

PURSUING INTIMACY WITH GOD

WITH REV DANIEL LIM



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

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With a passion for the gospel of the kingdom of God and the glory of Jesus Christ, Daniel teaches at conferences, churches, universities, and seminaries across the nations.

Daniel and his wife, Levi, live in Kansas City with their son, Samuel.

SESSION 1: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART (PSALM 27:4; JOHN 17:24)

22 AND WHEN HE HAD REMOVED HIM, HE RAISED UP FOR THEM DAVID AS KING, TO WHOM ALSO HE GAVE TESTIMONY AND SAID, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID THE SON OF JESSE, A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL DO ALL MY WILL.'
ACTS 13:22 NKJV

I. FATHER, I DESIRE (JOHN 17:24)

24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." John 17:24-26 NKJV

- A. Jesus revealed His desire to be with us in His love.
- B. Jesus desires us to know Him through beholding His beauty and keeping His word
- C. Jesus loves us with the same love that the Father loves Him.
- D. Our loves grow through knowing and relating anchored in the revelation of who Christ is and His glorious word and works.

II. ONE THING I HAVE DESIRED OF THE LORD

One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. Psalm 27:4 NKJV

- A. David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, expressed His one desire to be in the house of the Lord all the days of His life to behold of the beauty of the Lord. David was not fixated in a sacred place but he was fixated by a person. He had a glimpse of the glory of God and that became his singular devotion.

- B. David emphasized seeking the Lord all the days of his life. His devotion was reflected in his stewardship of time, resources, relationship and strength.
- C. David's desire was to dwell with the Lord. The presence of Lord consumed David.

III. THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

John 17:3-5 NKJV

- A. Eternal life is not merely about longevity of life.
- B. Eternal life is about eternal relationship, ever growing in the knowledge of Christ and His glory.
- C. Why did He design eternal life? It was there since He made mankind.

SESSION 2: THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE (JOHN 17:3) – UNDERSTANDING GOD’S HEART FOR US

3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:3-5 NKJV

- I. Mystery of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- II. The Covenant of love between Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:22-23)
- III. God prepared eternal Bride for His son (Matthew 22:2)
- IV. The Jewish wedding ritual and the understanding of the New Covenant in Christ’s blood (John 14-17; Matthew 22, 24-25; 1 Thessalonians 4-5; Revelation 19-21)
- V. Marriage of the Lamb and eternal dwelling with God (Revelation 19-21)
- VI. The vision of the new Jerusalem — eternal glory (John 17:5, 21-22; Revelation 21)
- VII. Eternal dwelling (tabernacle of God in men and with men) — Eternal knowing (John 17:24)
- VIII. 1st Commandment in the first place.
- IX. Goodness and Severity of God (Romans 11:22; Isaiah 66:1-2)
- X. Know God, know self, know His Works (John 14; Isaiah 6)
- XI. Apostolic Prayers for the church in Ephesus (Ephesians 1:17-19; Revelation 2:1-7)

SESSION 3: EQUIPPING FOR MINISTRY TEAMS

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:3-8 NKJV

Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10 NKJV

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. 1 Corinthians 14:1-3 NKJV

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:16 NKJV

14 And Elisha said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you. 15 But now bring me a musician." Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him. 2 Kings 3:14-16 NKJV

- I. Ministry unto the Lord and ministry unto others (Matt. 22:37-39; Acts 13:1-4)
- II. Testimony of Jesus, the spirit of prophecy — the knowledge of the glory of God (Revelation 19:10; Habakkuk 2:14)
- III. Word of God dwell richly in your heart (Colossians 3:16)
- IV. Meditation on God's word — meditation chart (Psalm 1)
- V. Prophetic Etiquette (Revelation, Interpretation, Application) (1 Corinthians 13:9)
- VI. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Faith beyond feelings) — (Hebrews 11:6)
- VII. Team ministry (Luke 10:1; Acts 10; Acts 13) and sometimes alone (Philip in Acts 8)

SESSION 4: VISION FOR MATURITY IN CHRIST – 3-FOLD CALLING AND 7 LONGINGS OF THE HUMAN HEART

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Romans 8:29-30 NKJV

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

- I. Abiding in Christ and bearing more fruits (John 15:1-10)
 - a. The nature of fruits

- II. Vision of fullness and maturity is a fundamental part of the great commission (Matt. 28:18-20)
 - a. Qualitative dimension of the great commission

 - b. Quantitative dimension of the great commission

III. Our threefold calling in Christ

- a. Internal
- b. External
- c. Eternal

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:25-27 NKJV

5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

John 17:4-5 NKJV

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

John 17:22-23 NKJV

The Seven Longings of the Human Heart

I. INTRODUCTION: DESIGNED TO LIVE EXHILARATED IN GOD

I will declare it [Father's name], that the love with which You loved Me may be in them. (John 17:26)

