

Journey to intimacy

Intro. God wants an intimate relationship with you!

If we go right back to start of Bible we see God created a being who could know Him intimately - in His image.

Journey. A journey I've been discovering over the past few years.

Gen 6:5-10

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. Noah and the Flood 9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. **Noah walked with God.** 10 And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Recap:

- He habitually walked in close fellowship with God.
- He walked in agreement with God
- He talked with God
- He trusted God

Noah was righteous.

Noah was a man who lived in **right-standing** before God. **What does this mean?** What does it mean to be a righteous person? Initially it means that **we are right in God's sight, justified -** **accepted by God, having forgiveness from God** **and being in right relationship with him** . This is all because we have received His grace and been freely justified by what Jesus accomplished for us.

In right relationship with - and consequently affecting his life so he **lived right in the sight of God**. **Walking with God** involves our daily life conforming to God! If we are going to walk together in agreement as we heard last time then our lives will need to change to conform more and more to the likeness of Christ, to be more like Him in our thinking, our decision making and our doing.

1 Jn 2:29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who **practices** righteousness has been born of him.

Blameless

Blameless - if you threw mud at him it wouldn't stick! Notice how Noah is described - **Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation .**

Generation = the people alive at the same time as him. How did the rest of the world live?

Ge 6:5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Ge 6:11-13 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence.

12And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them.

In the midst of all of that Noah walked with God!

Noah was righteous! Noah was blameless!

Php 2:14-15 Do **all things** without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Do you want to shine for Jesus? Be a good testimony? Live a blameless life? One way is to do all things without grumbling or complaining!

Feared God Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. We read here that another hallmark of Noah's walk with God was reverent fear. **Fear + intimacy??? Yes!!**

Noah had a reverence for the Holy. He enjoyed a deep & meaningful fellowship with God, was conversant with Him and enjoyed all the other blessings of what walking with God speaks of but he also feared God.

Our God is an awesome God!

He is Creator, we are created.

He is infinite, we are finite

He is Holy, we are sinners.

Power cable

A hallmark of the person who walks with God & who fears God is that they put into practice what God is doing in them.

Php 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

work out your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling (self-distrust, with serious caution, tenderness of conscience, watchfulness against temptation, timidly shrinking from whatever might offend God and discredit the name of Christ). AMP

Joseph & Potiphar's wife - expand.

Gen 39:9 How then can I do this great

wickedness and sin against God?

Such a person will walk with God and experience

deepening intimacy with Him - **Ps 25:14** **The**

secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him,

And He will show them His covenant.

The secret of the LORD is with them that?

What does this mean? The secret of the LORD?

= to take into one's confidence, friendship -

The secret [of the sweet, satisfying

companionship] of the Lord have they who

fear (revere and worship) Him, and He will

show them His covenant and reveal to them

its [deep, inner] meaning. AMP

Trusting God's Providence

Noah trusted in God's providence and ways.

Just imagine - God telling you He is going to

wipe out the world! All life apart from your

family and breeding groups all the different

kinds of animals.

How would most folk today react? Unfair!

Unjust! Genocide!

Our own reaction in our own hearts?

When He strips from us?

What did Noah do? in reverent fear he constructed an ark.

Unquestioning obedience to God and his right to do as He pleases with this earth! No grumbling, no complaining - just trust that the God of all the earth would do right.

He brought his life into agreement with God - even if it wasn't palatable to Noah's own preference.

Life will throw all kinds of things at us - but we have ensure we never become embittered towards God.

Life may be good or its may be hard.

Whatever God's providence brings we must learn to walk with Him in intimacy, agreement and to talk with Him.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense....

Samuel Rutherford - in his sweet Lord Jesus

Conclusion

Walking with God as we learnt last time involves us having a depth of relationship & intimacy with Jesus that we never could dream of.

Getting along with the Creator of the Universe!

But it is also character forming & practical.

The person who fears God will:

- Live the right way.
- Be blameless
- Fear God
- Trust in Him no matter what may be happening around him.

The fruit is that God will further take us into His intimacy & confidence & be our all-satisfying treasure.