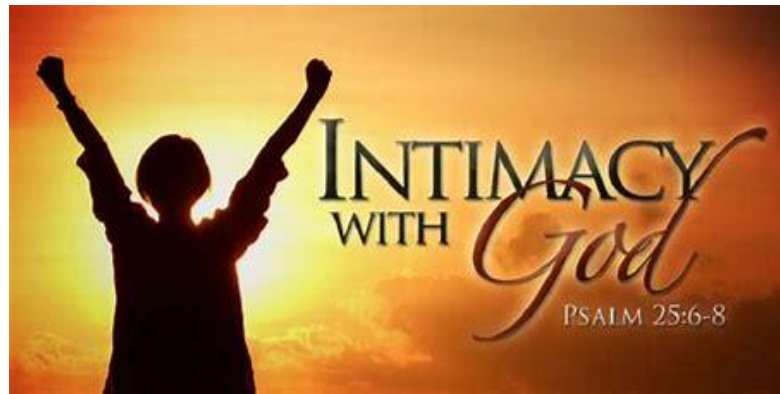


CHURCH OF HOPE 17 WEEK EVANGELISM AND MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE



STUDY GUIDE: WEEK FIVE (POWERPOINTS)

**TOPIC FIVE: THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING INTIMACY
WITH THE LORD AND GOD'S HEART FOR THE LOST**

INTRODUCTION TO WEEK FIVE:



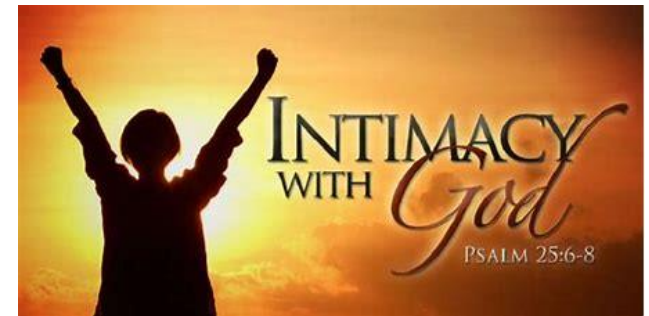
For this week's study we will be focusing on the following two areas;

- 1) The importance of maintaining an intimate walk with the Lord and
 - 2) God's heart to reach lost souls.
- These two areas of study go hand in hand because having an intimate walk with the Lord is the key to having God's heart for the lost.
 - We are now living in a time when there are multitudes in the valley of decision (Joel 3:14) that need to turn to Christ.

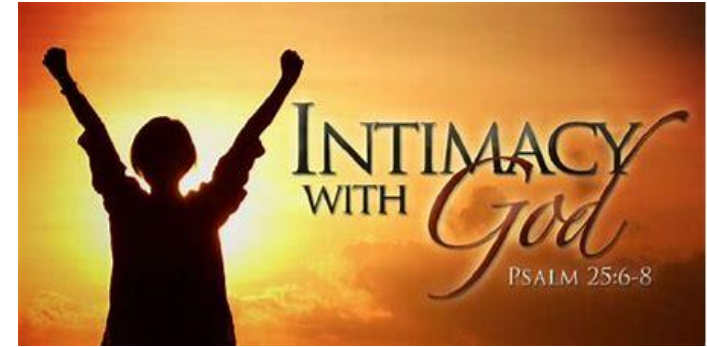
In the book of Joel we read,

“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.” (Joel 3:14)

- How we need revival in our own lives and churches so that we can see those living in our cities and nations turning to Christ on mass!



- **We will begin by looking at a passage of Scripture in 2 Chronicles.**



The LORD said to King Solomon,

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” **(2 Chronicles 7:14)**

- Given the lawless and perilous times that we are now living in, **(2 Timothy 3:1-5)** how important it is that we are intimate in our walk with the Lord and that we delight in spending time in His presence.



Jesus Himself said in relation to those times just prior to His return, “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:10-13)

Jesus also said in the Parable of the Persistent Widow,

“Hear what the unjust judge said, “And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8)

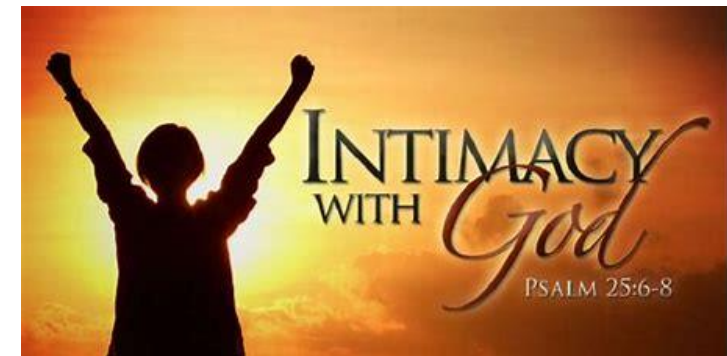
- Our intimacy with the Lord and hunger for the Word (bible meditation) is a key to seeing revival in our hearts.

