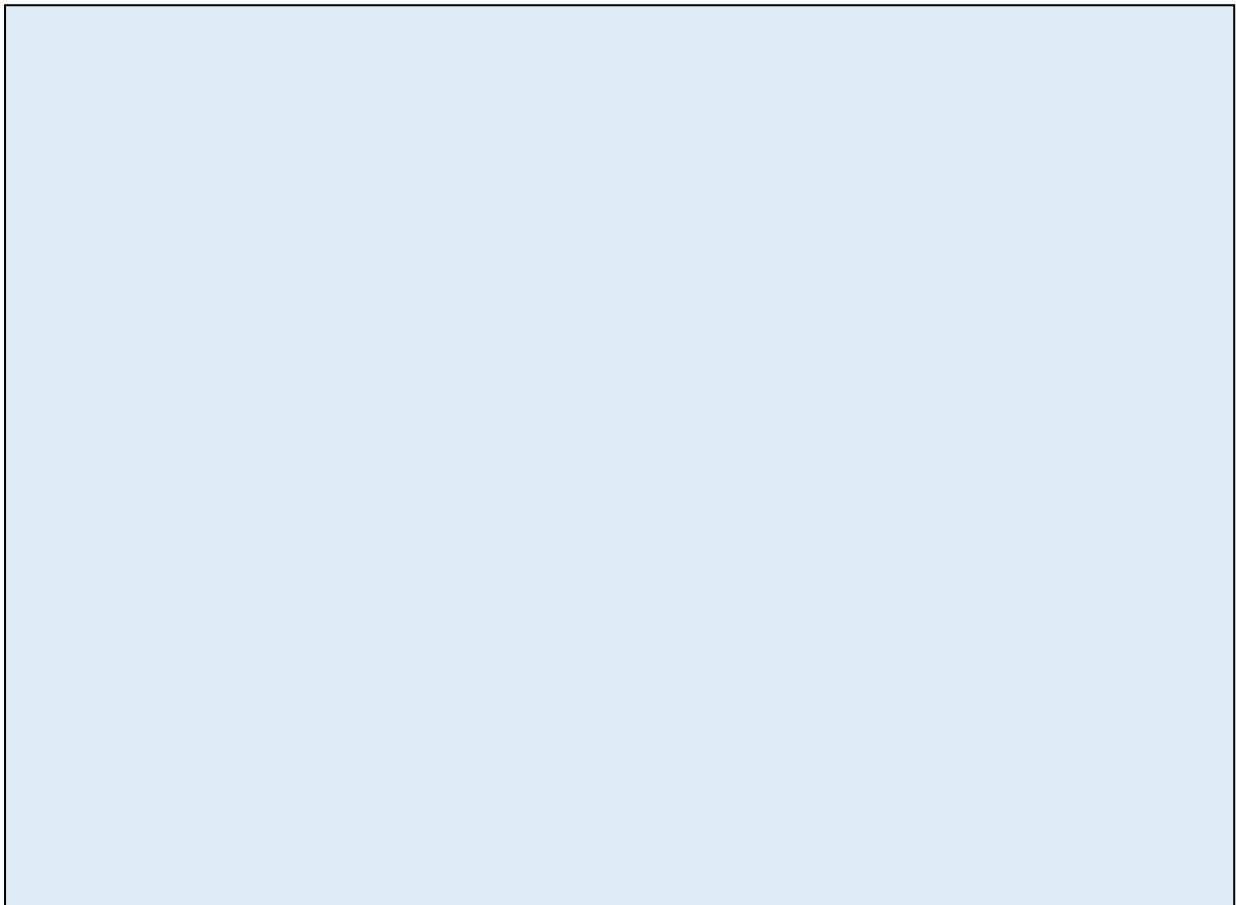
Sometimes prayer and seeking intimacy is hard work. Sometimes you do have to discipline yourself to seek after God from one day to the next. We are flesh that wars against God. Our soul draws us to other issues, maybe you don't 'feel' like praying today, or you don't 'feel' like going to church today. Or you don't 'feel' like reading the Bible today. Our flesh continues to war against God.

*For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want (Galatians 5.7).*

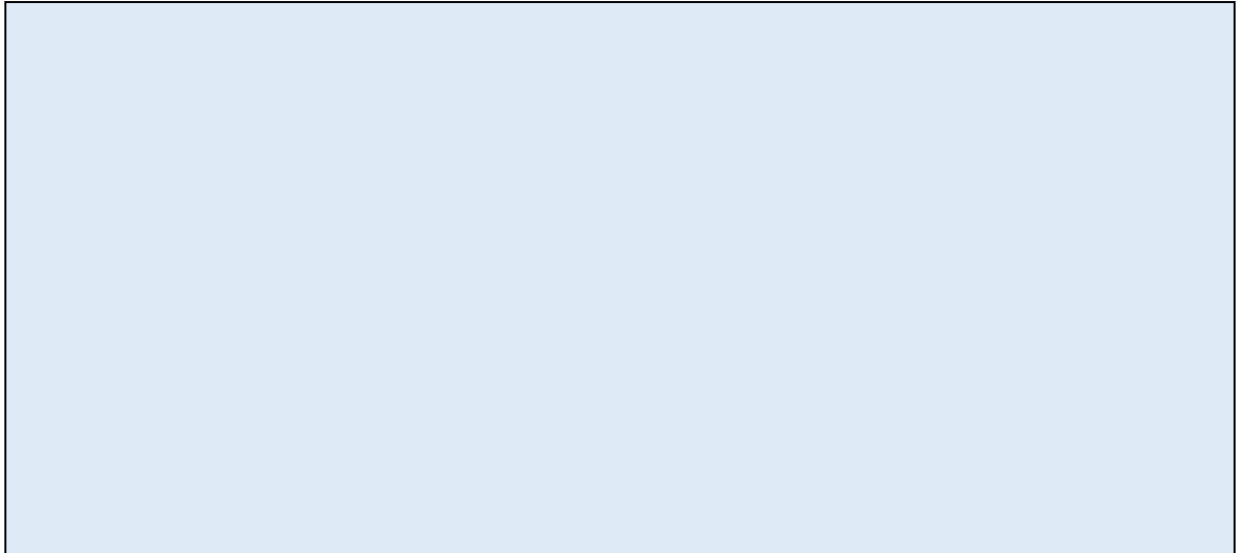
For prayer one does have to at times be disciplined. It is work. Christians can be fairly negative towards the term 'works' but in the Bible you see two types of 'works'; good works and bad works.

An example of good works is fasting, evangelism, prayer, helping the poor. An example of bad works is you need to work on your prayer life in order for God to answer your prayer or you need to evangelise in order for God to bring a blessing into your life.

Sometimes intimacy and love towards God does not simply happen. Sometimes you need to be disciplined and put the effort into prayer. What is your experience in loving Jesus? Do you view it as disciplined work, a joy, does it naturally flow from your heart or do you need to work at developing intimacy from out of your heart's response? - (there is no right or wrong answer. This question just helps to make you reflect on your own heart response to prayer and intimacy).

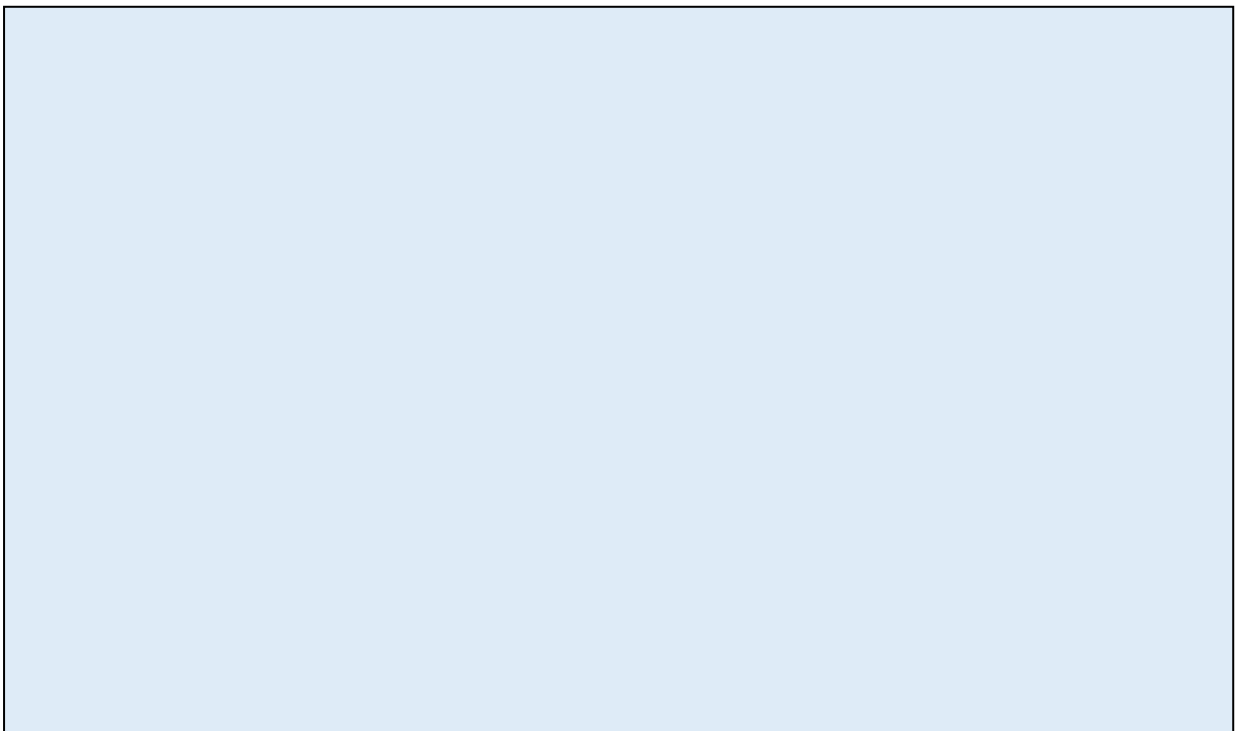


Loving Jesus is simple, it is not complicated. Human tendency likes to make everything complicated and over analysing but spending time with Jesus is not complex or needing to be analysed; it is simple. Do you tend to overthink things? Do you tend to overthink prayer and spending time being with Jesus?



The Pharisees stood on street corners being boastful in prayer (Matthew 6.5). What about the secret place? The secret place with you and Jesus.

Do you have any examples of something you have done for Jesus that *only* Jesus will see that has no practical outcome? (in a group setting. Keep your answer private).



## Chapter Six

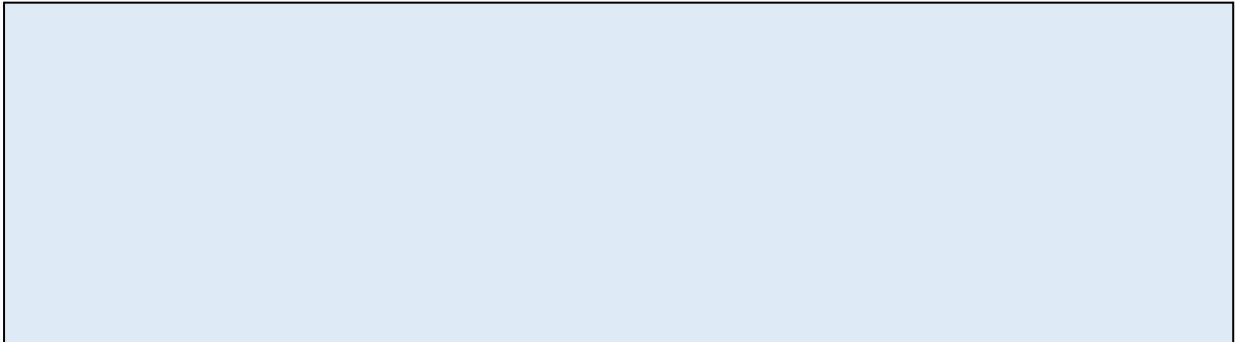
### The Intimacy Book



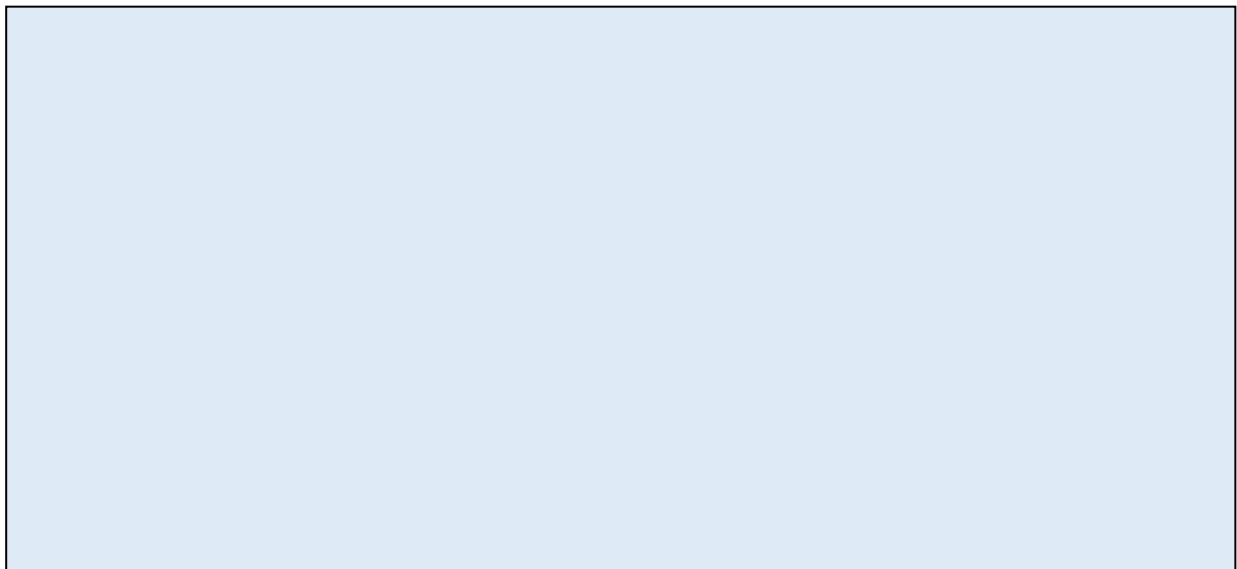
A good way to explore intimacy with Jesus is through studying *Song of Solomon* which reveals the depths of intimacy that is available to us. There is a passion in that book which reflects Jesus' passion for His church. The Bride is the Church. Jesus loves His Bride. You as a Christian are part of that Bride.

Before you go any further with this study, can you please have a read of *Song of Solomon*- it is a short book. I would also recommend the Passion Translation of *Song of Solomon* as it really highlights Jesus passion for His Bride.

Do you see or can you see yourself and Jesus reflected throughout the book?



How do you or what helps you, or maybe what stops you in relating to Jesus as the passionate lover which we read in the *Song of Solomon*?