- a. God reveals God to the human spirit to awaken love in us. It takes God's power to love God. There is nothing more pleasurable or exhilarating than loving God by the power of God. The Father's love is supernaturally poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). ***Our desire for God is God's gift to us.*** Our desire for God is an expression of His desire for us.
- b. God created the human spirit with seven longings that draw us to Him and reflect His glory in us. They are the longing for the assurance that we are enjoyed by God, the longing to be fascinated, the longing to be beautiful, the longing to be great, the longing for intimacy without shame, the longing to be wholehearted (passionate), and the longing for significance with lasting impact.
- c. Each longing is a reflection of God's personality. We are made in His image; thus, we have these longings that enable us to walk with Jesus as His eternal companion. They give us insight into how God created our spirit. They reflect His creative genius in how He designed our spirit.
- d. These "designer cravings" will be in us forever. Thus, we have a great appetite for pleasure. Therefore, we cannot remove these longings by repenting of them. Rather, we repent of seeking to fulfill them outside of our relationship with Jesus. The tension of life is in seeking to satisfy these longings outside of God's will. Each of these longings has a counterfeit.
- e. We have a God-shaped vacuum (gnawing emptiness) until we are touched by God. God created us with a great appetite for pleasure. The Spirit will answer these basic longings, knowing they will not be fully satisfied in this age.
- f. As we seek to answer these longings in our relationship with Jesus, we will experience the "superior pleasures" of the gospel. In this way, we can walk free from the dominion of the "inferior pleasures" of sin. The result is that we are empowered to love Jesus more. The essence of temptation is to seek to satisfy these longings outside of God's will.

- g. As the Lord's return draws nearer, many will walk in unprecedented measures of perversion and woundedness. There will be a great increase of murder, pornography, and the occult (Rev. 9:21).

²¹ *They did not repent of their murders or sorceries or sexual immorality or thefts. (Rev. 9:21)*

- h. Jesus will return for a prepared Bride. In the face of escalating sin, God will bring His people to victory. Only satisfied people who are happy in God will be equipped to stand in that hour. God empowers His people to live in the power of lovesickness that overcomes great darkness.

²⁷ *He might present her to Himself a glorious church...holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:27)*

II. LONGING #1: THE LONGING FOR ASSURANCE OF BEING ENJOYED BY GOD

⁹ *As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you. (John 15:9)*

²³ *That the world may know that You [Father]...have loved them as You have loved Me. (John 17:23)*

- a. Every person was created with a craving in their heart to be pursued, delighted in, and enjoyed, first by God and then by family and friends. I believe the most prevailing stronghold of the mind is related to the fear of rejection and the trauma of shame. The feeling that we have gone too far in our sin to be forgiven creates great “emotional traffic” in us that drains our strength.
- b. Our longing to be enjoyed by God is fulfilled as we receive the revelation of God's emotions (affections) as our Father and Bridegroom. This begins with understanding the finished work of the cross. As we understand what Jesus did on the cross, then we can understand why He did it.
- c. There is a difference between rebellion and spiritual immaturity in those who sincerely seek to obey God. God is angry about rebellion but feels affection for immature believers who love Him.
- d. It is not so difficult to believe that God enjoys and loves us in heaven or even on the earth after we are spiritually mature. However, God enjoys us even now, in our spiritual immaturity! Jesus described the Father and the angels rejoicing, or feeling joy, over repentant prodigals (Luke 15:4-5, 8-10, 20). Our hearts are awakened in love by the assurance that God enjoys us.

²⁰ *He arose and came to his father. When he was still a great way off, his Father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. (Luke 15:20)*

²³ *“Bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” And they began to be merry. (Luke 15:23-24)*

- e. Even when Jesus corrects us, He does not reject us. He corrects us because He so desires us.

¹² *For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights. (Proverbs 3:12)*

III. LONGING #2: THE LONGING TO BE FASCINATED

¹⁷ *Your eyes will see the King in His beauty... (Isaiah 33:17)*

- a. There is a craving in our spirit to be fascinated, to marvel and be awestruck and filled with wonder. The entertainment industry has identified this longing and made much profit from it. When God reveals God to the human spirit we experience “divine entertainment” at its highest.
- b. David’s heart was preoccupied with God while his hands were occupied with leading the nation. Without having a sense of awe, we live aimlessly and in boredom. A spiritually bored believer is weak and vulnerable to Satan. A fascinated believer is strong and equipped to face temptation.

⁴ *One thing I desired...all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD. (Psalm 27:4)*

IV. LONGING #3: THE LONGING TO BE BEAUTIFUL

¹⁷ *Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us... (Psalm 90:17)*

- a. Our beautiful God created us in such a way that we long to possess and feel His imparted beauty. The beauty that God possesses is the very beauty that He imparts to us through His salvation. His own beauty is transferable to humans through Jesus!

³ *To give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning. (Isaiah 61:3)*

- b. Our culture has an obsession with physical beauty and seeks to answer this legitimate longing in a wrong way. Many pursue beauty at great lengths, because they feel unsettled without it.