(Psalm 119:36-40)



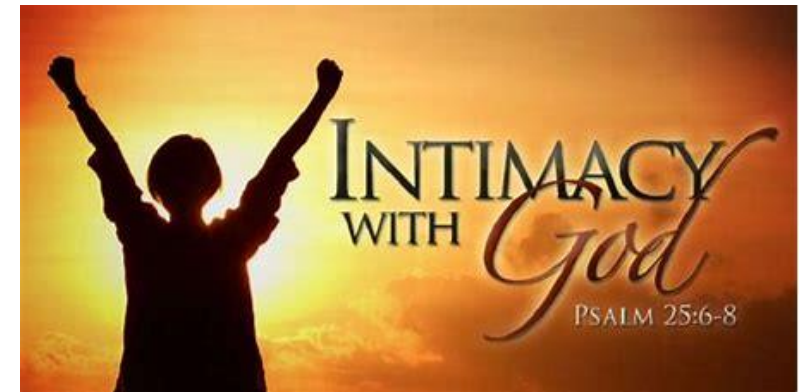
The Psalmist wrote,

“Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You ... Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness.”
(Psalm 119:36-38, 40)



King David in a prayer of repentance wrote,

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.” **(Psalm 51:10-12)**



- In the midst of all our church ministry, programs and activities, we must never lose our passion to spend time with the Lord and to know Him intimately.

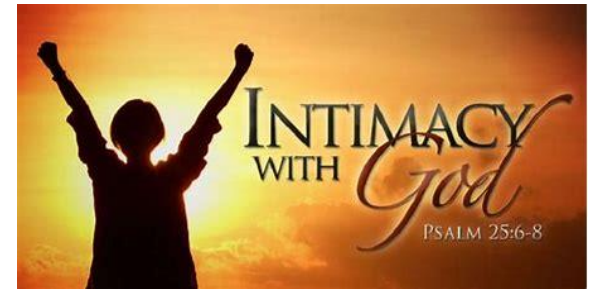


- We only get to know anyone by spending time with them.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” **(Ephesians 3:17-19)**

- Jesus rebuked the church at Ephesus, though it was full of good works and could not bear those who were evil, because they had left their first love for Him. **(Revelation 2:1-4)**

Jesus said to this church “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place- unless you repent.” **(Revelation 2:5)**

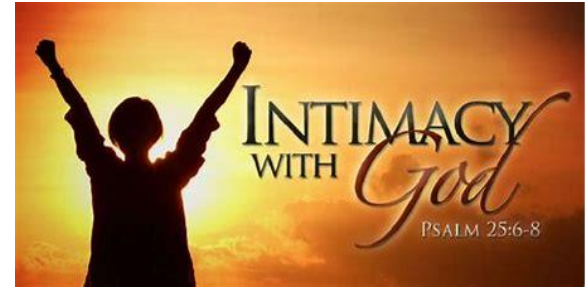


- A congregation may continue to exist without being a light in the darkness.



- How as a church we need to seek God's presence in all of our meetings, that we are truly the salt of the earth and the light of the world. **(Matthew 5:13-16)**
- Churches that are filled with worshipping believers who passionately love the Lord will make a great impact in their communities for Christ.

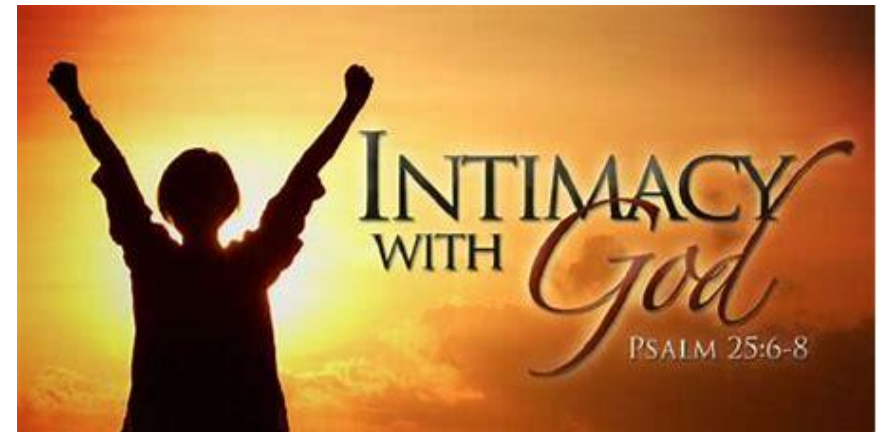
- So as leaders we need to lead by example and have a great passion to know Christ in an intimate way ourselves.
- We need to be like the Apostle Paul who was a lover of God and not a user of God.



