

Life Notes *Understanding Our Core Values*

with Pastor Stephen

Core Value #2 – Intimacy With God

- We believe God desires an intimate relationship with every Believer. Through consistent prayer, meditation, worship, and Bible study, we can pursue and achieve spiritual intimacy with our Heavenly Father.

What does this Core Value Mean?

- In keeping with Biblical teaching, we participate in an active relationship with God that employs life-style disciplines to help sensitize us to spiritual matters. Romans 8 teaches we are born anew and equipped to function under the direction of the Holy Spirit, not the impulses of our old fleshly natures.
- God uses certain disciplines that theologians often call “means of grace”. Among these are Bible reading, meditation upon scripture, worship, church attendance, and various types of prayer. To the degree that we avail ourselves of these opportunities, we grow in the quality and depth of spiritual intimacy with God.
- The result of these practices enables us to enjoy the inner Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and the resulting growth is due to the process known as Sanctification. Through this work of the Spirit, we are increasingly conformed to the image of Christ, and our behavior progressively reflects the qualities of our Savior.
- When we persistently submit ourselves to seeking God physically, spiritually, mentally, and devotionally, we are said to be “drawing close to God.”
- A word of caution is needed – though we should earnestly seek a life of intimacy with God, we must not fall into the trap of thinking our pursuit of God is the basis for salvation. There is NOTHING, including a strong devotional life that makes us right with God. Our salvation is clearly by grace, through faith, and not of works (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Why is this Core Value important?

- The danger of ignoring this Core Value:
- Without an intentional, devotional pursuit of God’s presence in our lives, we may develop a tendency to do good works in the energy of the flesh instead of the dynamic of the Holy Spirit.
- We will frequently miss out on a life of “spiritual hearing,” including confirmations of the Spirit, fresh revelation from the Scriptures, and a sense of being consciously led by the Spirit.
- The principle we embrace:
- We believe God desires an on-going relationship of intimate fellowship with each of His children. While we recognize the sufficiency of the written Word, we also see in the New Testament an on-going fellowship of The Spirit that is reflected in lives attune to that Heavenly voice. In other words, with Christians in the Book of Acts, we believe such expressions as “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us,” and “The Spirit said unto him...” to be expressions of the normal Christian life.
- We also remember a great principle encouraging us to enjoy a consistent devotional life: “Some things happen when I pray that do not happen when I do not pray. Therefore, if I do not pray, then something in my life or the life of someone I love goes undone, and the purposes and plan of God is hindered to some extent.” – Dick Eastman

How can I make this Core Value part of my life?

- By reading the Scriptures consistently and devotionally. (2 Timothy 3:14-17; Romans 12:1, 2)
- By setting aside time daily to individually practice the disciplines of worship, prayer, and the reading of Scripture. The key to intimacy with God is summed up in the idea of consistency.

The result of believing this Core Value:

- Paul explains that the victorious Christian Life is achieved, at least in part, by conscious, obedient embracing of God’s work, vital worship, and prayer, which results in a renewed mind and transformed life! (Romans 12:1, 2)