V. LONGING #4: THE LONGING TO BE GREAT

²⁶ *Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave. (Matthew 20:26-27)*

- a. The great God created us to be great. Therefore, we have a desire for greatness and success. We were made to be crowned with glory, honor, and nobility.

⁷ *You have crowned him with glory and honor... (Hebrews 2:7)*

- b. Some misunderstand this God-given longing and repent of it, hoping to remove it. We cannot remove this God-given longing, but we can repent of pursuing it in an illegitimate way.

¹⁹ *Whoever does and teaches them [God's commands], he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19)*

- c. He meets our longing for greatness by giving us a position of authority with Him that surpasses the highest ranking angels. We will co-rule with Jesus (Rom. 8:17). Believers are at the pinnacle of power in the created order. The Church is part of the aristocracy or the ruling class in eternity.

²¹ *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne ... (Revelation 3:21)*

VI. LONGING #5: WE LONG FOR INTIMACY WITHOUT SHAME

¹² *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. (1 Corinthians 13:12)*

- a. We long for intimacy without shame in knowing and being known by God. Intimacy involves a two-way knowing. God knows the secrets of our heart and entrusts the secrets of His heart to us. To be fully known without shame and to be free from the fear of being left alone is exhilarating.

¹⁴ *The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him... (Psalm 25:14)*

- b. He rejoices and celebrates with us as He shares our triumphs. He understands the secret aspects of our life that are unknown, unnoticed, and misunderstood by others.

¹⁵ *Rejoice with those who rejoice...weep with those who weep... (Romans 12:15)*

- c. *He has intimacy with us related to our victory and prosperity.* Only He knows the implications of our greatness and the heights of our nobility in redemption. *He sees our painful struggle with sin.* He understands our pain in failure and protects us by not disclosing the vast majority of our sin. He knows our shameful deeds, yet believes in us and treats us with honor. *He sees our costly sacrifices* as we walk in faith and obedience to love Him. *He knows our heart passions* and deepest dreams and intentions to do good. He knows the cries of our spirit in time and eternity.

VII. LONGING #6: THE LONGING TO BE WHOLEHEARTED AND PASSIONATE

³⁷ *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart... (Matthew 22:37)*

- a. We long to give our deepest affection to God. Our passionate God empowers us to be passionate. We cannot function properly until we passionately give our heart to a Person and purpose beyond ourselves. If we don't have something to die for, we have nothing to live for.
- b. The human heart does not work properly in half-heartedness. The passive heart is bored and, therefore, vulnerable to many destructive lusts. In order to be emotionally whole, we must live wholeheartedly. Walking in wholehearted love for Jesus frees us from the burnout of spiritual boredom. The "joy of lovesickness" is exhilarating. Moses prophesied that the first commandment would be fully restored to first place in the midst of God's people (Deut. 30:6)

VIII. LONGING #7: THE LONGING FOR SIGNIFICANCE: TO MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

¹⁰ *For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (Hebrews 6:10)*

- a. God designed us to long to make a difference in the lives of others and to have purpose that is significant to God. One that He esteems and remembers forever. This longing for relevance is satisfied by our small acts of service that make an eternal impact on His heart and others' hearts.

⁴² *Whoever gives...only a cup of cold water...he shall by no means lose his reward. (Matthew 10:42)*

- b. This longing is satisfied in part by doing even small works that result in eternal rewards.

²¹ *Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. (Matthew 25:21)*

²³ *Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord...²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance... (Colossians 3:22-25)*

- c. We love to do and share things that cause others to be changed, helped, and filled with joy. Working together with Jesus to awaken other hearts in love is essential to our emotional health. Jesus calls us to work together with Him in the holy mandate that the Father gave Him to disciple the nations (Matt. 28:19).

⁴ *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. (3 John 4)*

SESSION 5: HOW TO BE ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN HIS LOVE

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:14-21 NJKV

- I. Parable of the sower (Matt. 13:18-23). Good soil for the roots to go deep.
- II. Take root downwards, bearing fruit upward (Isa. 37:31)
- III. Removing hindrances:
 - i. Hearer, not doer (Matt. 7:24-25, Jas. 1:23-25)
 - ii. Rootless Christianity (Cross-less faith) (Matt. 13:3-23)
 - iii. Root of bitterness (Heb. 12:12-15)
 - iv. Nutrients and Toxins (Sermon on the mount) (Matt. 5-7)

Cultivating the 8 beatitudes by sowing into 5 activities and resisting 6 temptations.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit...⁴Blessed are those who mourn...⁵Blessed are the meek...⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...⁷Blessed are the merciful...⁸Blessed are the pure in heart...⁹Blessed are the peacemakers...¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3-10)

Grace to walk in the 8 beatitudes:

1. Poverty in spirit
2. Mourning for the things that break the heart of God
3. Meekness of wisdom

4. Hunger and thirst – pursuit of righteousness
5. Merciful
6. Peacemaker
7. Pure in heart
8. Persecuted for righteousness

5 activities to invest your time and energy

In Matthew 6:1-18, Jesus spoke of 5 kingdom activities that we are to pursue: servicing and giving (charitable deeds: giving service and/or money (6:1-4, 19-21), praying (6:5-13), blessing our adversaries (full forgiveness, 6:14-15; 5:44), and fasting (6:16-18). These spiritual disciplines do not earn us God's love, but place our cold hearts before the "bonfire of His presence." As we embrace these disciplines, He gives more to our heart, but He does not love us more.