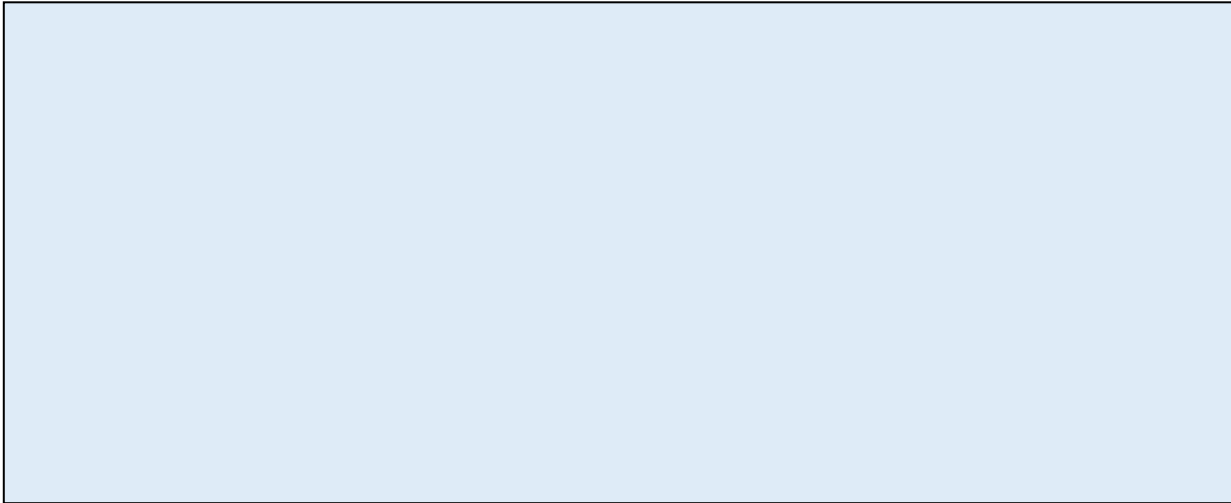


Some people really struggle with viewing *Song of Solomon* as a metaphor of Christ's love for you and His church. Do you struggle reading *Song of Solomon* and viewing the book as this metaphor?

Does it make you uncomfortable? Does it highlight any walls or barriers that you may have erected in your heart towards Jesus? And why do you feel this way? Can you identify the cause of it?



*Song of Solomon* can be viewed as the love depth of Jesus's gaze into your eyes. Have you ever felt the gaze of Jesus? What came out of that?




## *Chapter Seven*

### The Bride & The Bridegroom

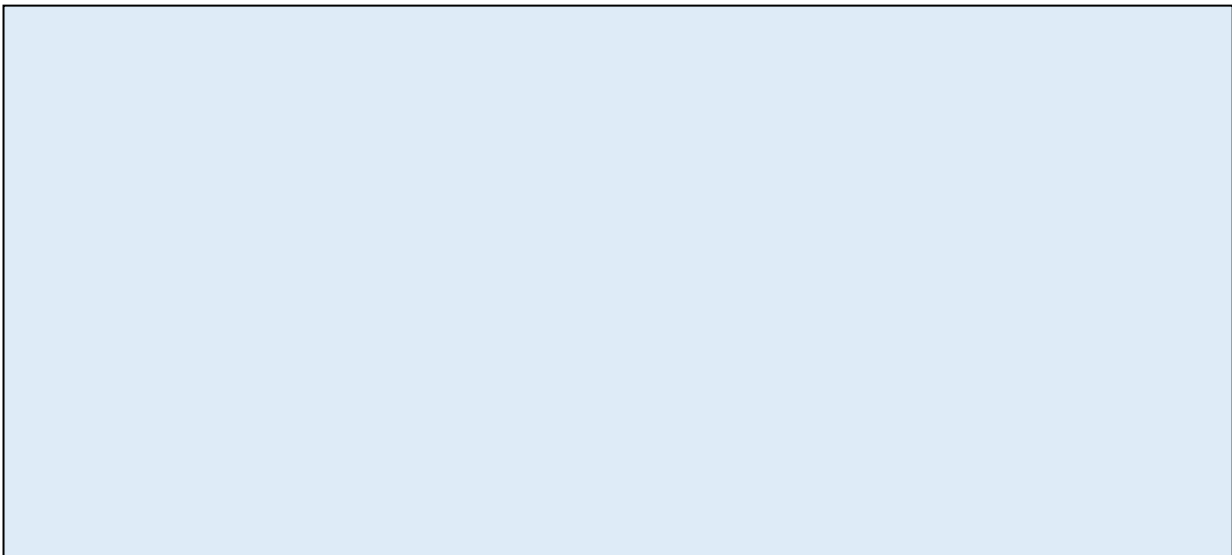


We are transformed into a new creation in Christ Jesus. You are Jesus. You belong to Him. How much have you grasped that you are Jesus'? That all of you, your whole being totally belongs to Him? Can you grasp it even more? And how does that show in your life?

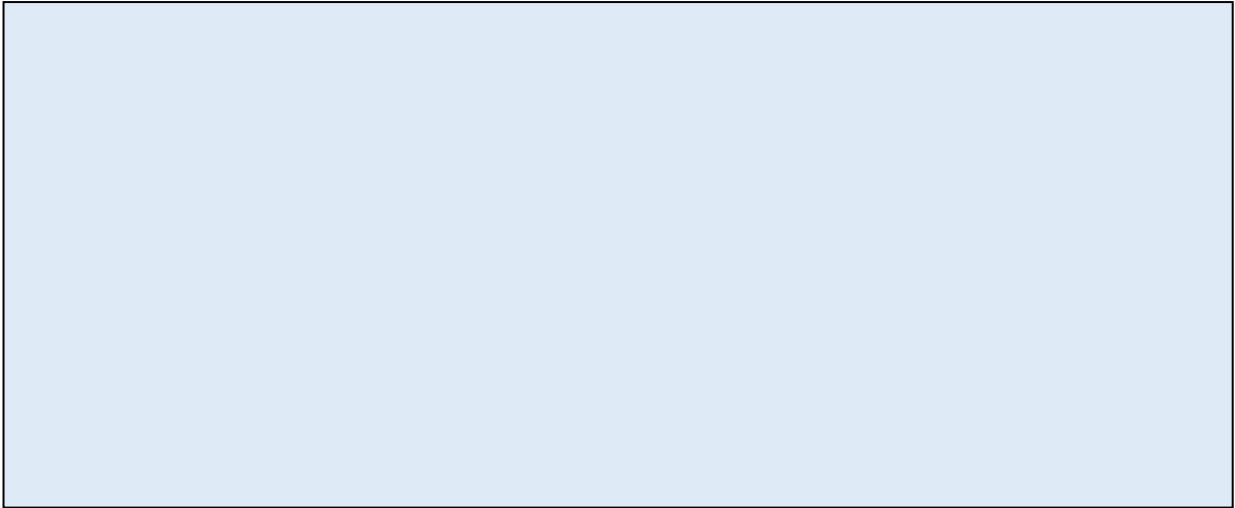
*Romans 12.2* informs us not to conform to the pattern of this world. In what ways do you not conform to the patterns of this world?



Within most people there is an element of conformity. In what ways do you conform to the patterns of this world?

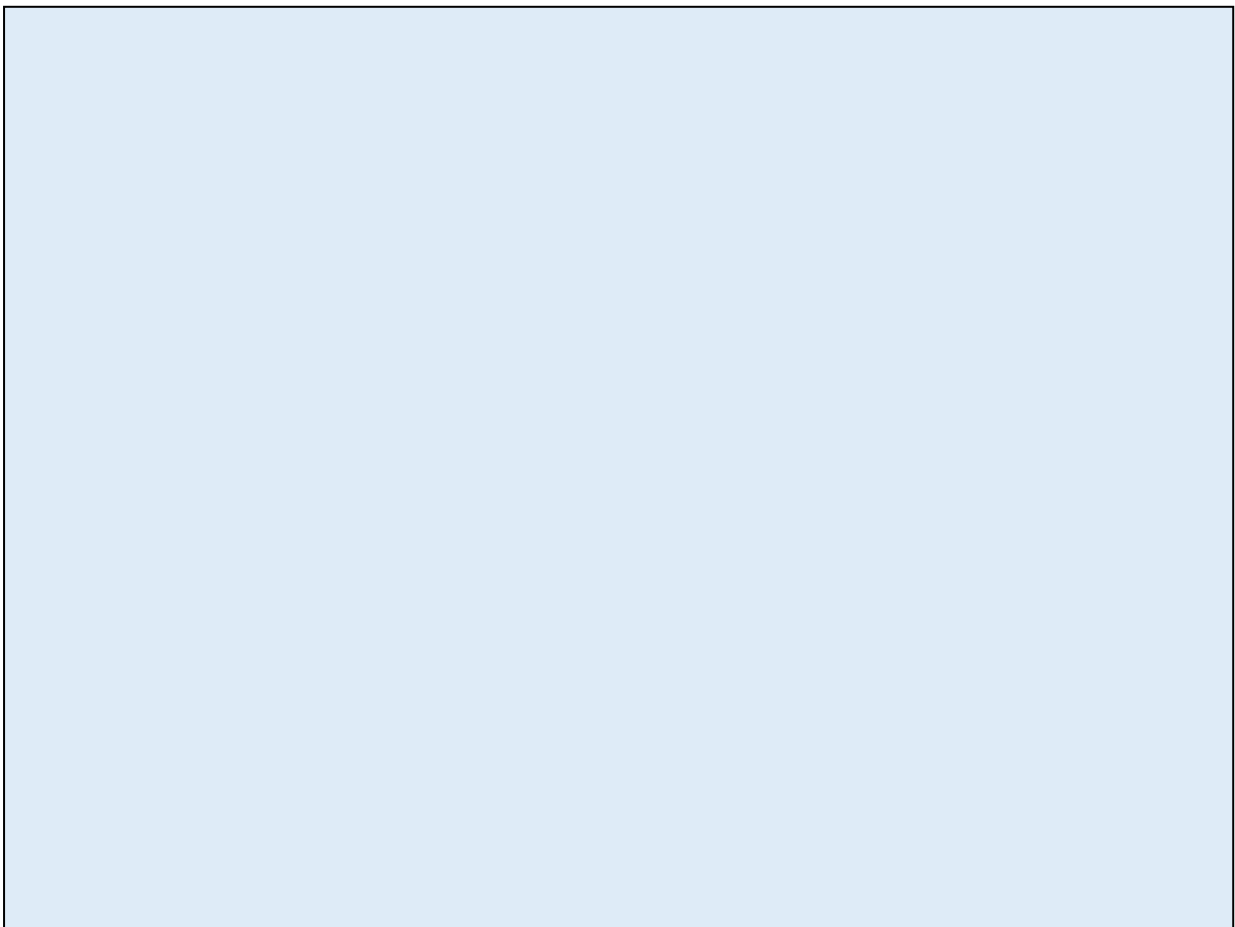


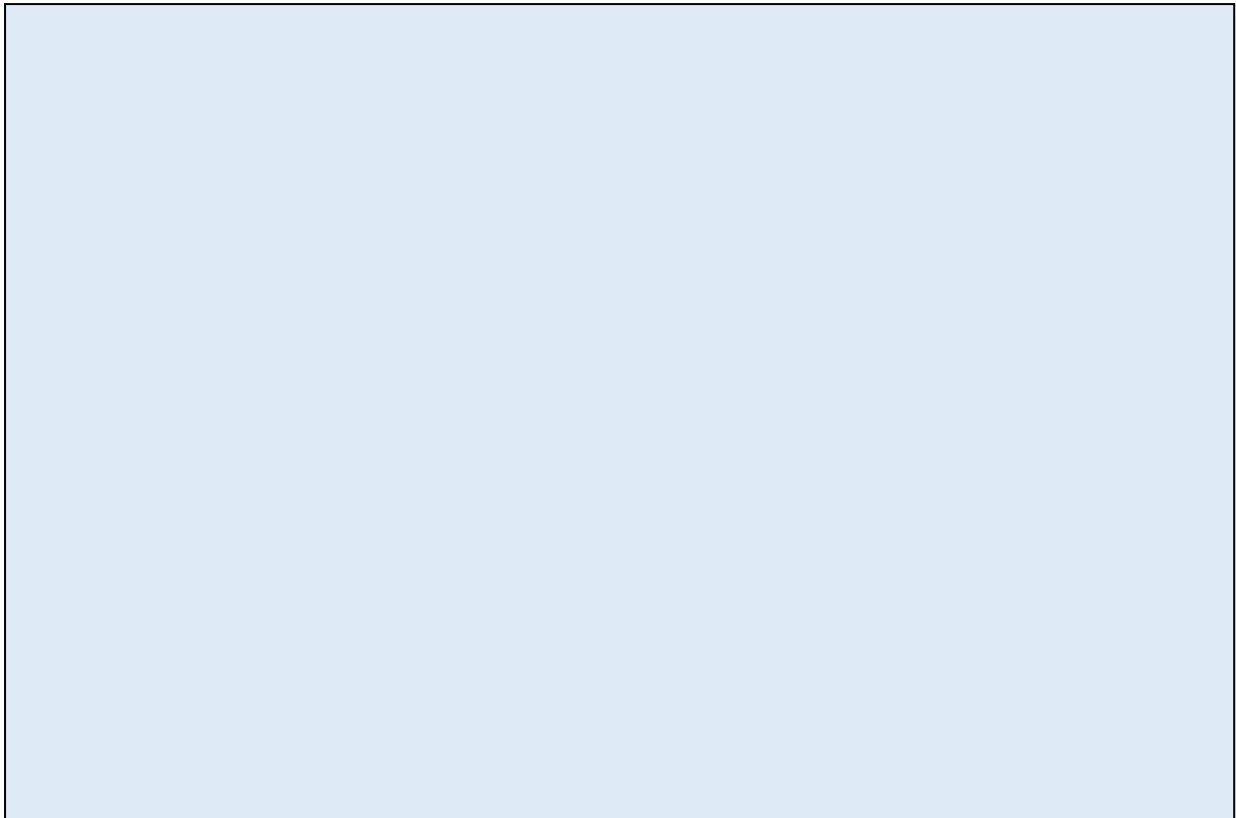
Jesus is jealous for you, for your time, love and worship. Is there a time in your life where you have felt that Jesus has been jealous for you? Or a time in your life when you have felt that He is pursuing you?



Let's take some time to reflect upon descriptions and characteristics of Jesus. In pages 76-77 of *Romancing Jesus* there is a description of Jesus based *Song of Solomon*. Spend time reflecting and meditating on those descriptions of Jesus as a lover of your soul.

