

How To Cultivate An Intimate Relationship With The Holy Spirit

The use of the word “*intimate*” in the title may cause some to be offended. But with a meditative study of God’s Word as a whole the relationship God wants to have with His children is an intimate one, far from merely a distant friendship.

Revelation 19:7-8 [NIV] “*Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.*” (*Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.*)”

The final relationship between the Church composed of saints [believers] and Jesus Christ is that of a marriage; the most intimate relationship possible.

Christ is in a pre-marriage relationship with us now as we accept the Holy Spirit into our lives.

This is the close intimate relationship we are to cultivate with the Holy Spirit.

Some Christians will not be ready for what is going to be discussed in this study.

Upon receiving the Good News of what Jesus Christ has done for us all on the cross some people accept this with joy as they look on it as a good value insurance policy against being brought into judgement.

Such people are willing to pay whatever they feel are the premiums such as living a “*good*” life and supporting local church, but they are still viewing Christianity from a worldly perspective.

Christianity is NOT an insurance policy against eternal death; Christianity is a relationship, a relationship with our Creator God.

How then do we develop this relationship?

Always remember that the Holy Spirit is a person

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead, He is Himself God.

Being a person He can be cultivated, He can be wooed and cultivated the same way we develop a friendship with any other human being.

People can “*grow on us*” as a result of spending time with them and our getting to know how they react to different situations in life.

The Holy Spirit will always act in a way that will bring glory to Jesus Christ

John 16:13-16 [NIV] “*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”*”

The Holy Spirit will always act in the exact same way as Jesus Christ and His Father. We cannot cultivate a relationship with the Holy Spirit unless our attitude to life is to bring glory and honour to Jesus Christ and the Father.

Honouring Jesus Christ is to follow Him as our Shepherd, and obey all He says fully.

As we honour Jesus Christ in this way the Holy Spirit of God will be glad to be in us. He is relaxed in our company and communes intimately with us and imparts Himself in us.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

This is what the Holy Spirit will impart to us as He lives in us.

To glorify Jesus Christ is the job of the Church, His future bride.

It is by harmony with the Holy Spirit that we will be able to glorify Jesus Christ in our lives.

Amos 3:3 [NIV] *“Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?”*

We live with the Holy Spirit and are led by the Holy Spirit when we agreed with Him and also live to glorify Jesus Christ.

To walk with the Holy Spirit we have to walk in righteousness

Let us not make the mistake of thinking that we can be spiritual [have Holy Spirit in us] and **not** be good.

There are places, situation and experiences where the Holy Spirit will not go.

We only walk with the Holy Spirit when we are doing the same things as the Holy Spirit is doing.

John 16:8 [Message Bible] *“When He [the Holy Spirit] comes, **He will expose the error of this godless world’s view of sin, righteousness, and judgement.** He will show them that their refusal to believe in Me [Jesus Christ] is their basic sin. That righteousness comes from above, where I am with the Father, out of their sight and control. That judgement takes place as the ruler of this godless world [Satan] is brought to trial and convicted.”*

Here are the three major areas in which the Holy Spirit is working, are we?

We do this by our example in our relationships with other human beings and always being ready to speak of the hope we have in the future as a result of what Jesus Christ has done for all humanity.

1 Peter 3:15 [NIV] *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”*

Make our thoughts a clean sanctuary

Philippians 4:8 [NIV] *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.”*

Our thoughts are within the human spirit [Job 32:8] that dwells in us, they are spiritual in nature and it is through the human spirit in us that the Holy Spirit communicates, [Proverbs 20:27].

Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding,”* [1 Corinthians 2:11].

Here is where the Holy Spirit wishes to dwell.

1 Corinthians 3:16 [NIV] *“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”*

Our thoughts are what decides the mood and climate of our heart, [the driving force of our life].

God considers our thoughts as part of us, in fact a major part of who and what we are.

Hebrews 10:22 [NIV] *“let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”*

It is the blood of Jesus Christ [“sprinkled” – indicates the blood sacrifice of Christ] that will cleanse our conscience in the first place but we must continue to strive to keep our thoughts pure so that we are a fit place for the Holy Spirit to dwell. When we allow wrong thoughts to remain in our spirit we have to confess, repent and seek a renewed cleansing by the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ.

Seek to know the Holy Spirit through the Word of God

The Holy Christian Bible and the life of Jesus Christ who is the Word of God Personified.

It was the Holy Spirit who wrote the Christian Bible by inspiring every writer, so He is the best teacher we can ever have to come to know our Creator God.

2 Timothy 3:16 [NIV] *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,”*

As we meditate on God’s Word we come to know the author of that Word, the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 1:1-2 [NIV] *“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.”*

Meditation on God’s Word is the delight of the person who is seeking to know God.

Cultivate the art of recognising the presence of the Holy Spirit at all times

When we wake in the morning, avoid “turning on the world”, by watching the TV or burying your head in the daily newspaper. The moment we awake thank God for the blessing of a new day and dedicate it to Him.

If we have to read something at the breakfast table, make it one of the Psalms or a chapter of Proverbs.

Remember cultivating the Holy Spirit is a job, a lifetime job.

It is something we do **not** just something we ask God for.

Once we start to cultivate the Holy Spirit's acquaintance and seek His constant active presence, all other experiences in life will become mere shadows.

Real life, eternal life is found only in the presence of the Holy Spirit our Creator God.