6 Toxins or weeds in the garden we must eradicate

Jesus gave six practical areas in which we must wage war against lust (1 Pet. 2:11): anger (spirit of murder, Mt. 5:21-26), adultery (spirit of immorality, Mt. 5:27-30), disregarding the marriage covenant (spirit of treachery, Mal. 2:13-17 that breaks covenant for selfish pursuits, Mt. 5:31-32), false commitments (spirit of manipulation that seeks to promote ourselves, Mt. 5:33-37), demanding justice (spirit of pride or bitterness that insists on our personal rights, Mt. 5:38-41) and retaliation (spirit of revenge or animosity in relationships, Mt. 5:42-47).

- IV. Love fueled obedience – word become flesh (John 1:14; 14:15)
- V. 1st and 2nd commandment. The importance of Church life. (John 13:34; 14:15; 15:10,12,17; Matt 22:37-39)

SESSION 6: PRAYER AS THE KEY TO SUSTAIN AND GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. John 15:1-10 NKJV

Eternal Life is expressed in eternal relationship. (John 17:3)

- a. Relationship grows by communion and knowing — thus prayer is the eternal currency in the divine-human communion. Just as love never ends, prayer never ends. Therefore in Hebrews 7:1-17, an eternal priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek was emphasized.
- b. The apostles recognized the priority in prayer and in the word (Acts 6:4)
- c. 4 primary motivations for prayers:
 - i. Needs (Ask, Seek Knock) (Matt. 7:7, John 14:13-14)
 - ii. Projects, Ministry, Business (Matt. 9:38)
 - iii. Spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10-20)
 - iv. Beauty of Jesus and the knowledge of God (2 Cor. 3:18, Psalm 27:4)

d. Prayers, Obedience and Works

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. James 5:16-18 NKJV

e. Various aspects of prayers

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet, Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:5-6

f. Prayer Models

i. Biblical and apostolic prayers

ii. Pray-read the word

I. INTRODUCTION

g. *"The Word of God is the food by which prayer is nourished"* — E. M. Bounds

h. Jesus corrected the Pharisees for thinking they would experience God's life or presence simply by knowing the Bible. He was saying, in essence, "You study the Bible, but you are not willing to come to Me in an ongoing conversation that you may experience God's presence."

³⁹***You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of [point to] Me. ⁴⁰But you are not willing to come to Me [talk to Me] that you may have life [experience God's presence]. John 5:39-40***

i. It is not enough just to study the Word—we are meant to talk with God as we read it. Bible study is meant to create an active dialogue in our hearts with God. One way in which we gain strength in our prayer lives is by feeding on the Word through engaging in conversation with God as we read it.

j. Scripture gives us the conversational material for our prayer lives. Talking to God as we read the Word makes prayer easy and enjoyable. We speak the truths of the Word back to God as we read.

- k. I compare the Scripture to a “neon sign” pointing to Jesus. It testifies of Him telling us what He is like. Jesus referred to them *not coming to Him*—they did not talk to Him. Coming to Jesus in this context speaks of more than being forgiven. It is a call to commune with Him as we read the Bible.
- l. When I moved from a purely “study mode” to a “dialogue mode” when reading the Bible, it changed my spiritual life. I began my journey into what I term “pray-reading” the Word. I could feel His presence in a greater way. I began to love God’s Word. This was a new feeling.
- m. When I look back on over forty years of walking with Jesus, I realize that pray-reading the Word—using the Bible as the “conversational material” in my prayer life—*has been the single most significant activity in my spiritual life*. This simple activity is essential to abiding in Christ (John 15).
- n. **God’s Word will abide in you:** Great change will surely come in the spiritual life of any believer who continues to abide in Jesus by speaking to Him as they read the Word. Over time God’s words will abide, or live, in their heart and will affect their prayer life as Jesus promised (John 15:7).

⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide [live] in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. John 15:7

- i. God’s Word living in us will cause new godly desires to be formed in us. These new desires will make us more sensitive to the Spirit’s leading including which prayers we choose to pray.
- ii. The Scriptures living in our heart will impact our mind and emotions; thus our prayer life will be more in unity with God’s heart and will for our life.
- iii. Prayer will become enjoyable and more effective as the Word abides more in our heart.

II. TWO CATEGORIES OF SCRIPTURE TO PRAY-READ.

- a. There are two broad categories of Scripture related to pray-reading the Word—*promises to believe* and *exhortations to obey*.
- b. Category #1: Promises to believe
 - i. When we come across a *promise to believe* while reading the Word, we turn it into conversation with Jesus. There are many verses with promises to believe, such as “God loves His people” or “God forgives us” or “God will provide for us or guide us.”

