

BULLETIN: The Pathway to His Presence

(For Small Groups & Personal Use)

Today's Big Idea: Intimacy with God is a relationship, not a ritual. It's built on love, deepened by gratitude, fueled by heart-connection, and made possible by the Holy Spirit.

Key Verse: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." - Matthew 22:37

The Four Pillars of Intimacy:

1. ❤️ **GENUINE LOVE** - The Doorway
Loving God for WHO He is transforms duty into delight
2. 🙏 **HEARTFELT APPRECIATION** - The Atmosphere
Gratitude shifts our focus from problems to God's character
3. 💗 **EMOTIONAL CONNECTION** - The Heartbeat
Allowing the Spirit to engage our God-given feelings
4. 🔥 **THE HOLY SPIRIT** - The Bridge
He draws us, guides us, and makes deep relationship possible

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What makes you feel closest to God? What creates distance?
2. How can we shift from "transactional" to "relational" in our prayers?
3. Share one thing you're grateful for about God's character (not His gifts).
4. How comfortable are you with the idea of "emotional connection" with God?
5. What's one practical step you can take this week to depend more on the Holy Spirit?

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one pillar to focus on each day:

- Monday: Practice loving God for His character
- Tuesday: Start and end day with 5 minutes of pure thanksgiving
- Wednesday: Ask Holy Spirit to connect with your emotions
- Thursday: Yield consciously to Spirit's leading throughout day
- Friday: Combine all four in extended worship time

Prayer for Intimacy:

"Heavenly Father, teach me what it truly means to love You. Forgive me for seeking Your hand more than Your face. Holy Spirit, draw me into deep, intimate fellowship. Connect my heart to Yours. I yield to You now. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Further Reading This Week:

- Psalm 42 (Longing for God)
- John 15:1-17 (Abiding in Love)
- Romans 5:1-5 (Love Poured by Spirit)
- Philippians 4:4-7 (Prayer & Thanksgiving)