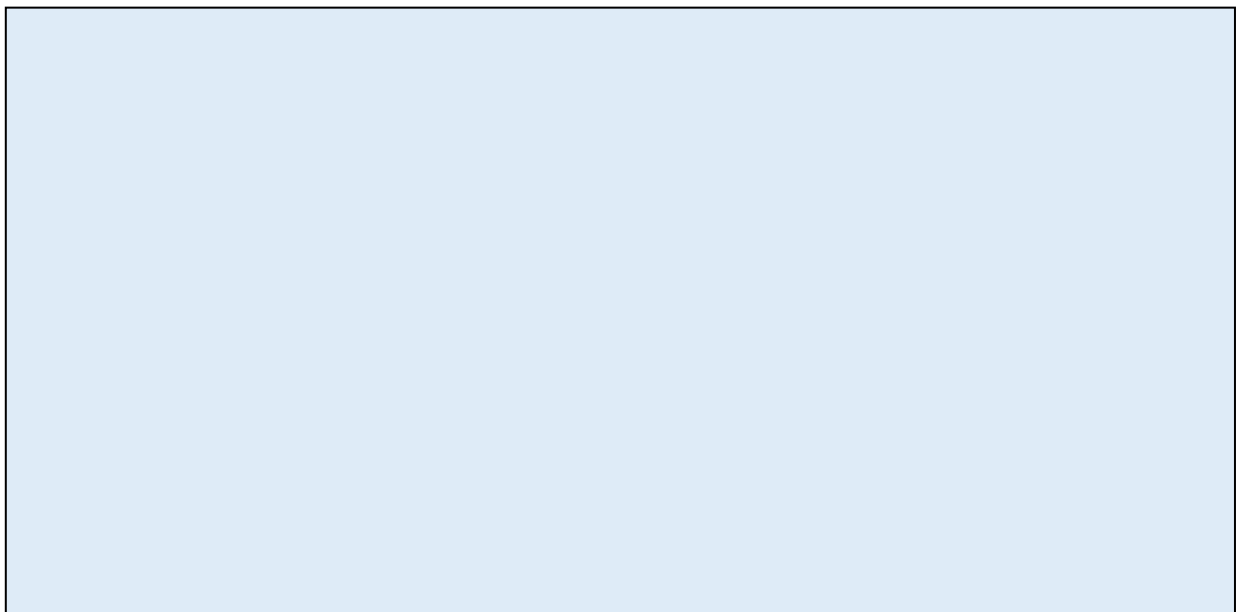
Write out your reflections and meditations on those descriptions.





These are great descriptions of Jesus! Let's take a bit more time to reflect on Jesus by looking at some reflective and meditative questions on those descriptions of the Lord.

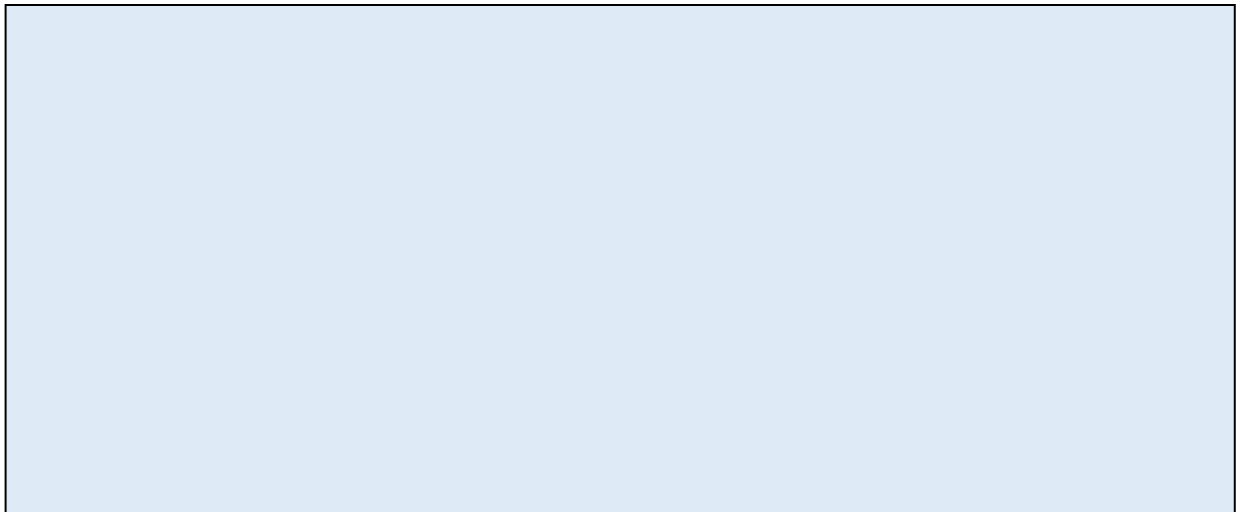
What do those descriptions of Jesus conjure or invoke in your mind? If you enjoy art, maybe draw a picture of Jesus based upon those descriptions.



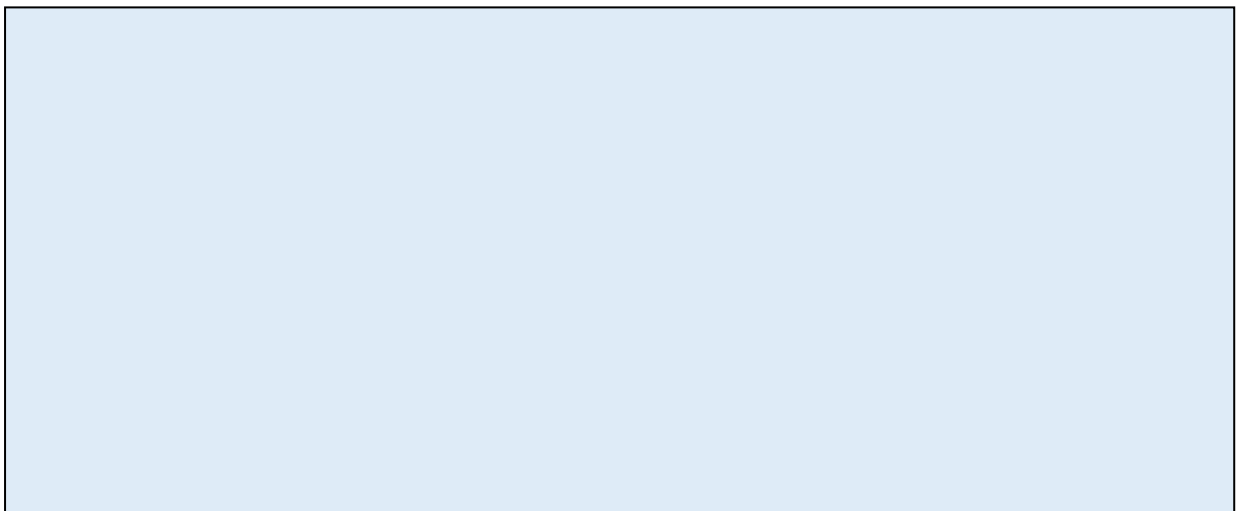
What do these descriptions tell you about Jesus as a lover of your soul?



How can you relate to those descriptions?

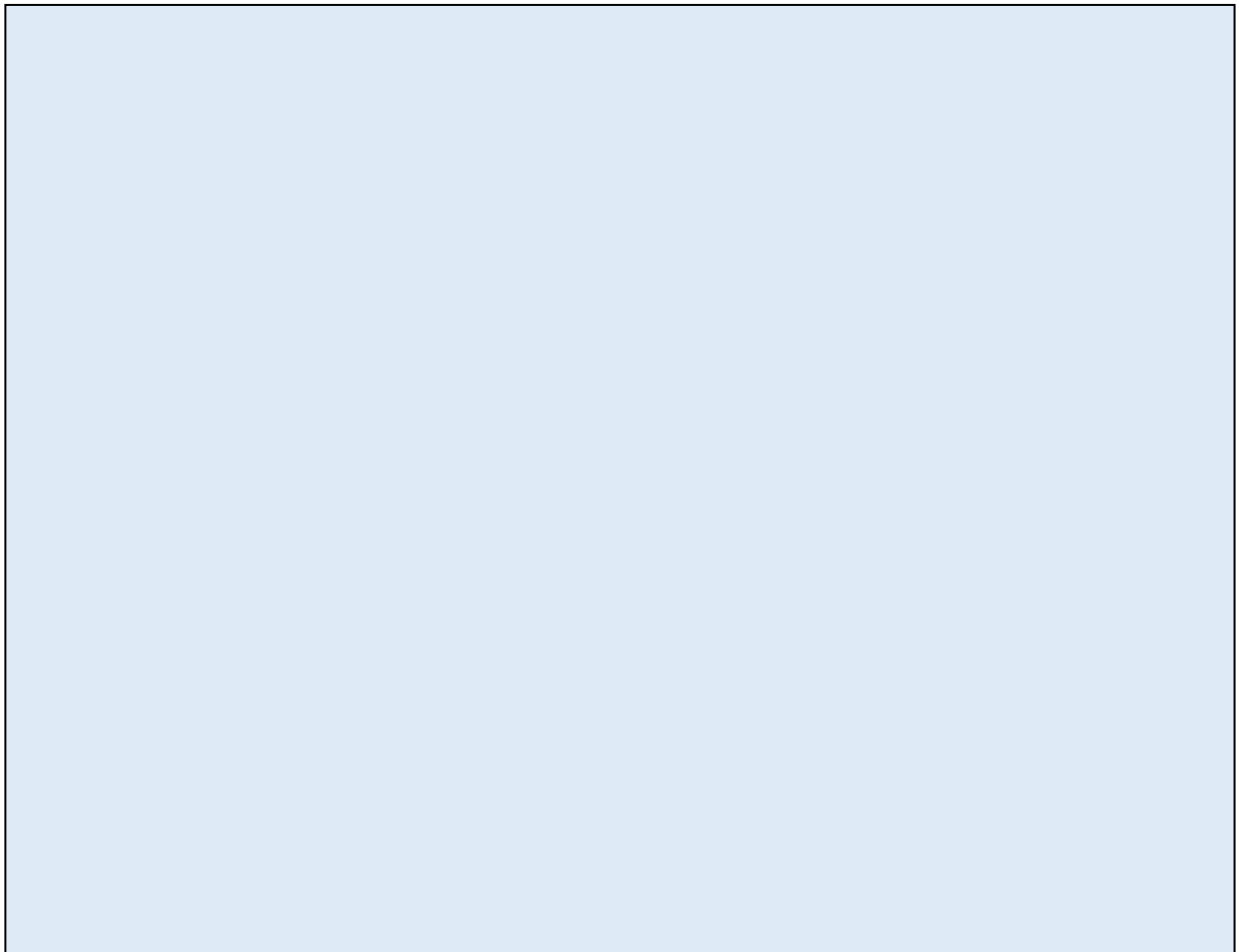


How can you welcome the characteristics of those descriptions into your life?



God is supernatural; therefore it is only *normal* for something supernatural to take place whilst in prayer for example, maybe you have smelt supernatural fragrances, or you heard God speak to you. Maybe something supernatural has taken place in your everyday life. You carry Jesus around in your life and it can be normal for the supernaturalness of God to spill out into your everyday life.

Do you have any testimonies of supernatural activity during a prayer time or whilst being in the secret place with Jesus? Or maybe in your everyday life?



## Chapter Eight

### Step 1 -The Intimacy of Worship



I would suggest there are four practical steps in going into the deep places of intimacy with the Lord. Step one I would argue is worship.

Let's look at worship. You can read in the *Psalms* that David hungered after more intimacy with God. God listened to David and met him. If God met David because of his heart, then it is important to know what was in David's heart. *What was it that God liked?*

David had a heart for intimacy. God was not looking for a strong, powerful, mighty King to rule Israel. God was looking for a man who longed to know God, who sought after the Lord with all his strength and God found that man in David.

David Knew God as:

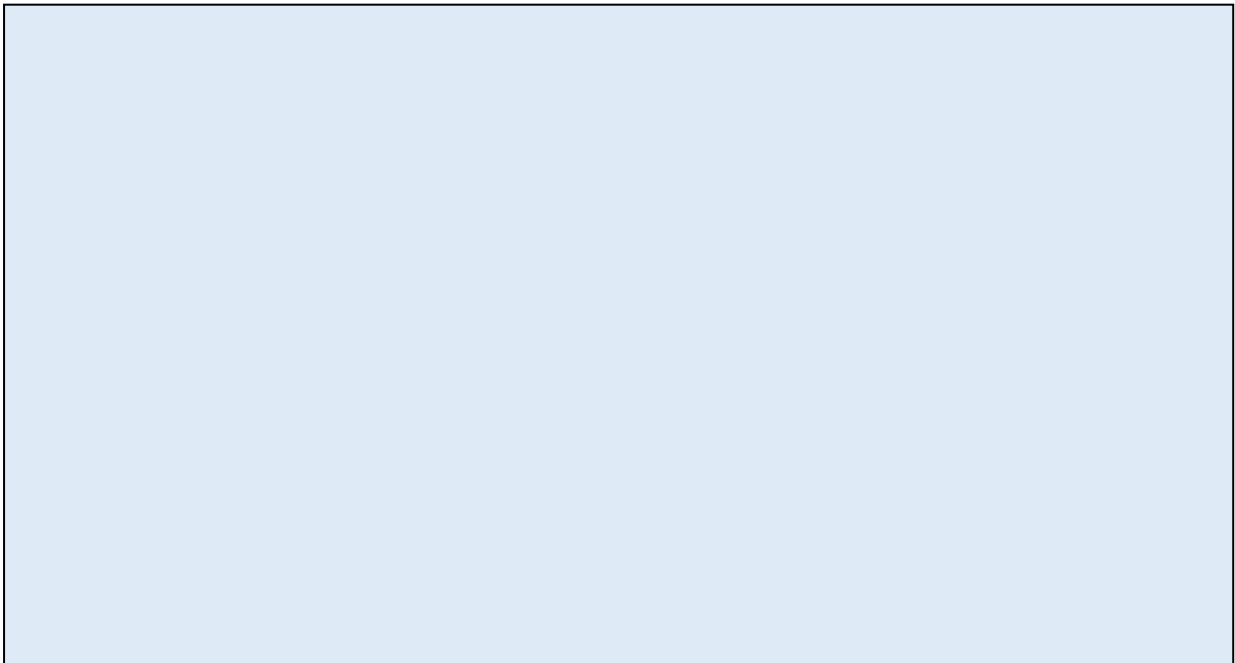
- *I love you, O Lord, my strength* (Psalm 18.1).
- *Your love is better than life* (Psalm 63.3).
- *Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere* (Psalm 84.10).
- *I will sing of your great love for ever* (Psalm 9.1).
- *My soul finds rest in God alone* (Psalm 62.1).

*rock* (Psa28.1), *refuge* (Psa7.1), *shepherd* (Psa23.1), *trustful* (Psa31.14), *hope* (Psa71.14), *joy* (Psa100.1) and *deliver* (Psa114.11).

