



Message Date: 16/08/2026 Lighthouse Meeting Date: 18/08/2026	Message Title: Intimacy with the Lord God Almighty Minister: Pastor Pami
Key Texts: Isaiah 29:13, 2 Timothy 3:5, Matthew 7:23, Philippians 3:10, 1 John 4:19, Revelation 3:20, Romans 5:8, Matthew 7:21-23, John 17:3, Jeremiah 29:13, John 10:27, 1 John 1:3, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, John 17:21-23, John 15:4-5, Psalm 139:1, Luke 10:38-42, Psalm 46:10, Acts 1:8, John 15:15	Sub Text: Psalms 23:2
<i>Please read the entire document and bible texts before you begin to discuss and answer the related questions. This will help you grasp the overall context of the message, however, remember the bible is not a discussion book but a decision book. God honours and empowers your decisions not your discussions.</i> <u>INTRODUCTION:</u> There is a vast difference between a person who has read a thousand letters from someone they love, and a person who has actually sat across the table from them. Many believers can quote Scripture, recite doctrine, and defend the faith, yet have never once sat still long enough to simply <i>be</i> with the God they serve. God rebuked His own people for this very thing through the prophet Isaiah: "These people draw near Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me" (Isaiah 29:13). Paul warned Timothy of a similar danger in the last days, people "having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:5). This is the tragedy Jesus warned about: multitudes who prophesied, cast out demons, and did mighty works in His name, only to hear the most devastating words a soul could ever hear: "I never knew you" (Matthew 7:23). This study is not about doing more for God. It is about something far more costly and far more rewarding: <i>knowing</i> Him. Paul's own life's ambition, even after years of ministry, ships wrecked and churches planted, was startlingly simple: "That I may know Him" (Philippians 3:10). Not information about Him, but intimacy with Him, the kind that requires stillness in a culture of busyness, vulnerability in a culture of self-protection, and continual awareness in a culture of distraction. If you have ever sensed a gap between what you know about God and what you actually experience of Him, this message is for you.	
(1) KEY POINT ONE: THE GREAT INVITATION Every believer gathered in worship today is not there because of personal merit, achievement, or spiritual performance; they are there because God first loved them (1 John 4:19). Revelation 3:20 pictures Christ standing at the door, knocking, waiting to be let in, not forcing entry, but extending an invitation that must be received. This invitation predates any effort on our part; Romans 5:8 confirms that Christ died for us while we were still sinners, meaning Grace opened the door to intimacy with God before we ever qualified to enter. Scripture Focus: We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19) Digging Deep/Life Application: Are you approaching God today believing you've earned a place at His table, or resting in the truth that you were invited before you ever did anything to deserve it?	
(2) KEY POINT TWO:"I NEVER KNEW YOU" In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus describes people who prophesied, cast out demons, and performed miracles in His name, yet He tells them plainly, "I never knew you." The Greek word for "knew" here is <i>ginōskō</i>, a knowing that implies deep, experiential, relational intimacy, not mere acquaintance or awareness. Jesus Himself defined eternal	

life not as correct doctrine but as knowing God and Jesus Christ whom He sent (John 17:3), meaning it is entirely possible to serve God's work faithfully while remaining a stranger to God Himself.

Scripture Focus: And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (*John 17:3*)

Digging Deep/Life Application: If Jesus looked at your life today, would He see someone He knows intimately, or someone who has simply worked hard in His name?

(3) KEY POINT THREE: THE WAY TO INTIMACY

God's invitation to intimacy comes with a promise and a method: "You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). This seeking happens through His Word, where believers encounter His voice and character directly, but it also requires the posture of a learner, asking honest questions, wrestling with Scripture, and quieting the heart long enough to listen. Jesus said His sheep hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:27), which implies that hearing is a skill developed through relationship, not a one-time event.

Scripture: You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. (*Jeremiah 29:13*)

Digging Deep/Life Application: When was the last time you approached God's Word not just to gain information, but to genuinely ask Him a question and wait for His answer?

(4) KEY POINT FOUR: KOINONIA, FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND OTHERS

The New Testament word *koinonia* describes a fellowship that is both vertical and horizontal communion with the Father and the Son (1 John 1:3), lived out through genuine relationship with other believers. Paul teaches that there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit, and that the Spirit is manifested in each person differently, for the profit of all (1 Corinthians 12:4-7), meaning every believer carries a unique expression of God that the rest of the body needs. Intimacy with God, then, is never meant to remain a private experience; it overflows into how we see and relate to one another.

Scripture Focus: Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (*1 John 1:3*)

Digging Deep/Life Application: Do you recognize the unique expression of God in the people around you, or do you overlook them because they don't reflect God the same way you do?

(5) KEY POINT FIVE: BECOMING ONE WITH GOD

Jesus prayed that believers would be one with Him just as He is one with the Father (John 17:21-23), describing a union far deeper than agreement or association. This oneness is pictured in the vine and branches "Abide in Me, and I in you... for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:4-5), a relationship requiring continual, moment-by-moment connection rather than occasional visits. Such union demands vulnerability, the willingness to be fully known, echoed in the psalmist's surrender: "O Lord, You have searched me and known me" (Psalm 139:1).

Our oneness with God can be seen through having the exact same mind as Christ (Philippians 2:5). This is possible by receiving the life of Christ, and regularly yielding to the dealings, leadings, and instructions of the Holy Spirit. This becomes strengthened through consistent and conscious fellowship with the Holy Spirit, regardless of our physical locations or activities.

Scripture Focus: 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. (*John 15:4*)

Digging Deep/Life Application: Is there a part of your heart you have kept guarded even from God, afraid of what true vulnerability with Him might cost you?

