

# ACTIVATE School of Prayer

## Session 6: Encountering God—*Jonathan & Crystal Martin*

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### I. Encountering vs. Experiencing God?

- A. Encounter actually means an unexpected meeting with someone.
  - a. We believe God wants to deposit a hunger tonight for more of Him and a knowledge of how-to position your heart to experience Him.

### II. Positioning yourself to experience Him

- a. When we as children of the Most High God come before Him, there needs to be an aligning that takes place. The Holy Spirit is happy to help us with this process. It's what he does best. He's our helper!
- b. In order to experience God, this sacred process of aligning takes place where the Holy Spirit convicts and illuminates parts of our hearts that need forgiveness and wiped clean.
- c. If you're not experiencing God, start with surrender.
  - a. There's not much talk about this important process as it can be clouded by what we think God's grace means.
  - b. Remember that God's kindness towards us leads us to repentance.
  - c. The power of His holiness didn't stay in the pages of the Old Testament!
  - d. Sin that is not dealt with will get in the way of beholding the Most Holy One.
  - e. David says "*Search my heart, see if there is any wicked way in me*" (**Psalm 139:23**).
- d. The enemy is out to cause condemnation for our sin, but the Lord kindly reminds us to give our whole heart to him and never shames us into repenting.
  - a. As we are sensitive to His leadership in our lives we can have a clear conscience free of guilt and washed in His blood that brings COMPLETE forgiveness.
- e. What positions our hearts to experience more of Him?
  - **Thankfulness** positions our hearts to experience more of Him.
  - **Quieting our minds** to hear Him or just feel His presence.
- f. Stay on track! These moments with God are so opposed. Your connection to the Holy is SACRED!
  - a. Part of His original intent...to be able to commune with you.

- b. Be aware of how the enemy attacks so you can stay on guard.

**Lies:**

- 1. You're not consistent enough, you should feel guilty for not spending more time with God.
- 2. You'll never be able to focus long enough to hear God.
- 3. Your sins are too great, or you hurt too many people to come before God.

**Truth!**

- 1. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!
- 2. We have the mind of Christ! (**1 Corinthians 2:16**)
- 3. "*All are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus*" (**Romans 3:23-24**).

### III. Why is experiencing Him important?

- A. Because we were made in His likeness. We were literally fashioned in a way that requires Him to be our life source.
- B. Without him life is empty and hopeless.
  - a. If we are not sustained in His presence we will not be representing Him well to those around us.
- C. Because there's no lack in God. Any place that you feel like you have a lack, God desires to fill with life!
  - a. **Psalm 23** says "*The Lord is my Shepherd I SHALL NOT WANT!*"
  - b. I believe with all my heart that God is raising His church up to live day in and day out aware of His presence! That our eyes could stay locked and unwavering. This will take care of our sin issues, church! When we live so in-tune with the Spirit, with our minds set on things above, we don't wait for our "Jesus love tank" to go to empty before we start seeking Him.

### IV. Journeying with God

- A. We are all on a journey with God! We are at different spots. God's spirit and presence is what anchors us. He holds all things together! And He's after your heart!
- B. **God wants to remove the things from our lives that are hindering Him**
  - a. He's taking away the things that are hindering our ability to hear clearly.
  - b. Removing past hang-ups and patterns

- c. Eradicating fear and anxiety and past identities that we constantly go back to.
- d. What if we live as if our very lives depended on hearing the word of the Lord?

#### V. In His Presence He gives us with what we need

- A. He renews our minds
- B. He gives us divine wisdom
- C. He restores our vision to 20/20
- D. He restores our identity
- E. God has the provision you need. There's provision for your calling. Producing what God can produce not what we can produce. *"Apart from me you can do nothing"* (**John 15:5**).
- F. He fills us with the Fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5**)
- G. He prioritizes our lives. It's easy to de-rail into things that aren't important.
  - a. We have a need to be re-aligned daily so that we can fully engage in his heart and what he has in store. Then we can look to him and ask *"God, what is on your heart?"*
  - b. When God is in the first place everything else finds it's perfect place.

#### VI. God desires to be with us and commune with us

- A. Jesus prayed "Father, that they may be with me!" (**John 17:24**)
- B. The greatest reward we can be given is the very presence of God. To commune with God.
- C. Living in the Spirit. (**Romans 8:5-6**) The spirit man rising above the flesh man.

#### Impartation

#### Equipping:

- A. Repentance
- B. Allowing Holy Spirit to bring peace
- C. Asking to behold (It's ok to ask for this! David did in **Psalms 27**)
- D. What is he saying?

If you need breakthrough tonight in some area, I encourage you to KEEP

ASKING! He tells us that: "he who asks will receive"

**Exodus 34**

*5 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. 6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."*

**Isaiah 43 - NEW THING!**

*18 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."*