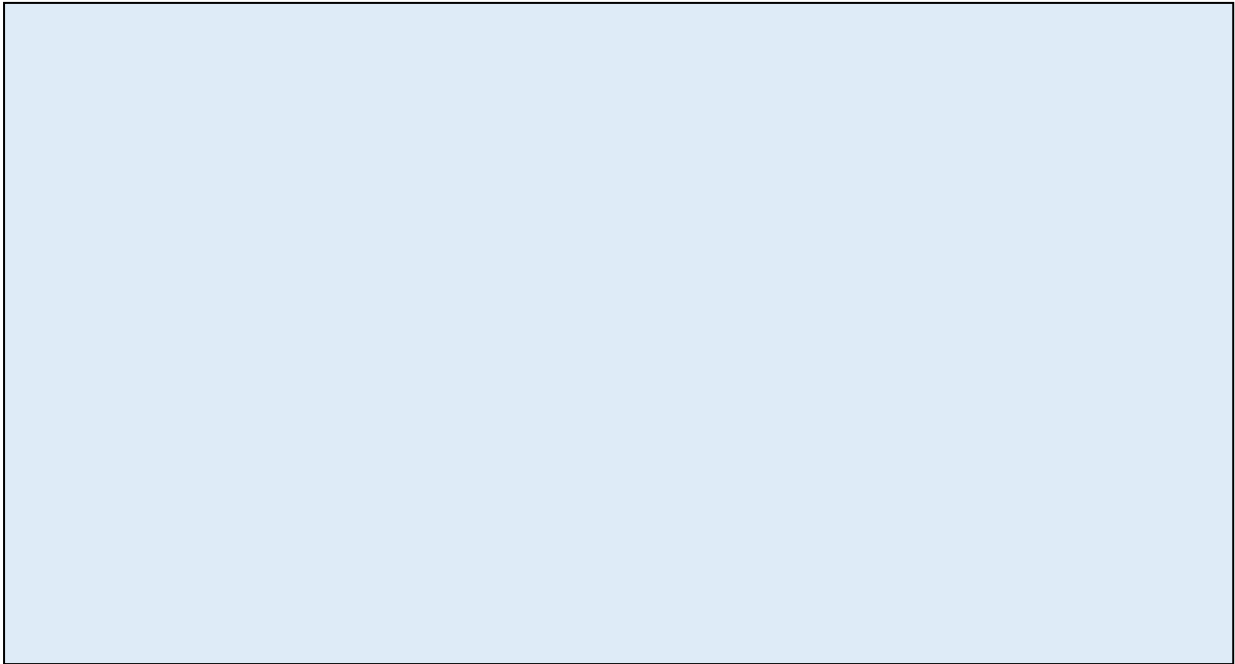
In what ways do you demonstrate the heart of David?



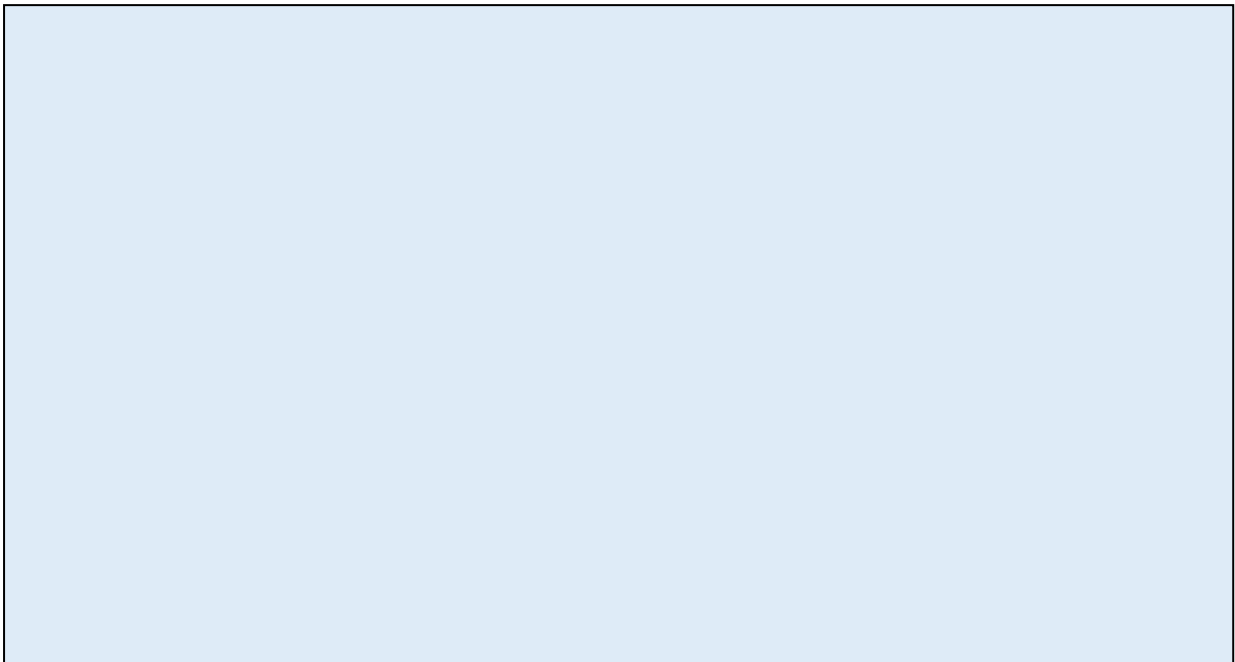
David's heart hungered after God. He longed and thirsted after more of God. In what ways can you hunger after more of God? What would that look like in your prayer life?



Why do you think it is important to worship God?

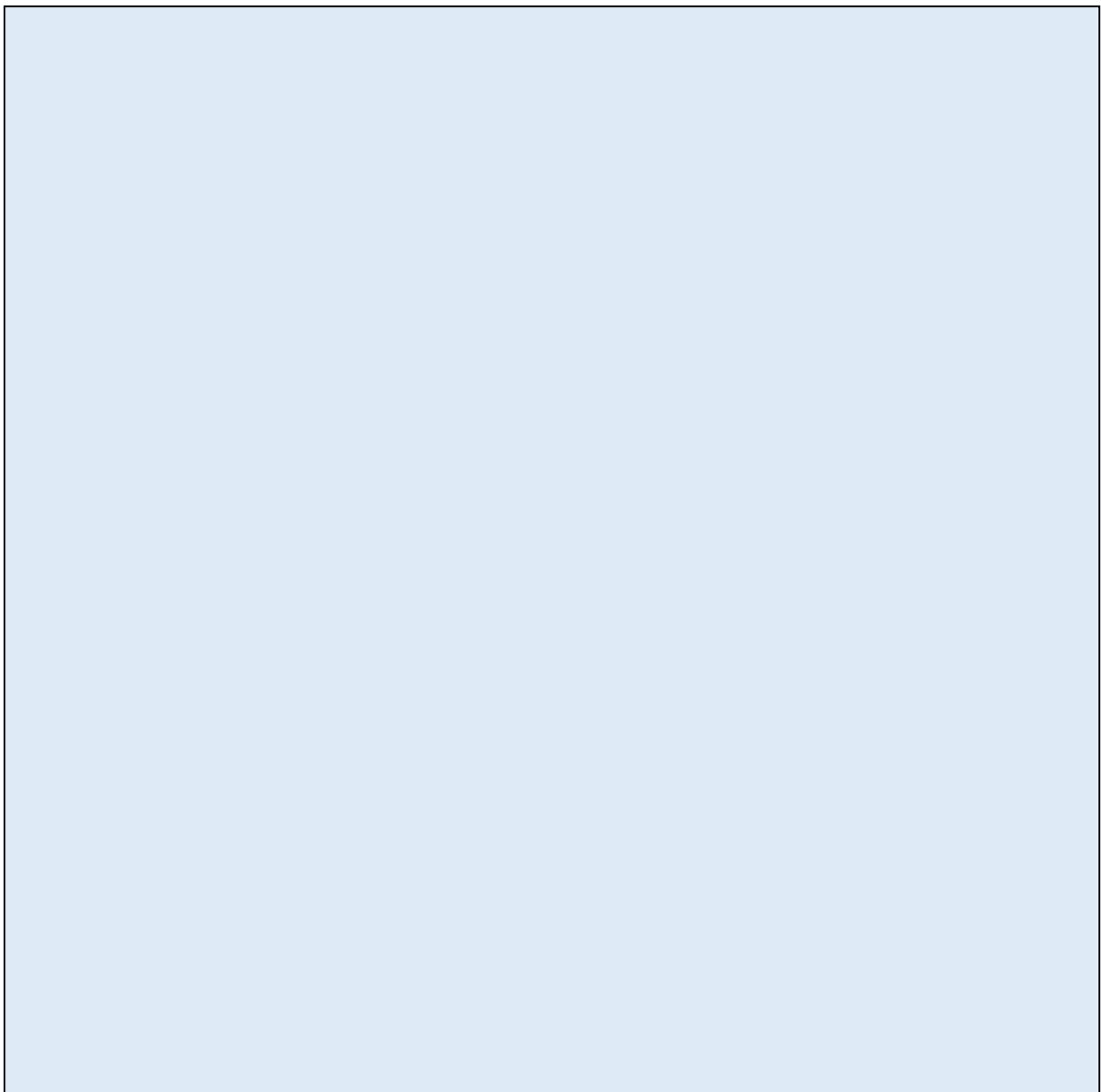


Is how you worship and the way you worship God a reflection of your hearts attitude towards God and how you view Him?



A great practical step in learning how to romance Jesus is to set regular time aside just to sing songs of love to Him, to romance Him with music. If you enjoy dancing, dance intimately before Him. Sing of how wonderful He is, how beautiful He is. How much His love means to you, and how much you love Him in return.

In what ways can you practically do this? In your answer think about what stops you from doing this? And if you will actually do it? We can have good intentions of spending time with Jesus, but sometimes it never happens or is sustained.



## *Chapter Nine*

### Step 2-The Intimacy of the Word



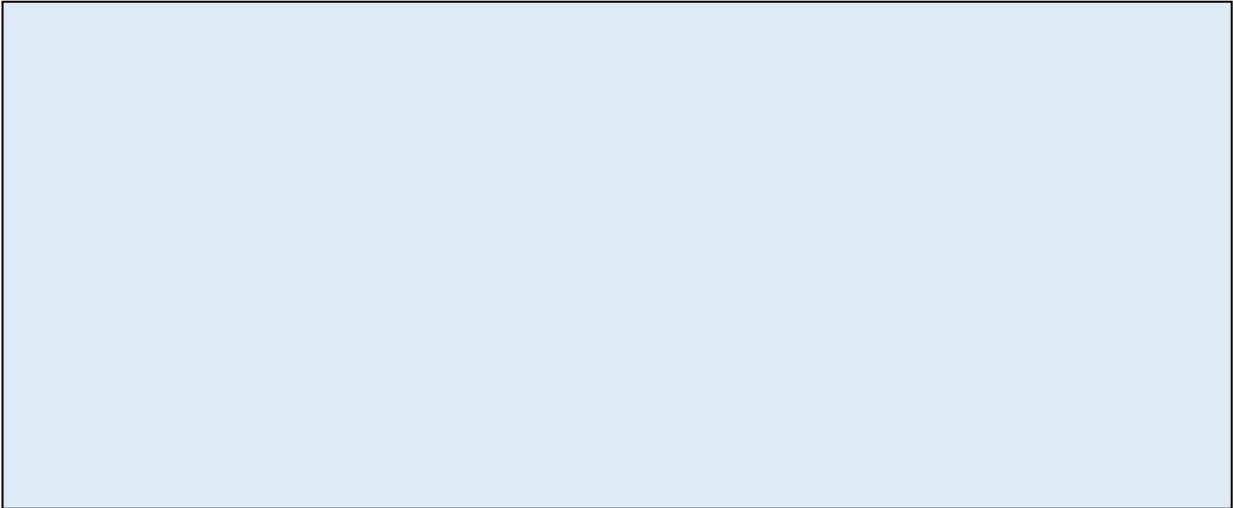
*The second practical step of intimacy is the Bible. A love of reading, soaking, meditating, reflecting and studying the Bible.*

The Bible is God breathed. The Holy Spirit breathed the Bible into being. The whole of Scripture has the active breath of God on it and the breath of God is intimate; it is a holy kiss.

In what ways can you develop a greater love for reading the Bible?

The Bible is more than just words on a page when you read it aloud to Jesus something supernatural starts to happen. The Bible contains life and the love of Jesus that can be carried and transferred into you thrusting you into new depths with God.

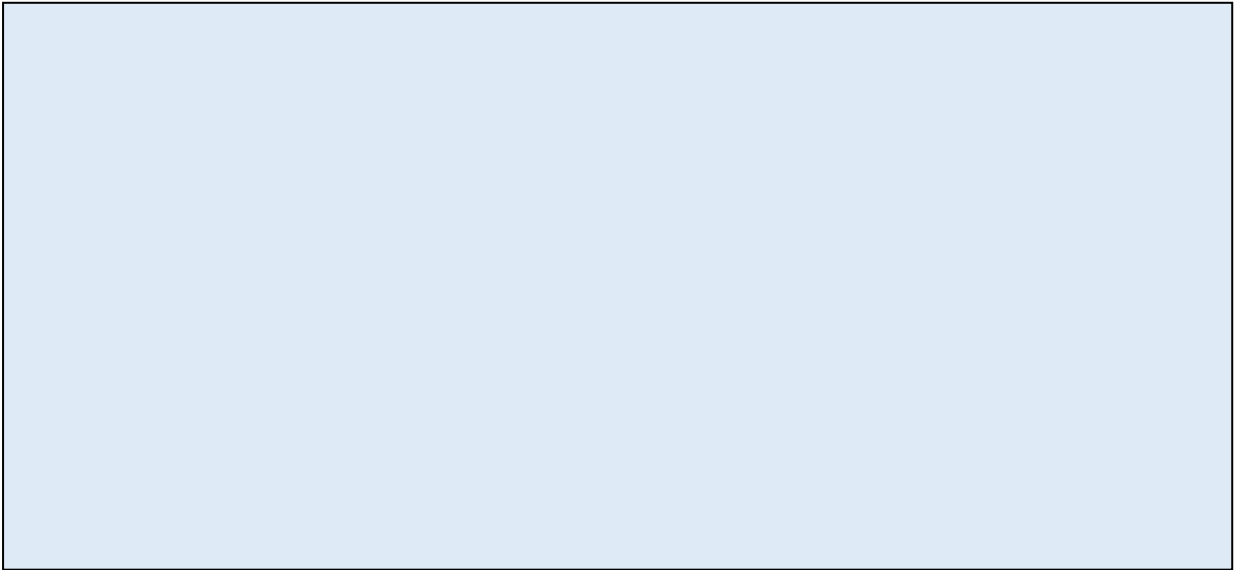
In what ways have you seen new depths of Jesus open up to you as you have read the Bible?



On pages 92-94 of *Romancing Jesus* there are a number of verses that you can practically use in your prayer time in order to seek closeness with Jesus.