- ii. I encourage you to do two things when talking to God in context to a *promise to believe*. First, thank God for that truth, and second, ask the Spirit to give you more understanding of it.
 - iii. First, we thank God for a particular truth—turn it into a declaration of thanksgiving or trust. For example, when reading that Jesus loves you as the Father loves Him, pray, “Thank You, Jesus, that You love me with the same intensity with which the Father loves You.”
***⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”
John 15:9***
 - iv. Second, we ask God for more understanding of a specific truth. For example, while reading that Jesus loves you as the Father loves Him, pray, “Jesus, give me more understanding about how You love me with the same intensity with which the Father loves You.”
- c. Category #2: Exhortations to obey
- i. When we come across an *exhortation to obey* while reading the Word, we turn it into conversation with Jesus just as we do a promise. Many verses *exhort us to obey* related to our time, money, speech, work, attitudes, food, drink, eyes, sexuality, service, relationships, etc.
 - ii. Jesus exhorted His people to abide in His love. Obeying this involves several things. It means to dwell on or focus on His love by searching it out and going deep in our understanding of it.
***⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”
John 15:9***
 - iii. I encourage you to do two things I do when talking to God in context to an *exhortation to obey*. First, I commit myself to obey that truth, and second I ask the Holy Spirit to help me.
 - iv. First, we commit to obey a truth—we make simple declarations of our resolve to obey it. In this case we pray, “Jesus, I commit to abide in or focus on Your love. I set my heart to study and search out this truth from Your Word and to live in it.”
 - v. Second, we ask God to empower us to obey the particular truth. We ask Him to help us by giving us wisdom, motivation, and power to obey in specific areas. For example, when reading that we are to abide in love, simply pray, “Jesus, help me to abide in Your love.”

- vi. One exhortation that I have drawn strength from throughout my life is the one that says Job made a covenant with his eyes not to look on anything that would stir up lust (Job 31:1).

III. BENEFITS OF PRAY-READING

- a. The prophet Hosea told us to “take words with us” when we come to the Lord in prayer. Taking words with us is an important principle to follow when we give our hearts to God. As we articulate our love, gratitude, and requests to Jesus in simple phrases, the Spirit touches our lives.

²Take words with you, and return to the LORD. Say to Him, “Take away all iniquity; receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips [words of love, trust, and obedience].” Hosea 14:2

- b. When you pray the Word, you and the Spirit flow together resulting in you being taught in the way that is tailor-made for your life. When you talk to God while reading the Word, you say new things to God. It is the Spirit speaking through you, giving new insights—ones coming from your mouth.

²⁷But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things... 1 John 2:27

- c. While you are pray-reading the Word, I encourage you to speak slowly and softly (not shouting or preaching at the indwelling Spirit) and use short phrases (not paragraphs).
- d. Take time to journal—to record your thoughts and prayers as you pray-read the Bible. Journaling will help you capture the truths the Spirit gives you and develop language to talk with God.

IV. PRAY-READING THE DESCRIPTIONS OF JESUS

- a. The book of Revelation contains over thirty different descriptions of Jesus (Rev. 1-3). I use the acronym **A-R-K** to pray through these descriptions of Jesus. I use **Ark** in reference to the ark of the covenant, the place where God’s presence dwelt, and Noah’s ark, a place of safety in the flood. By encountering Jesus in this way, we experience the ark of His presence and the ark of His safety.

¹⁰The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10

- b. **A-R-K** stands for “agreement,” “revelation,” and “keep the prophecy.” These are three aspects of the conversational prayers that I encourage people to offer related to the thirty descriptions of Jesus.

- c. **A–Agreement:** We agree with who Jesus is in a specific way. We express our agreement by simply declaring to Jesus—with affection and gratitude—truths about who He is. By speaking out our agreement with His personhood, we gain inspiration and insights that equip us to know Him more.
- d. **R–Revelation:** We ask for revelation of Jesus according to each of the thirty descriptions based on Paul’s prayer that “the Father may give to us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him” (Eph. 1:17). Ask the Spirit to give you more insight into specific aspects of who He is.
- e. **K–Keep the prophecy:** We respond in practical ways as we ask for help to “keep the prophecy.” This refers to acting on the commands and plans of Jesus described in the book of Revelation. We apply them to our lives by responding in faith and obedience to the specific truths about His name.

⁷“...**Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”
*Revelation 22:7***

- f. We keep the prophecy by responding in three ways:
- By *obeying* the commands of God that are implied in the thirty descriptions of Jesus
 - By *saying* the message of God as we proclaim the main truths that are related to the descriptions
 - By *praying* to experience God’s strength to obey and say all that is implied by the descriptions
- g. Examples of A-R-K—descriptions of Jesus as the “faithful witness” and “firstborn from the dead.”