The Apostle wrote,

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” **(Philippians 3:7-8)**

- We will now look at a few things to consider in relation to the importance of maintaining an ONGOING intimate relationship with the Lord before finishing with some brief thoughts on God's heart for the lost as part of our Evangelism teachings.



1) INTIMACY WITH THE LORD HELPS US TO BE NOT AFFECTED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD



- As we turn our eyes upon Jesus the things of this world grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and Grace
- (Psalm 37:4) (Colossians 3:1-4) (Matthew 6:19-21 – Especially verse 21) (James 4:1-10) (1 John 2:15-17)

King David wrote,

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)



Jesus Himself said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

2) The importance of **MAKING** time to spend with the Lord (Psalm 63:1-5) (Psalm 37:7) (Jude 21) (Psalm 27:8)

King David, the only man referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart wrote,

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.”
(Psalm 63:1-3)



3) The importance of having a place where you can meet with God alone. (Matthew 6:6)



- Revelation comes in isolation as you seek the face of God. (Jeremiah 23:18 & 22)
- The enemy will continually try and bring distractions into our life to stop us from being still before the Lord. (Psalm 46:10)

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?” (Jeremiah 23:18)



4) The importance of INVOLVING the LORD in all that we do in life (Proverbs 3:5-6) (Psalm 37:3-5)

- **God's ways are far Higher than our ways.** (Isaiah 55:8-9) (Jeremiah 33:3) (Ephesians 3:20)



In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” **(Isaiah 55:8-9)**

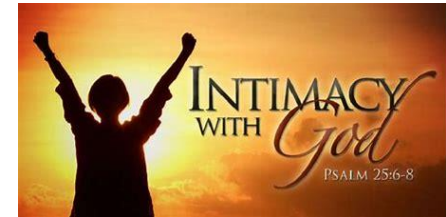
- **God’s plans for our life and churches unfold progressively over time. (Psalm 37:23)**



King David wrote,

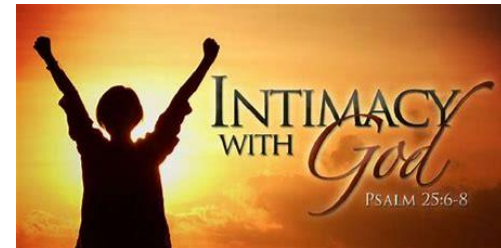
**“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.”
(Psalm 37:23-24)**

- Staying close to the Lord helps us to stay on the narrow path that God has planned for our life, the “... good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10) and to remain in the centre of His will for our life and churches.



The Apostle Paul wrote, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”
(Ephesians 5:15-17)

- Being **CONTINUALLY** in the centre of God's will for our life is the key to seeing much fruit in our life. (John 15:16)
- We continually need God's wisdom and strategies for our lives and churches



Jesus Himself said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” (John 15:16)

5) Our Greatest priority needs to be Jesus ministering to us. (Luke 10:38-42)



- Spending time in the Word of God and in God's presence and being continually guided by the Holy Spirit helps us to remain strong and focussed in our walk with the Lord.

Jesus Himself said, “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **(John 16:13)**

**In the book of Isaiah we read, “He gives power to the weak,
And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even
the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall
utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their
strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They
shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”
(Isaiah 40:29-31)**



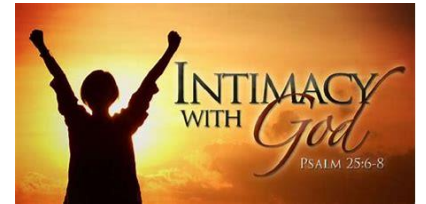
**6) Spending time in God's presence helps us to be more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and to knowing and heeding the voice of God, which is a key to experiencing God's blessings in our life.
(Deuteronomy 28:2-8)**



- Being sensitive to the promptings and guidance of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26) helps us to make good choices in line with God's will for our life and to avoid much unnecessary pain.