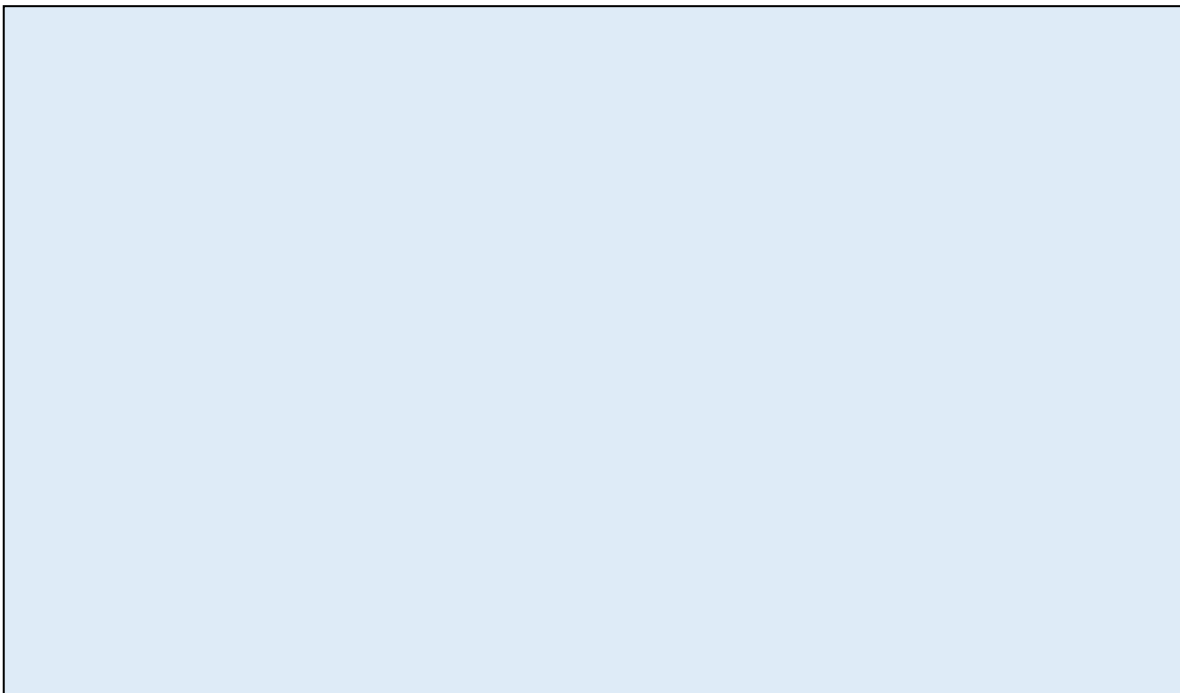
- Deuteronomy 6:5
- Psalm 23:1-6
- Psalm 34:8
- Psalm 63:1
- Jeremiah 31:3
- James 4:8

In what ways can you use these scriptures to enhance your prayer life with Jesus?



The Bible is not just a book or a guide on how to be a Christian; it is the *living* active Word. We enter into it through faith; it is supernatural. The Word has a transformative effect; it penetrates into your soul, your bones, and marrow (Hebrews 4.12).

How has the Bible had a transforming effect on you and your relationship with Jesus and how do you let the Bible penetrate into your soul?



## Chapter Ten

### Step 3 - Secret Chambers of His Intimate Presence



The third practical step into intimacy is that of prayer. The whole subject of Romancing Jesus is prayer. The whole of this self-study program is about prayer.

*“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”  
Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment  
(Matthew 22.36-38).*

*“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters--yes, even their own life--such a person cannot be my disciple’  
(Luke 14.26).*

Jesus is not instructing you in *Luke 14.26* to hate your family, but He is informing you that Jesus should be your first priority and that your love for Jesus would look like hate when compared to one’s family.

Think about the top 4 priorities in your life. Maybe your top priorities are something like the following:

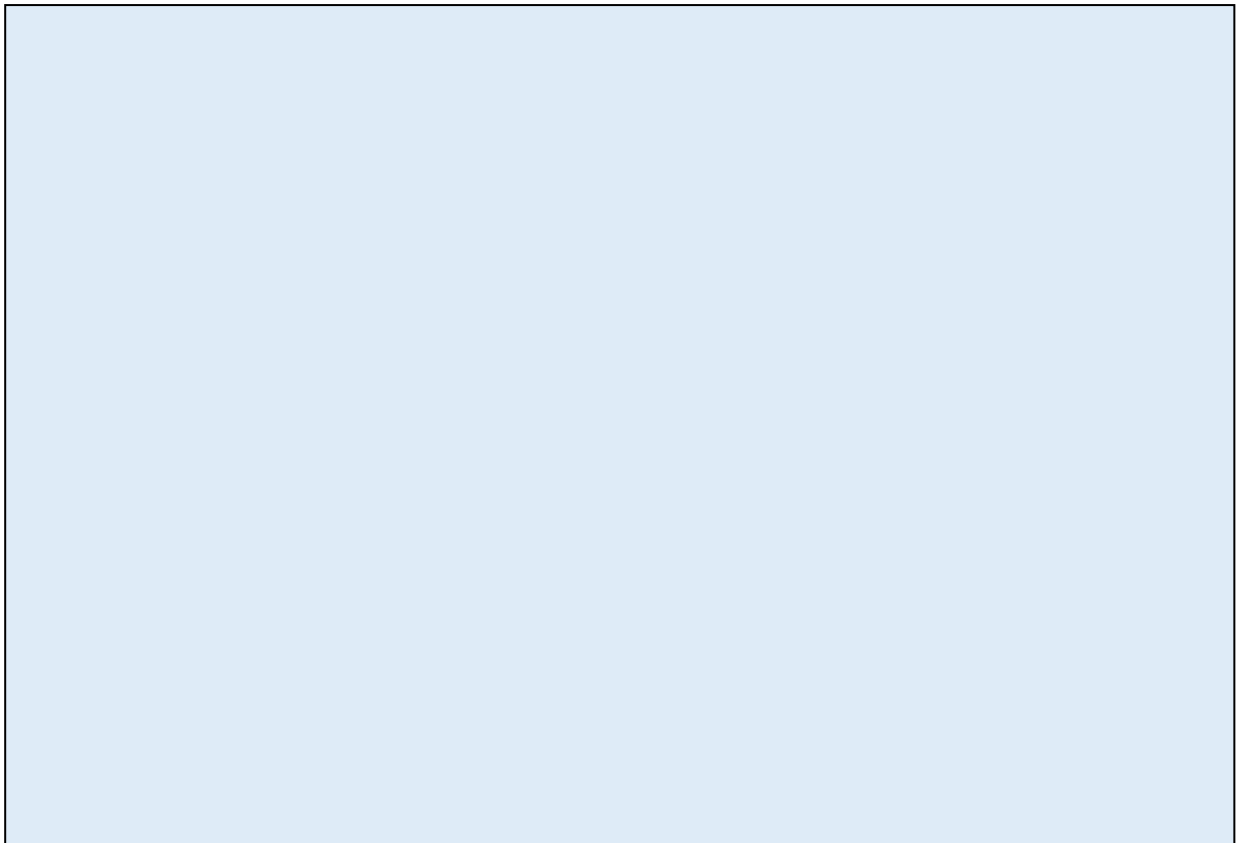
1. Jesus.
2. Family.
3. Employment.
4. Church.

Can you order your top 4 priorities in your own life:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Reflect on your priorities. Are they good priorities? Are they in the right order? Are they a constructive use of your time? What boundaries do you need to create to prioritise your life in the right order?

Can you identify and list all the distractions and obstacles that prevent you from developing a good prayer life?

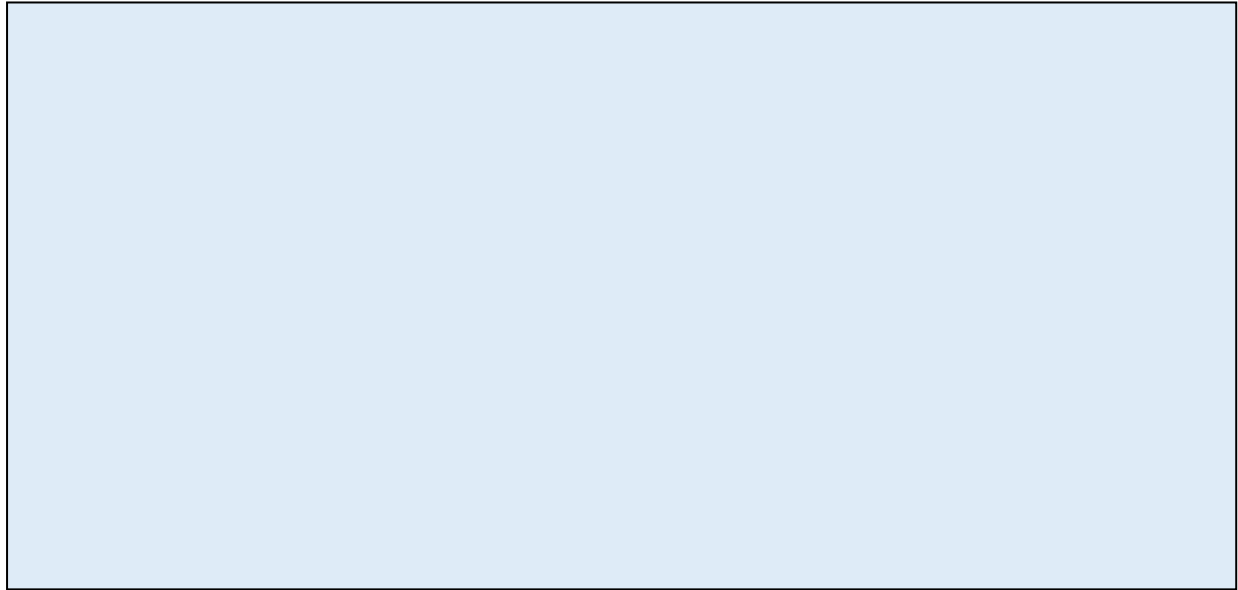


Now that you have identified the obstacles, list them again below and this time write the solution of those obstacles.

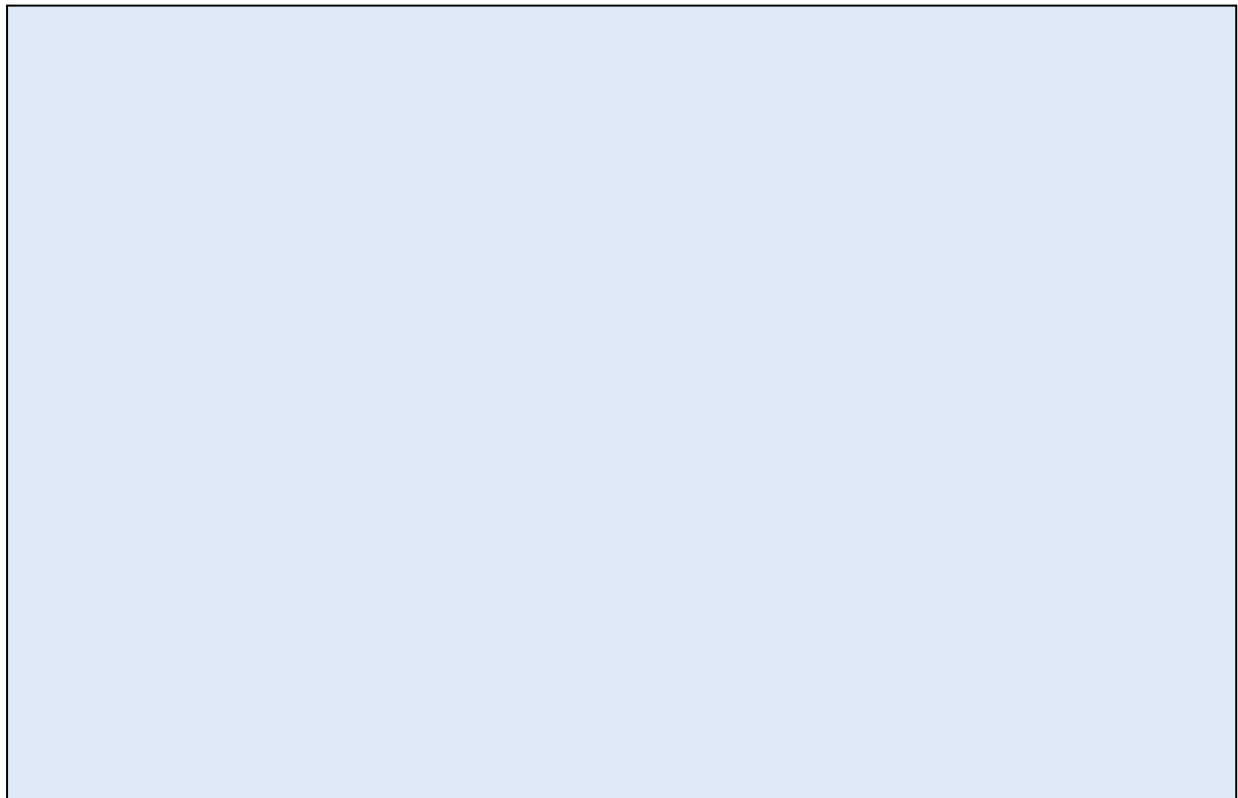
Obstacle	Solution
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	

Think about your solutions to your obstacles. Think about the practical steps you can take to make your solutions work.

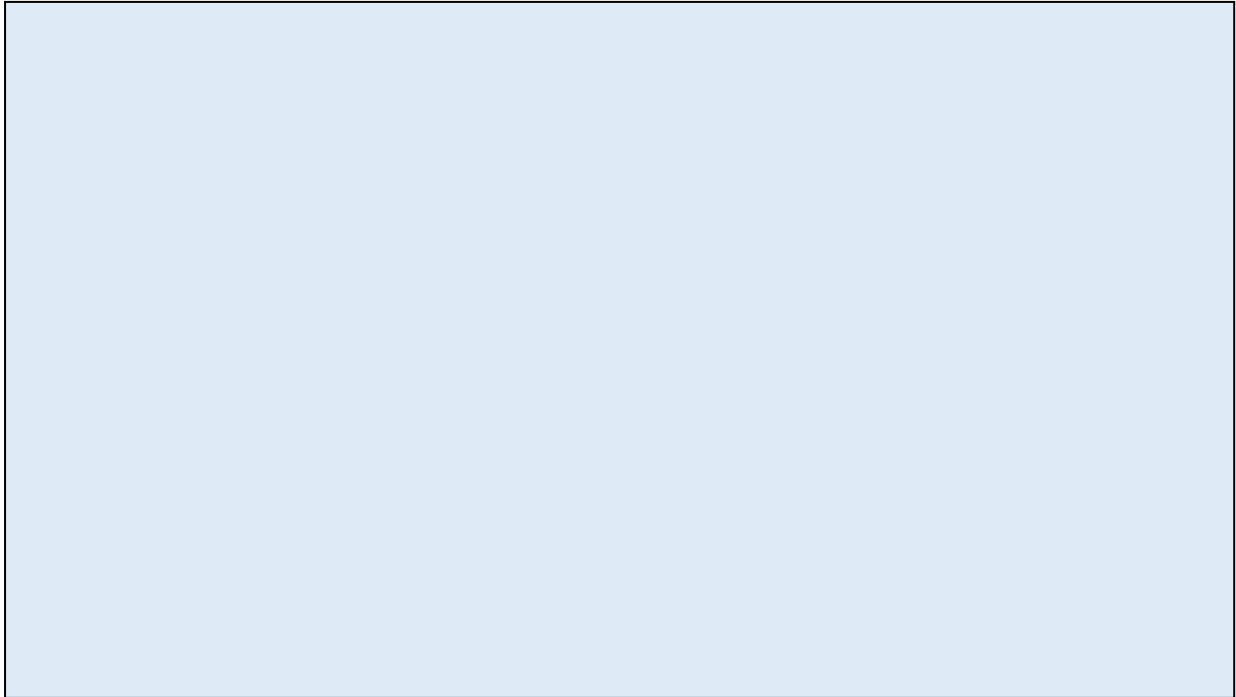
*Romancing Jesus* is all about prayer. 'Prayer is not just going through the motions of a daily ritual' do you agree with this statement? And why?