KEY POINT SIX: MARY, MARTHA, AND THE BATTLE AGAINST DISTRACTIONS

When Jesus visited the home of Mary and Martha, Martha was "distracted with much serving," while Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet and simply listen (Luke 10:38-42). Jesus did not condemn Martha's service, but He identified what Mary had chosen as the "good part" that would not be taken from her, intimacy discovered in stillness, not in busyness. This mirrors the invitation of Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God," a command that directly confronts a culture, then and now, addicted to activity as a substitute for presence.

Scripture Focus: But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her. (Luke 10:42)

Digging Deep/Life Application: What "many things" in your life are pulling you away from the one thing Mary chose simply being present with Jesus?

(7) KEY POINT SEVEN: RESTORATION THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is a critical distinction between the anointing upon a believer's life and the intimacy within it, the Holy Spirit empowers believers to be witnesses and to serve effectively (Acts 1:8), while relationship with God is cultivated in the secret place, apart from any audience or assignment. Jesus told His disciples, "No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends" (John 15:15), revealing that the Spirit's ultimate purpose is not merely to equip us for tasks but to restore us into relationship. Gifting can operate in a life even when intimacy has grown cold, which is precisely the danger this entire study has confronted from the start.

Scripture Focus: No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends. (John 15:15)

Digging Deep/Life Application: Have you allowed your gifting and service for God to become a substitute for actual relationship with Him?

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

God is not seeking your performance, He is seeking you. The invitation was extended before you ever did anything to earn it, and it remains open today. Whether you have spent years serving faithfully or years feeling distant, the call is the same: move from knowing about Him to truly knowing Him (*ginōskō*), in the stillness, in vulnerability, in continual abiding. Let this be the day you set aside the noise of Martha's kitchen and choose Mary's place at His feet.

PROMISES OF GOD FROM THE MESSAGE

1. **The Promise of Unearned Love:** "We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). God promises that His love reached us before we ever did anything to deserve it.
2. **The Promise of Being Found:** "You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). God promises that sincere seeking will never end in disappointment.
3. **The Promise of Fellowship :** "Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3). God promises genuine communion with Himself, not distant observation.
4. **The Promise of Fruitfulness Through Abiding:** "He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit" (John 15:5). God promises that a life joined to Him will not remain barren.
5. **The Promise of Being Fully Known:** "O Lord, You have searched me and known me" (Psalm 139:1). God promises that even our vulnerability is met with intimate, personal knowledge, not rejection.
6. **The Promise of the Good Part:** "Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:42). God promises that time spent in His presence is never wasted and can never be stripped from us.
7. **The Promise of Friendship:** "No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends" (John 15:15). God promises to elevate us beyond mere service into genuine relationship with Him.

PRAYERS: PRAYER POINTS OF GOD FROM THE MESSAGE

1. Father, thank You that Your invitation to intimacy was extended before I ever did anything to deserve it — help me rest in that love today.
2. Lord, I do not want to merely know about You; give me a true, experiential knowledge of who You are.
3. Teach me to seek You in Your Word with my whole heart, asking honest questions and listening for Your voice.
4. Help me to recognize and honor the unique expression of You in the people around me, that our fellowship may be complete.
5. Lord, I surrender the guarded places in my heart; make me fully vulnerable and abiding in You as the branch abides in the vine.
6. Silence the many distractions competing for my attention; teach me to choose the "good part" that Mary chose.
7. Restore in me the relationship the Spirit intended — let my service flow from intimacy, not become a substitute for it. Amen.

What did you hear?

What point in this message was most impactful for you?

What do you think?

How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?

What will you do?

How will you put into practice what you have learned today?

Please note that the bible is not a discussion book but a decision book. God honours and empowers your decisions not your discussions. This is the most important part of tonight's meeting The Holy Spirit awaits your decisions.

From this day forth:

(1) I will....

(2) I can.....

(3) I must.....

General Prayer points:

- ✚ Prayer regarding Lessons learnt today
- ✚ Pray for special needs of LightHouse Care Group Members
- ✚ Pray for your Pastors, Leaders and Workers in God's vineyard
- ✚ Pray for increase and the ability to reach your neighbours and winning of new converts to Christ through the Lighthouse Fellowship

Seven things we must seek whenever we come to the presence of God - Lighthouse Meeting:

- (1) The knowledge of God, Jesus Christ & the Holy Spirit through the Word.
- (2) Is there any sin, transgression or iniquity (habit/attitude/ mind-set or behaviour) that needs to be repented of, confessed and forsaken?
- (3) Is there any promise to be claimed, any inheritance to be possessed?
- (4) Is there any instruction to be obeyed, direction to be received, and guidance to be followed?
- (5) Is there any example to be followed/emulated or any example to be weary of and discontinued?
- (6) Is there any battle against the enemy to be fought and won?
- (7) Is there any relationship that needs to be healed & restored, or any that needs to be terminated and separated from?

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Announcements/Upcoming Events as follows:

Day	Time	Event	Location
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Monday to Friday	5.00am – 6.00am	Eagles Wings Intercessory Prayers (Online)	Online (Virtual)
Tuesday	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Lighthouse Fellowship (Joint online)	Online (Virtual)
Friday	7.00pm – 9.30pm	Communion Service	Church Premises (Physical)
Sunday	7.00am – 8.30am	School of Leadership (ICC Leadership Training Academy)	Online (Virtual)
Sunday	9.00am – 10:15am	Sunday School & Workers (Sons & Daughters) Discipleship Class	Church Premises (Physical)
Sunday	10:30am – 12:45pm	Corporate Family Worship	Church Premises (Physical)

For further information please contact the admin office or visit (admin@rccg-iccuk.org / 07514 011221)