⁵**...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead....**
Revelation 1:5

- i. Jesus as the faithful witness
1. **Agreement:** Jesus, I thank You that You are the faithful witness of what the Father is like and of all truth. You are the truth. I thank You that You always tell the truth. I trust what You say because You are reliable. You took a stand for truth that cost Your reputation and life.
 2. **Revelation:** Holy Spirit, give me more insight into Jesus as the faithful witness.
 3. **Keep the prophecy:** I commit to speak the truth, regardless of what it costs me. Holy Spirit, help me to speak up for the truths that are not popular.

- ii. Jesus as the firstborn from the dead
 - 1. **Agreement:** Jesus, You are the firstborn from the dead. I thank You that You have supremacy over all, that You have power over death itself.
 - 2. **Revelation:** Holy Spirit, reveal Jesus to me as God’s firstborn from the dead. Teach me more about His supremacy over all things, including death.
 - 3. **Keep the prophecy:** Jesus, I will serve You as the One who is preeminent by obeying You and drawing others to You instead of to me. I set my heart to live in light of the resurrection. Holy Spirit, help me to walk out this commitment.

- h. There are 24 distinct descriptions in Revelation 1 (7 descriptions in v. 5-7 plus 17 directly related to Jesus as the Son of Man in v. 10-16) and 18 descriptions in Revelation 2-3, **totaling 42**. Since 12 are in both Revelation 1 and 2-3, we can identify **30 distinct descriptions** (Rev. 1-3).

- i. In Revelation 1:5-7 there are 7 descriptions—*Jesus* (v. 5), *Christ* (v. 5), *faithful witness* (v. 5), *firstborn* from the dead (v. 5), *ruler* of the kings of the earth (v. 5), *Him who loved us* (v. 6), and *He who is coming* with clouds (v. 7).

- j. In Revelation 1:10-18 there are 17 descriptions—*voice as a trumpet* (v. 10), *voice as many waters* (v. 15), the *Alpha* (v. 11), the *Omega* (v. 11) the *First* (v. 11, 17), the *Last* (v. 11, 17), in the *midst* of the seven lampstands (v. 13), *Son of Man* (v. 13), *garment to the feet*, v. 13), *head and hair were white* (v. 14), *eyes like a flame of fire* (v. 14), *feet were like fine brass* (v. 15), in *His right hand seven stars* (v. 16, 20), out of *His mouth a sword* (v. 16), *countenance was like the sun* (v. 16), *He who lives forever* (v. 18), holding the *keys* of the kingdom (v. 18).

V. MORE EXAMPLES OF PRAY-READING THE WORD

- a. Jesus promises to reveal the Father’s personality to us as the way to impart love in us for God.

²⁶I [Jesus] have declared to them Your name [the Father], and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.
John 17:26

 - i. **Pray:** “I thank You for Your commitment to declare (reveal) the Father’s heart to me. I ask You to *release* more.”

 - ii. **Pray:** “I thank You for imparting Your love to my heart. Please *release* more.”

- b. God promises to show His power to those who are loyal to Him.
⁹For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.
2 Chronicles 16:9
- i. *Pray:* “I thank You for committing to show Yourself strong in me.”
 - ii. *Pray:* “I set my heart to be loyal to the Spirit’s leadership in all that I do with my speech, eyes, actions, time and money. Help me to walk this out.”
- c. Jesus promises to manifest His presence to those who obey His commandments.
²¹He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him... John 14:21
- i. *Pray:* “I thank You for committing to manifest Your presence to my heart; release it more. I set my heart to keep (obey) Your Word in my speech, time, money, etc. Holy Spirit, *help me* to do this.”
 - ii. *Note:* the Father loves everyone in the sense of valuing, caring for and pursuing them. However, He only loves the lifestyle, choices, sacrifices, and fruit of those who pursue one hundredfold obedience.
- d. We are called to obey the Holy Spirit’s leadership in what we look at. *Pray:* “I set my heart not to look on anything that quenches the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, *help me* to do this with consistency.”
¹I have made a covenant with my eyes; why should I look upon a young woman? (Job 31:1)
³I will set nothing wicked before my eyes... Psalm 101:3
- e. We are called to obey the Holy Spirit’s leadership in our speech. God promises that our whole body (our human passions) will be bridled as we obey the Spirit in our speech. *Pray:* “I set my heart to keep (obey) Your Word in my speech. Holy Spirit, *help me* to do this with consistency.”
³Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. Psalm 141:3
²⁹Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit... Ephesians 4:29-30
²If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body [human passions]...⁶The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. James 3:2, 6
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¹⁴Let the words of my mouth...meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight Psalm 19:14

¹⁴Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may be blameless.
Philippians 2:14

¹⁸In everything give thanks...¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.
1 Thessalonians 5:18-19

- f. God promises to save or deliver those who lay aside filthiness as they meditate on His Word. **Pray:** “I thank You for desiring to deliver my soul from filthiness in me; please *release* it. I set my heart to lay aside all filthiness and to implant your Word in my heart with meditation and meekness. Please *help me* to do this with consistency.”