I would like to suggest that a great prayer time is when you simply *'be'* with Jesus because you enjoy his company. How could your prayer time reflect this?



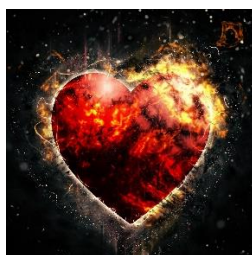
Do you need to prioritise your life once and awhile in order to have a focused time away in prayer? It might mean regularly spending a night or nights in prayer. It could mean spending a whole day or even schedule days at a time away with God. Do you feel God could call you to this? If so, what do you need to do to make it happen?



Why not after completing this chapter go and spend time in prayer just being with Jesus. Quiet your mind, maybe put on a worship song and just *rest* in Jesus and just *be* with him.

## *Chapter Eleven*

### Step 4- Humility and Surrender

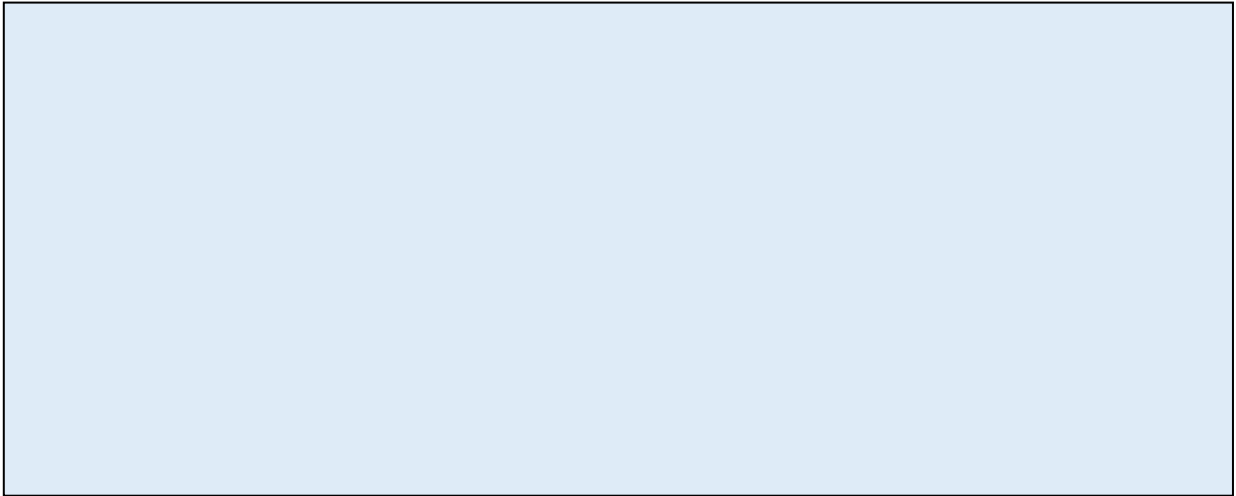


Our fourth practical step is humility. Pride, self, self-focus, arrogance, are all obstacles that will keep you from truly experiencing intimacy with Jesus. Intimacy with Jesus is an on-going lifestyle of complete humility and brokenness before Him.

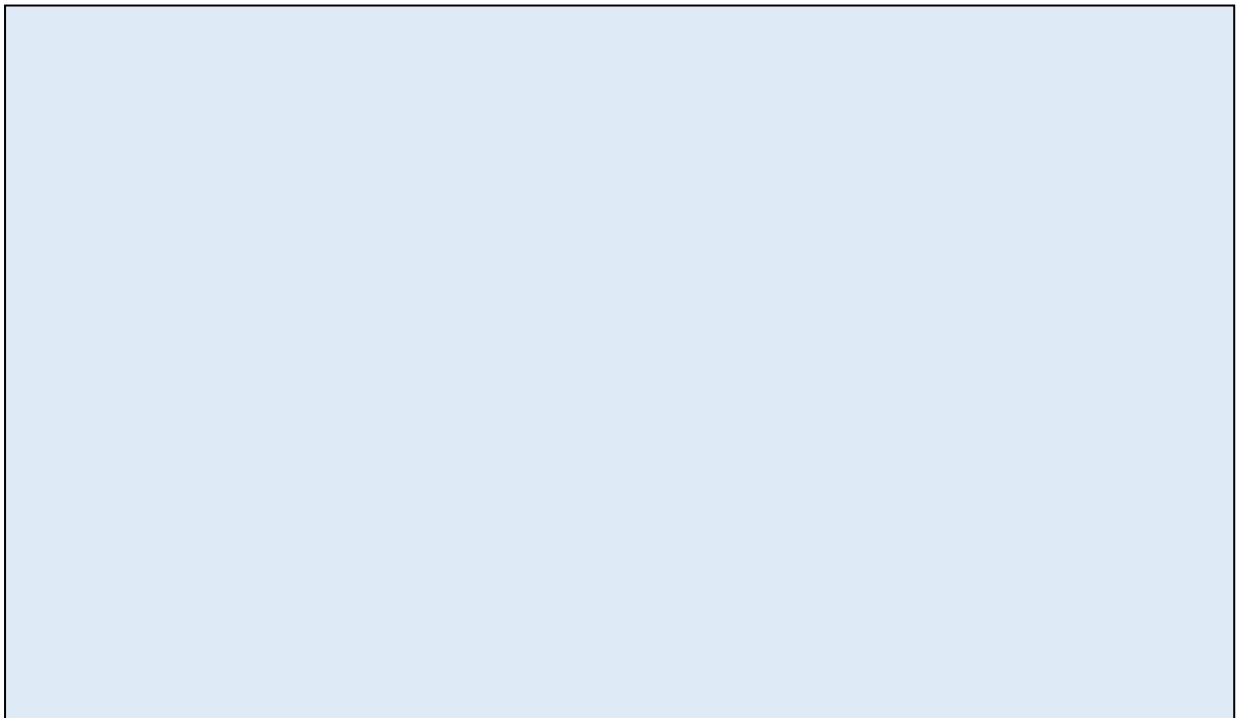
The key to growing in Jesus is humility. It is coming into a place of complete surrender, brokenness and humility to God. Lowering yourself so that God can increase Himself.

How do you view the subject of humility before God?

I am going to ask an interesting question; how humble do you think you are?



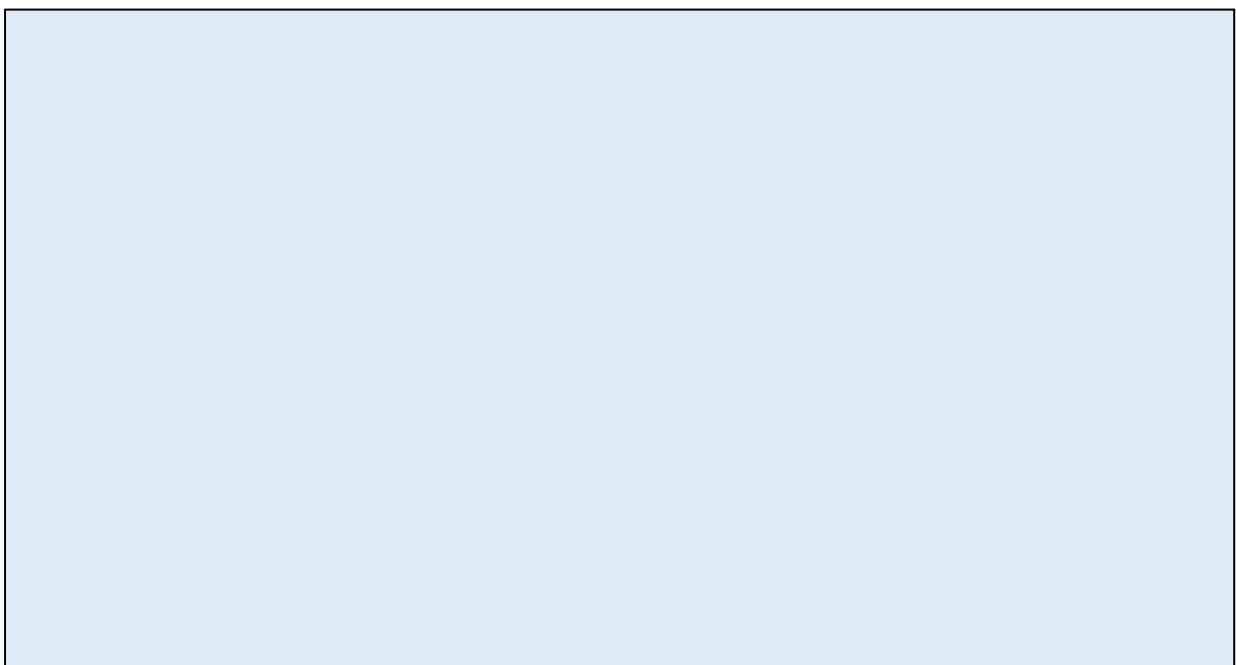
Why can pride, ego, self- importance, thinking you know best can all become like a wall that can block romance with Jesus?



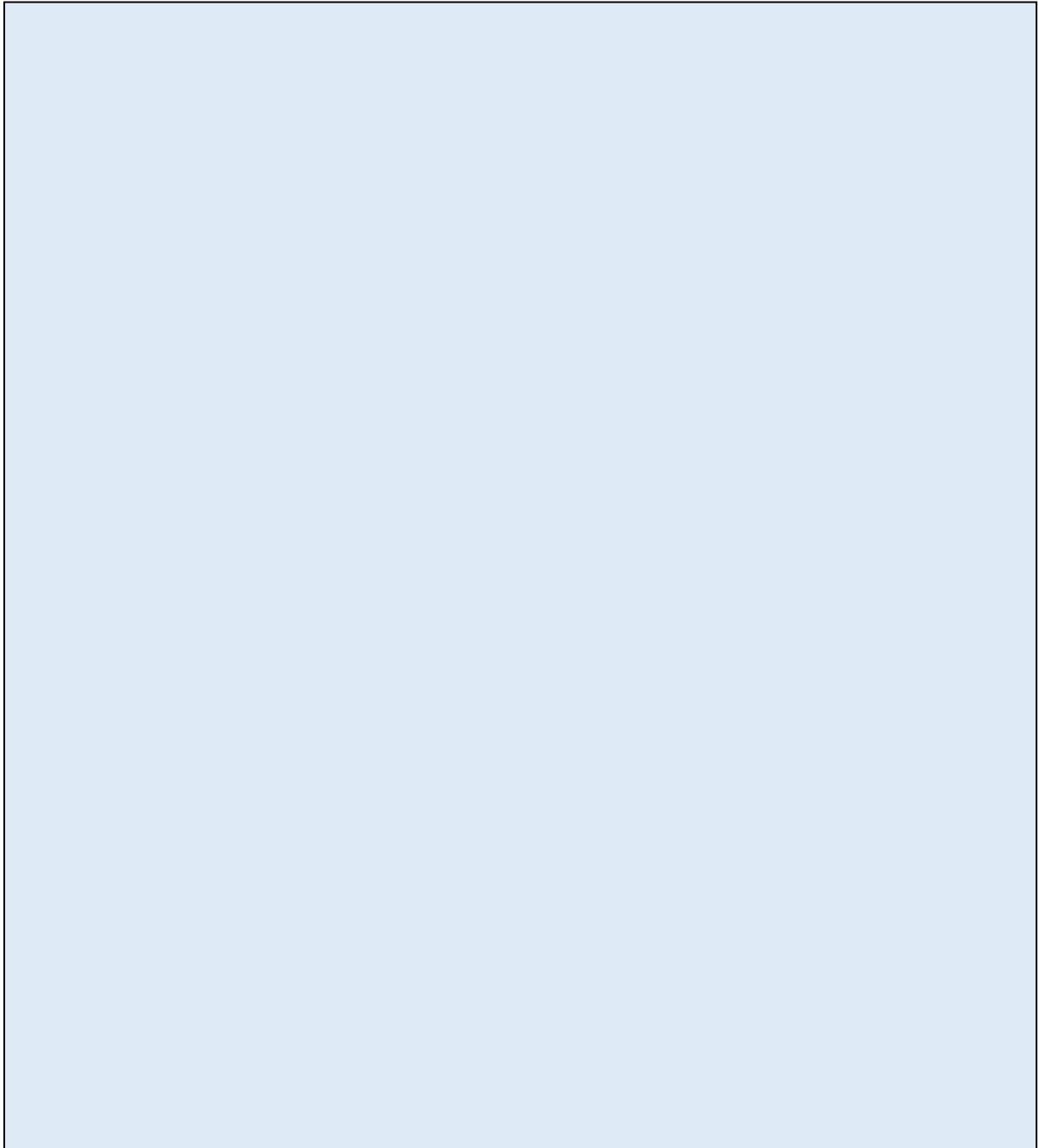
Life can often be seen about success. People are viewed as successful if they have a nice house, nice car, good job, lots of money, maybe a good family and good possessions. This is what the world calls 'success,' but is that what God calls success? The world strives and wishes for the above, but our eyes should be on Christ Jesus. So with this in mind, how do you personally view success?



Based upon your answer, how successful are you?



No matter how old you are or where you have been, what do you want in life? What is your number one goal in life? And where does Jesus fit in terms of that goal?



I am asking some searching questions because I want you to dig into your life and examine yourself. I want you to think about yourself and your relationship with Jesus. Maybe to re-organise and re-prioritise your life to seek Jesus at a deeper level. To have your heart and soul set upon Jesus. The

good thing is, the Holy Spirit comes in to help you and to bring you into deep places of intimacy. So welcome in the Holy Spirit and let Him help.