- We see the consequences of disregarding the cautioning of the Holy Spirit in Acts Chapter 27 where Paul perceived that the ship would come to disaster if they were to sail.

(Acts 27:10)



- This did indeed happen after they chose to set sail with the ship being shipwrecked off the island of Malta. (Acts 27:41)
- When we look at the account of this event in Acts Chapter 27 we see that the majority can at times be wrong (Acts 27:12) and even circumstances may appear right to pursue a course of action, (Acts 27:13) but whenever we go against the cautioning of the Holy Spirit there will be repercussions.

7) As leaders our love for and dependence on the LORD is crucial. We are in a very real Spiritual Contest.

(John 10:10) (2 Timothy 3:12) (1 Peter 5:8-9) (John 16:33)

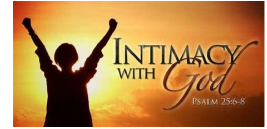


The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” **(2 Timothy 3:12)**

- Sometimes we may have to stand alone in times of trials, when pioneering new things or when experiencing persecution for our faith.

- The enemy will always try to smite the shepherd to scatter the sheep.



- Particularly as leaders we need to **“be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” (Ephesians 6:10)**
- When the people were speaking of stoning David at Ziklag after the Amalekites had invaded and carried away all of their family members, David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. (1 Samuel 30:6)
- After overcoming this trial, David was shortly after appointed King of Judah (2 Samuel 2:4) before he went on to become King over all of Israel (2 Samuel 5:1-3)

8) We must not allow pride, wrong and critical attitudes or unforgiveness to affect our intimacy with the Lord.

- We must be quick to deal with wrong attitudes and offences. (1 John 1:9) (Mark 11:25) (James 4:6)



Jesus Himself said, “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”
(Mark 11:25)

9) Intimacy with the LORD is also a key to:



- i. God's perfect love flowing through our lives to minister to others (Romans 5:5) (2 Timothy 1:7) (1 John 4:18)

- ii. Maintaining our joy. (Psalm 16:11) The joy of the LORD is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10)

- iii. Maintaining God's peace in our hearts and lives
(Isaiah 26:3-4) (Philippians 4:6-7)

In the book of Isaiah we read,

**“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.”
(Isaiah 26:3-4)**



**iv. Avoiding burnout as we continually minister in the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:3-5)
(1 Peter 4:11)**

v. Preaching a word in season to those that we minister to (Proverbs 15:23),

vi. Believing for revival (Luke 1:37)



vii. To having a boldness in sharing our faith with others (Acts 4:13) and

viii. Keeping a right heart (Proverbs 4:23)

In the book of Acts we read,

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”
(Acts 4:13)

In the book of Daniel we read, “...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”
(Daniel 11:32)

AND



10) WORSHIP IS A KEY TO HAVING INTIMACY WITH GOD.

- God is raising up worshippers in this hour who have a great desire to worship Him in spirit and truth. (*John 4:23-24*)
- Heart Felt Worship is a key to seeing revival in our churches and cities and nations. (*Psalm 22:3*)
- *God inhabits the praises of His people*



King David wrote, “But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.” (Psalm 22:3)

- Worship connects our heart with God's heart of compassion and helps to create an atmosphere in our meetings in which God can move.



- Worship helps to open up people's hearts to receive the gospel message.
- WORSHIP HELPS TO GIVE US GOD'S HEART FOR LOST SOULS AND A PASSION TO SEE PEOPLE COMING TO CHRIST

- **WE WILL NOW CONCLUDE THIS STUDY WITH JUST A FEW THOUGHTS ON GOD’S GREAT LOVE FOR THE LOST**



Jesus Himself said,

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” **(John 3:16)**



- **Their needs to be an urgency to evangelise**
- **The value of every soul to God can be clearly seen in the Parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:4-7)**

Jesus also said, “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (John 4:35)



- Evangelism is more caught than taught.
- Church leaders need to seek God's heart for the lost
- When we look at the gospel of Matthew we see Jesus' great love and compassion for the lost

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” **(Matthew 9:35-36)**

- The role of the five fold ministry is to equip the saints for the work of ministry. **(Ephesians 4:11-12)**



- The importance of equipping and encouraging all Christians to become soul winners: **THE HARVEST IS RIPE NOW (John 4:35)**
- If ever there is a time to break open our lives for the gospel's sake now is the time. He who wins souls is wise
- **We will finish with the words of the Apostle Paul, “... I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”** Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.” **(1 Corinthians 9:22-23)**