²¹Lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save [liberate, deliver] your souls.

James 1:21

- g. God promised that we are a new creation based on giving us the gift of God’s righteousness. **Pray:** “I thank You and declare My trust that You have given me the righteousness of God. Please *reveal it to me more by the spirit of revelation*. I declare that all things are new and that the old things of my guilt has passed away in Your sight.”

¹⁷If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new...²¹For He [Father] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

The Lord's Prayer Model by Dr. Larry Lea

PRAYER GUIDE

The Lord's Prayer Outline from Dr. Larry Lea's "Could you not tarry?"

1. OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN

a. Picture Calvary and thank God that you can call Him "Father" by virtue of the blood of Jesus.

2. HALLOWED BE THY NAME

a. Praise God for Who He is and for what He has done for us.

b. Hallow the names of God corresponding to the benefits in the new covenant.

c. In faith; declare, that God is your provision in these areas:

AREA OF BENEFIT	NAME OF GOD	MEANING OF NAME
SIN - forgiveness of sin	JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU JEVHOAH-M'KADDESH	"Jehovah our righteousness" "Jehovah Who sanctifies"
SPIRIT-fullness of the Holy Spirit	JEHOVAH-SHALOM JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH	"Jehovah is our peace" "Jehovah is there"
SOUNDNESS - health and healing	JEHOVAH-ROPHE	"Jehovah heals"
SUCCESS - freedom from the curse of the law	JEHOVAH-JIREH	"Jehovah's provision shall be seen"
SECURITY - freedom from the fear of death and hell	JEHOVAH-NISSI JEHOVAH - ROHI	"Jehovah my banner" "Jehovah my Shepherd"

3. THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, Pray for:

- Yourself and your family (mate, children, other family members).
- Your church (pastor, leadership, faithfulness of people, harvest of souls).
- Your nation (city, state and national political and spiritual leaders, harvest of souls).

d. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).

4. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

a. Be in the will of God (prayer life, church, work habits, obedience in giving).

b. Believe it is God's will to prosper you.

c. Be specific and tenacious.

5. AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS

a. Ask God to forgive you.

b. Forgive and release others - set your will to forgive those who sin against you.

6. AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

a. Put on the whole armor of God (Put on the Lord Jesus Christ - Ephesians 6:10-18)

1. Loins girded about with TRUTH

2. Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS

3. Feet shod with the PREPARATION (READINESS) OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

4. Shield of FAITH

5. Helmet of SALVATION

6. Sword of the Spirit, which is the WORD OF GOD

b. Pray a hedge of protection around yourself and your family.

(The Lord is your refuge, your fortress, your God - Psalm 91:2)

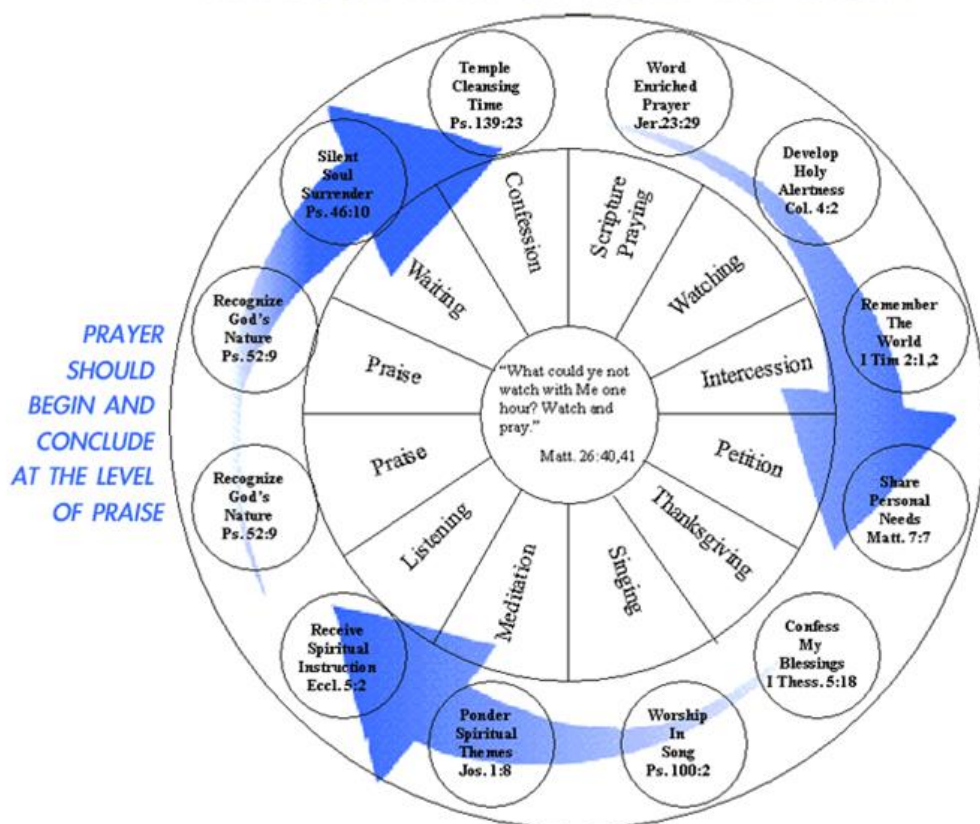
1. Because you have made the Lord your habitation
2. Because you have set your love upon Him
3. Because you have known His name

7. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER

- a. Make faith declarations, be bold in faith - God hears and answers prayer (John 5:14-15).
- b. Return to praise

The hour that changed the world – Rev. Dick Eastman

THE HOUR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD



SESSION 7: JESUS PREPARING HIS GLORIOUS CHURCH

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:17-33 NKJV

In these last days, we must expect the Holy Spirit to work release greater works to the church to help her complete an impossible mission an increasing hostile world. The Father has prepared a glorious Bride for His only begotten Son, the redeemed of the Lord from every tongue, every tribe and every nation. In the last days, the Bride will be ready and will cry out in agreement with Holy Spirit "Come".

I. THE ARRANGEMENT (Betrothal or in Hebrew transliteration Erusin or Kidushin)

- A. *The Match (Shiddukhin)* – this was **initiated by the father of the groom**, and a servant or friend may be sent on the father's behalf. The bride must give her consent.
- B. *The Bride Price (Mohar)* – this **payment made by the father of the groom** was required by the Law and reflected the value of the bride.
- C. *Love Gifts (Mattan)* – these gifts were given by the groom to the bride and were not required but were a **voluntary expression of his love** for her.
- D. *Dowry (Shiluhim)* – this was given to the bride by her father **to equip her for her new life** and was part of her inheritance.

- E. *The Marriage Contract (Ketubah)* – this was a **written document** stating the mohar, the rights of the bride, assurance of provision for the bride's needs, and the promise of the groom to return for his bride.
- F. *The Betrothal (Kiddushin)* – derived from the word Kadosh, meaning holy. Once a bride and groom enter into this initial phase of marriage **they were considered married** and only legal divorce could break the betrothal. The betrothal was sealed with the 'cup of acceptance', which was a cup of wine offered to the bride by the groom. The groom left to prepare the wedding room (Chuppah) and the Bride entered into a time of preparation and waiting including washings (Mikveh), the wearing of veil, undistracted devotion and great anticipation.

II. THE WEDDING CEREMONY (in Hebrew transliteration Nisuin or Huppah)

- A. *The Nuptials (Nissuin)* – means "to lift up" or "carry," **the bride was carried to the ceremony** in a carriage lifted by poles. The groom's father decides when the son may return for the bride. The groomsmen ran ahead of the groom, sounded the shofar, and announced his arrival. Unmarried friends were with the bride and would provide light for the groom if he came at night. The wedding party then went back to the groom's house to meet the guests waiting for them.
- B. *The Wedding Garment (Kittel)* – this was a **white garment** worn at Passover. It was also worn by the groom at a wedding. Kittel is rooted in the Hebrew word *katal* - to slay. This was also a garment worn by priests during certain sacrifices such as Passover or the Yom Kippur Sacrifice.
- C. *The Bridal Chamber (Chuppah)* – the bride and groom entered the bridal chamber where the **marriage was consummated**. The couple stayed there for 7 days.

III. THE WEDDING FEAST (Marriage Supper of the Lamb)

- A. *Marriage Feast (Seudat Mitzyah)* – the couple came out of the Chuppah after 7 days and joined their guests, the B'nai Huppah or “children of the bridal chamber.” The couple and the guests now shared in a **festive marriage feast**.

IV. THE ESCHATON

- A. The coming of the last days often refers to the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord

*11 The Lord gives voice before His army,
For His camp is very great;
For strong is the One who executes His word.
For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible;
Who can endure it?
A Call to Repentance
12 "Now, therefore," says the Lord,
"Turn to Me with all your heart,
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."
13 So rend your heart, and not your garments;
Return to the Lord your God,
For He is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;
And He relents from doing harm. Joel 2:11-13 NKJV*

- B. It is the day of the wrath of God against every wickedness and also the glorious day of the marriage of the Lamb.
- C. Jesus looks forward to that day in Rev. 22:7, 12, 20
- D. 5 prophetic sign posts for the coming of the day of the Lord
1. Gospel of the kingdom (Matt. 24:14)
 2. Nations (Matt. 24:14)
 3. Israel (Rom. 11:25-26)
 4. Night and Day Prayer (Luke 18:1-7)
 5. Unity (John 17:21-22)

SESSION 8: JESUS 360 – FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8 NKJV

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 NKJV

- I. Fascination with the Beauty of Jesus sustained the life of your inner man.
The growth in the knowledge comes through experiential knowing.
- II. There are more than 200 description of Jesus in the writings of John the apostle.
- III. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus Christ to us day by day.

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 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. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. John 16:12-15 NKJV

- IV. Let us examine for wonderful revelation of Jesus in Revelation Chapter one.