## Chapter Twelve

### Moses: A Friend of God



There are a number of people in the Bible that had an intimate relationship with God because God pursues a deep relationship with His people.

- **Adam-** God would often come and walk in the cool of the day with Adam out of a place of relationship.

*And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day (Genesis 3.8) K.J.V*

- **Abraham-** Knew God as a friend.

*And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend (James 2.23).*

- **Moses-** Spoke face to face as a man would speak to his friend.

*The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend (Exodus 33.11).*

- **David-** Heart after God.

*God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do' (Acts 13.22).*

- **Solomon-** Who wrote *Song of Solomon*.

*My beloved is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies  
(Song of Solomon 2.26).*

- **Mary-** Welcomed Jesus as a friend.

*Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"*

*"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10.34-42).*

- **John-** The disciple that Jesus loved.

*One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him  
(John 13.23-25).*

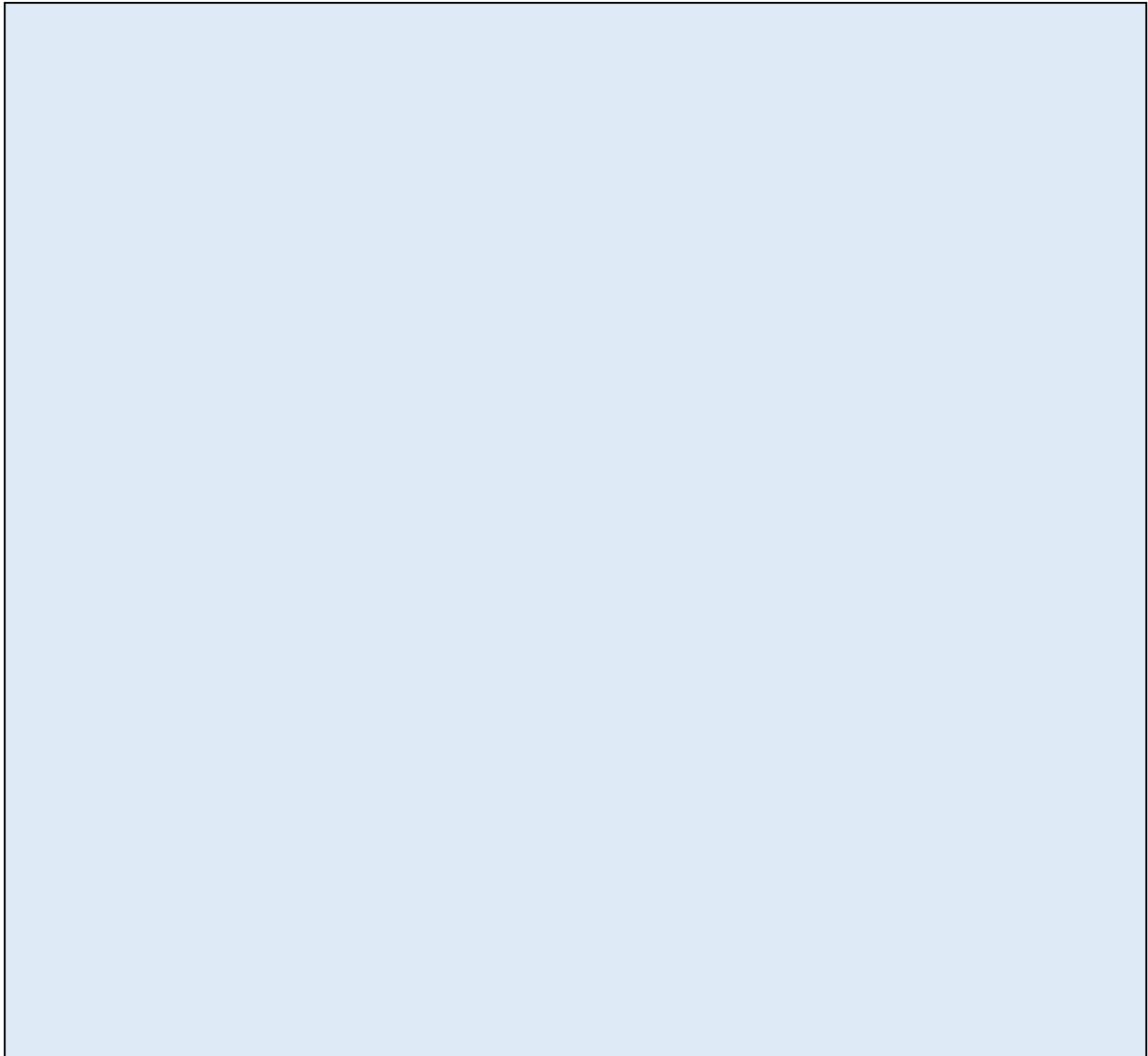
- **You?-** A follower of abandonment love for Jesus.

Do the above verses stir your heart and soul for intimacy with Jesus? Do the above examples of people in Scripture cause you to have the same relationship with the Lord? Do you want to walk in the cool of the day with Jesus, to know him as an intimate friend that will talk with you, to have a heart after His, to call Him your beloved, to sit and tend to His needs and to be called the follower that Jesus loved?

I personally take a lot of inspiration from Moses and especially from the following verse:

*The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend  
(Exodus 33.11).*

How does that verse make you feel? Do you resonate with it? And why do you think you feel this way?

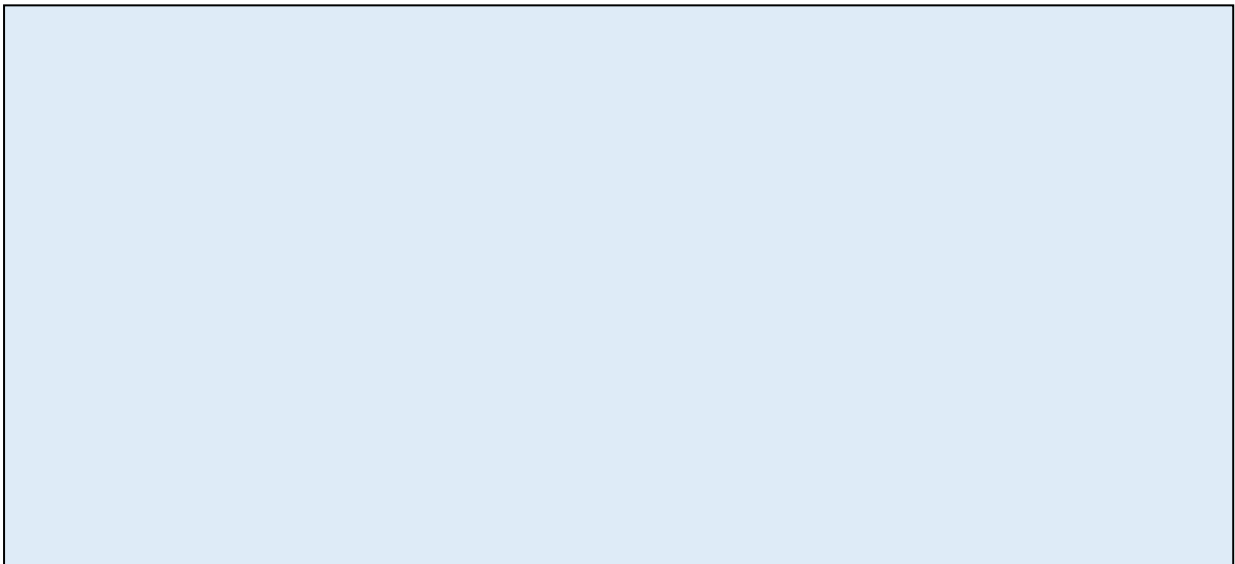


One of my favourite scriptures that has personally defined my life comes from Exodus 33-34. Moses asked God for all His glory to pass him by. Moses friendship with God resulted in God manifesting His glory to Moses.

Would you like to see God manifest His glory before you and in your church?

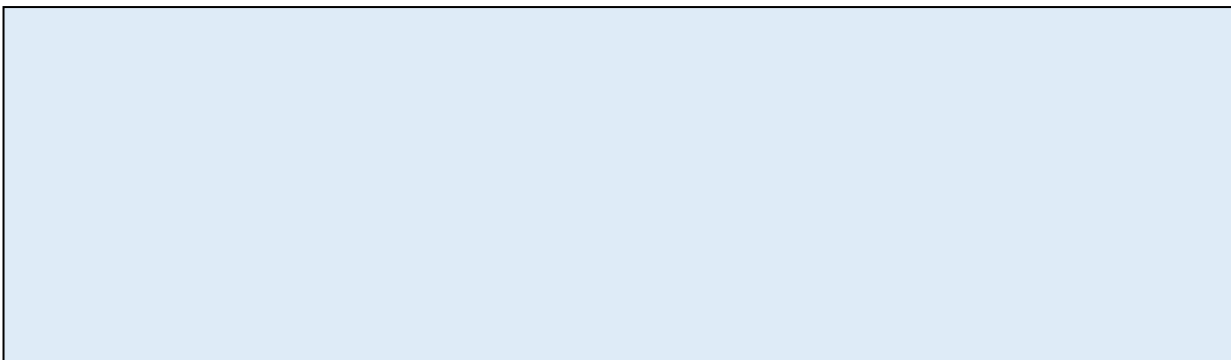


Moses was hungry for God. *How hungry are you for God?*



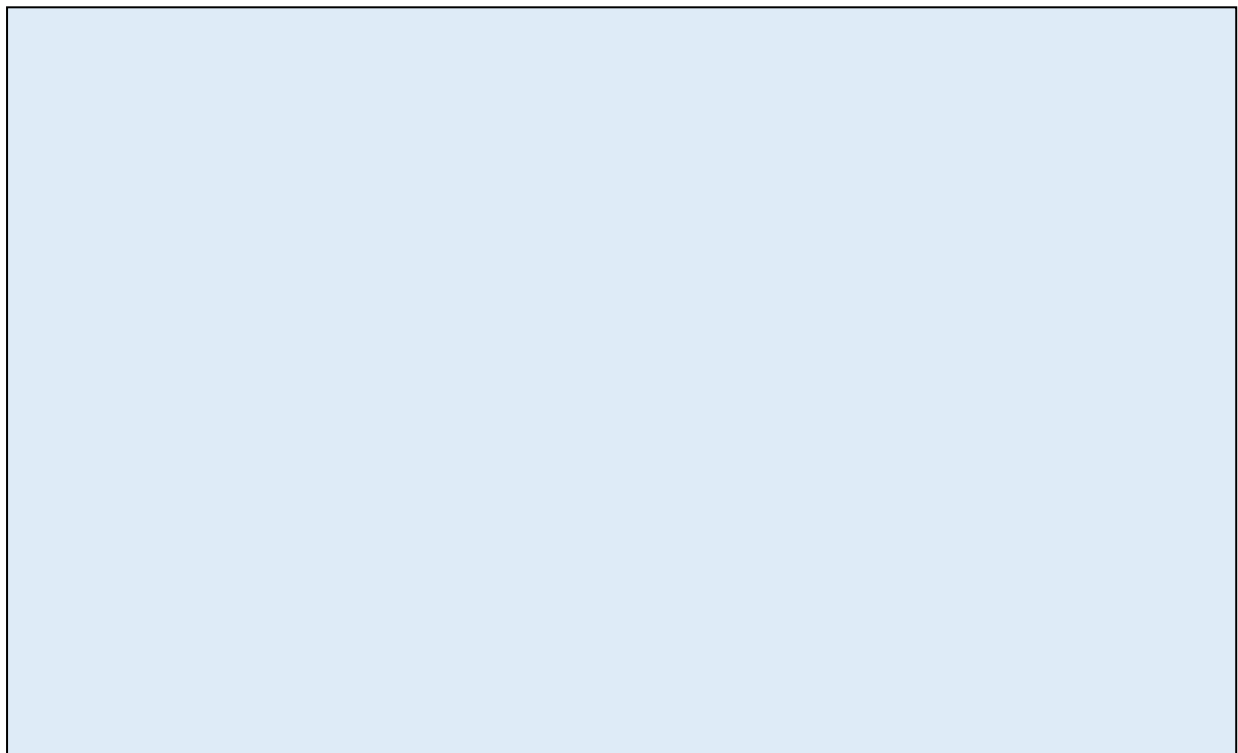
When we read about the life of Moses, we see that Moses sought humility. Moses was not interested in his own power or glory, but only in God's.

In what ways do you seek to seek to build your own power or influence? And in what ways do you seek to build God's glory to those around you?





The final statements about Moses life was that God Himself buried Moses body (Deuteronomy 34.6). What does that tell you about the relationship Moses and God had with each other?



## *Chapter Thirteen*

### My Lover is Mine and I am His



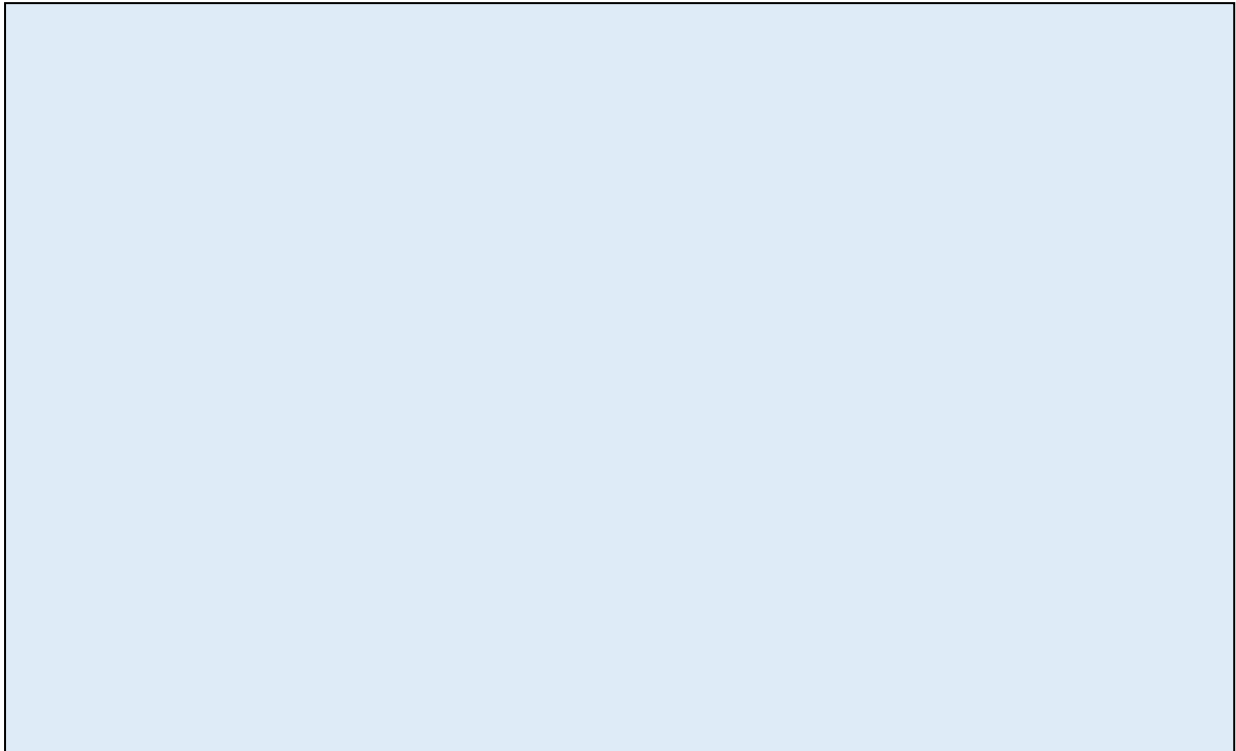
*Do you know it breaks God's heart that we don't seek intimacy with Him? Some seek power and influence over intimacy. Some seek to build a Christian empire over intimacy.*

How do you feel about these two statements?

Some Christian's believe that following after God should not be about emotions, but should be about discipline and Bible head knowledge. There is

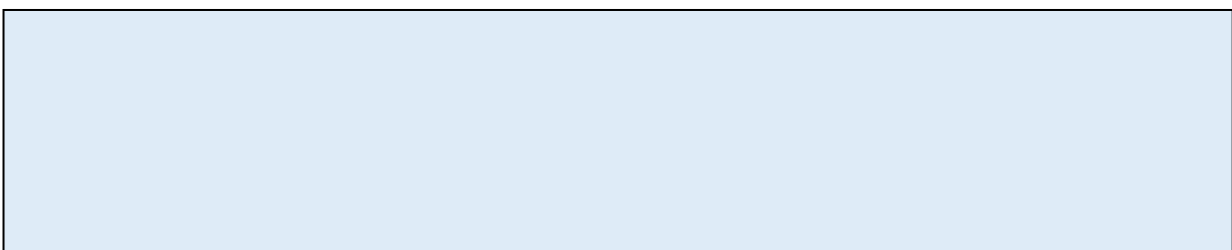
truth that we should not be ruled or controlled by emotions, but the flipside is that God did give us emotions. Those emotions were created to give God glory, to praise His name and to shout for joy at His wonderfulness. When reading through the *Psalms* you read about emotions being offered up to God- *Psalms 98.4* for example.

Do you think emotions can out of control in worship or church settings?



Intimacy with Jesus is experiential and you can enter in and experience His love. Born Again Christianity is about experience; you have experienced salvation. You have experienced the grace, blessings and mercy of God in your life. You have experienced His provision and help.

In what ways have you experienced or in what ways were your emotions stirred by intimacy with Jesus?



Do you think that intimacy with Jesus is hard?

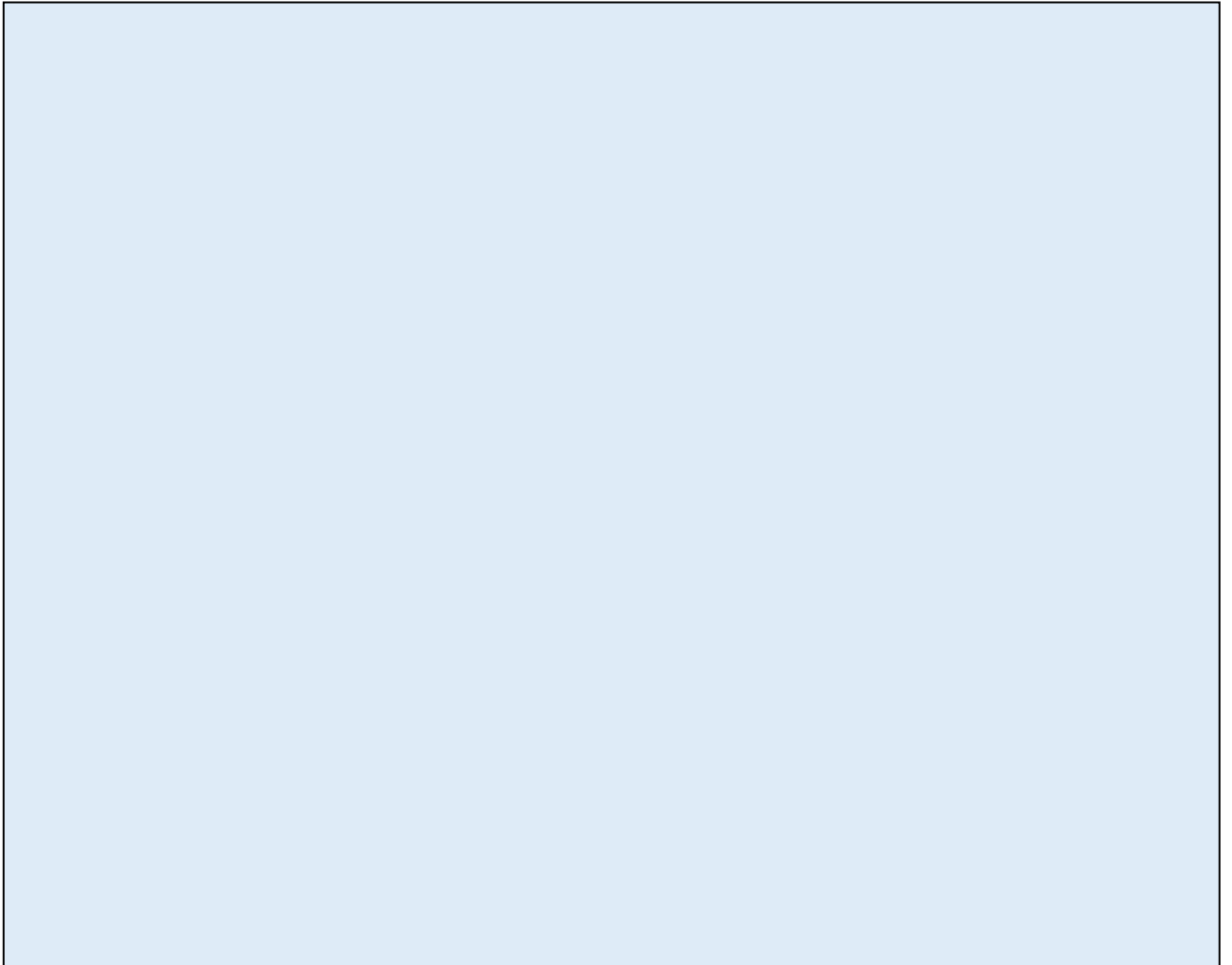
Do you think that you can pursue a greater measure of intimacy with Jesus?

What 4 steps do you think that you need to create in your life to help you in your walk of intimacy with the Lord?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4.

At the beginning of this self-study programme a question was asked; 'how do you interpret intimacy?' Reflecting over your workbook, has your answer changed? and if so/not why?



Also at the beginning of this self-study workbook, you were asked to indicate were you currently felt you were in relation to intimacy with Jesus. Redo this exercise again:

Indicate on the line where do you feel you are in actually *wanting* intimacy with Jesus?

Not interested

Hungry for intimacy

Where do you feel you are on your journey in *seeking* deeper intimacy with Jesus?

No Intimacy

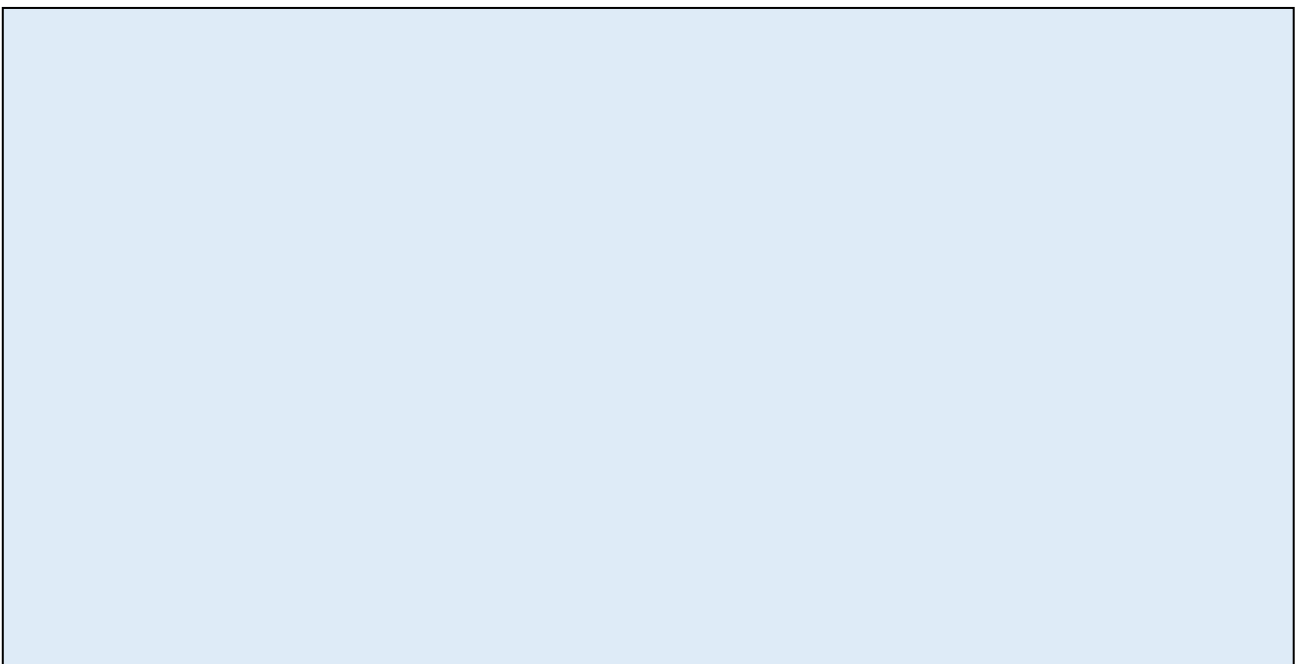
Very Intimate

Where do you feel you are *in* intimacy with Jesus?

No Intimacy

Very Intimate

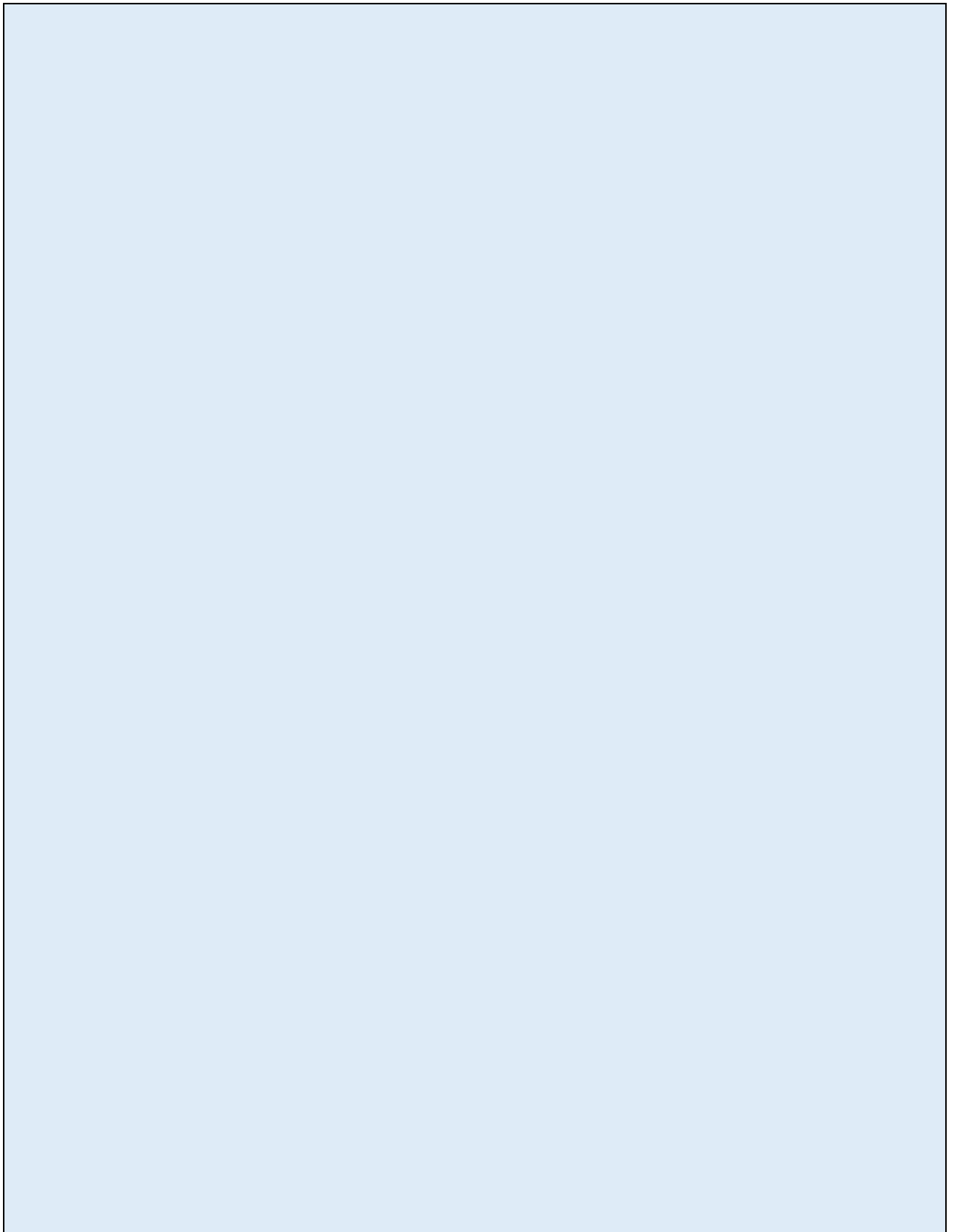
In comparing to the first time you answered this exercise has there been a change in your answers and why?



A large, empty rectangular box with a light blue background and a thin black border, occupying the upper half of the page. It is intended for the user to write their thoughts.

Please write your thoughts regarding intimacy with Jesus and your journey into being close to the Lord.

A smaller, empty rectangular box with a light blue background and a thin black border, located below the text prompt. It is intended for the user to write their thoughts.



Let Jesus draw you into the secret deep, deep places of His heart and to enter into such depths of intimacy with Jesus beyond what you have ever known before, that forever it is written on your heart that '*my lover is mine and I am His.*'

**Prayer:**

*Dear Jesus,*

*I know I don't know how to pray like I should, but I long for intimacy with you. I long to romance you and to be a lover of you. I ask you Lord to increase my desire and hunger for you. I ask that you create love sick-yearnings in my heart for you. I ask that you lead me into the secret chambers of your presence. I ask you Lord, for deeper intimacy. Intimacy before and beyond anything else in my life. I want to love you Jesus and grow in intimacy with you. I ask that you help me and lead me in this journey.*

*Thank you Jesus.*

*I love you Jesus.*

*Amen.*