

How to Have and Enjoy Intimacy with God

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Often what we first think about when we hear the word intimacy is love and a sexual bond with someone. But **The World Book Dictionary** defines Intimacy as: “very familiar; known very well; closely acquainted; very personal; and most private.” So although intimacy can include a sexual bond, it really has to do with the closeness of two individuals.

First let us see how we become intimate with another person, then we can see how to become intimate with God.

Let’s say that one day while you’re at work a new person is brought in to work next to you. Being in a work environment you both keep your relationship strictly business. At first you keep your distance wanting to make sure this is a good person who you can trust. Are they a bad person with a bad reputation? Is this a person who you might be able to enjoy conversing with? Will they understand you, or judge you? Before you really start talking to them, you decide that it might be best to talk to people who know this person to see if you can trust them. So being cautious, you slowly start getting to know them by each of you casually talking about yourselves and your lives. Eventually you feel comfortable enough to start asking questions about them and their thoughts, beliefs and experiences. Fortunately your job allows you to talk to your coworkers as you do your work, so you begin talking to each other often throughout each day.

But before you feel comfortable sharing with them some of your deepest concerns and secrets, you decide to dig deeper into their background, their history – what they have on record of saying and doing. You feel that you really need to trust this person before you let them really know all about you. Somehow you have been given access to this person’s Personal Records. So you take them home and thoroughly read through them and research what they say to make sure they are true. Finally you realize (after recalling everything this person has told you and all that the other people have told you about this person, and this person’s responses to what you have told them, and now what all you have learned by studying their Personal Records) that you can fully trust this person. (Although going through their Personal Records may give them reason to not trust you, they may forgive you later, once they find out, if the relationship goes well).

You now realize that you are falling in love with this person (this is not a sexual love, it is just a brotherly love between close friends at this point). When you truly love someone **1)** you look forward to spending time with them, talking with them and listening to them; **2)** you enjoy doing things for them, things that are pleasing to them; **3)** you will want to show respect for this person by never doing or saying anything that would hurt them; **4)** others should be able to tell that you love and respect this person by the way you treat them and talk about them; and **5)** you would often thank them for what they do for you.

Trust is a big factor in relationships and intimacy. The more we trust someone, the closer we let them get to us. The more that trust is compromised in a relationship, the more the intimacy degrades. We cannot be intimate with someone we don’t trust.

Just as the relationship and intimacy between two people take time to grow, your relationship and intimacy with God also takes time – time to get to know God, and time to get to trust Him and His Word. But it is easier to have intimacy with God than any other person because:

- 1) God already knows you more deeply and thoroughly than any person could,
- 2) God has known you from before you were born,
- 3) God has seen and heard everything you have done, said and thought,
- 4) God knows your most private thoughts and your deepest darkest secrets,
- 5) God forgives you of all your sin and even forgets your sinful past once you accept Him,
- 6) Nothing ever takes God by surprise. He is aware of every aspect of your life,
- 7) Once you realize that you can trust the Bible, you can trust God’s words and His promises,
- 8) You can trust that God always loves you and He will never leave you,
- 9) You know God will understand your problems since He has witnessed the lives of all people who have ever lived and He even experienced many aspects of the human life here on earth in the form of Jesus,
- 10) God accepts you for who you are and as you are,

- 11) God is always available to listen to you anytime, anyplace about anything,
- 12) You can tell God anything without being ridiculed and know that He will not tell anyone else,
- 13) God will freely tell you about Himself, His history, His concerns and even His desires for you (in the Bible),
- 14) God wants you to research what others and the Bible says about Him (use a good Study Bible),
- 15) God doesn't mind you telling others all about Him and your relationship with Him (actually He wants you to tell many people about what you believe about Jesus and your trust in God),
- 16) God is patient with you, letting you take your time to grow your relationship with Him (He is not pushy),
- 17) God is more interested and concerned about your heart, or your faith in Him, than the quantity of your knowledge of Him or your outward appearance,
- 18) God knows what is best for you and wants to help you, comfort you and provide for you,
- 19) God knows what you need and what pleases you and wants you to have an abundant life with Him forever,
- 20) God wants intimacy with you and He loves you more than any other person could.

Now, what about you? Are you ready for an intimate relationship with God? What must you do to enjoy such a relationship and life? Remember, since God is always with you, if you don't feel close to Him, it is your fault, not God's.

1st Understand and believe that God is a real living Spiritual Being and that **the Bible is a reliable God-inspired book** which God used to reveal to us about what He wants us to know about Himself, His nature and mankind's origins and past, our purpose in the present, and the hopes or fears for our future. **Ask God** to show you the truth. Also **talk to others** who trust God about what they know. (Visit www.BiblicalReliability.com for much evidence – see "Quick Learn")

2nd Realize that God loves you so much that He came to earth in the form of Jesus Christ in order to die on the cross to pay for your sin so you could live an everlasting life with Him (read John 3:16) as long as you fully believe and accept Him for who He is and what He has done and has promised to do.

3rd Just as we don't want to make friends with people who have a bad reputation of doing bad or living a sinful lifestyle, God too does not want us to live an unholy life. Therefore you must **confess your sins** (anything you think, say or do which goes against God's Will or His commands) to God. Even though he knows what they are, by confessing them, you acknowledge that you are doing wrong and you accept responsibility for your wrongful thoughts and actions. Then

4th You must **ask God to forgive you** for your sin **and repent** (which is to do your best to no longer live a sinful lifestyle). Although you will occasionally sin, you are to try not to continually sin as a way of life (especially saying and doing things that disrespect God or hurt other people). Now **ask God to save you** as you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

5th You need to often tell God, or **confess, what you believe about Him**, His kingdom and the gospel of Jesus – Jesus' virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His sacrificial death on the cross, His resurrection from the dead, His ascension into Heaven and His promise to return for His believers. To understand and believe all of this you must:

6th Start reading the Bible and studying who God is, His teachings and commandments (starting with Matthew or John at the beginning of the New Testament is a good place to start). Matthew 6:33 says "seek first the Kingdom of God... ."

7th Talk to God everyday (long prayers and/or just short casual comments as you would talk to a trusted friend). Pray for His presence in your life and His protection, provisions, promises and peace.

8th Spend time with other people who believe in God and Jesus Christ. Sharing with others our beliefs and spiritual experiences helps to encourage each other in our faith. **Be unselfish** and help others as you can.

9th Be grateful – Thank God everyday for something(s). Even during bad times see how God works through others. Thank God for His example and His guidance, help, understanding, wisdom, forgiveness, comfort, peace and love.

10th Be patient –just as it takes time to grow a loving and intimate relationship with another person, it takes time to develop a close relationship with God. As you grow to trust God, believe His Word, and obey His commandments and teachings, your love and intimacy with Him will grow more and more and give you greater fulfillment and joy in your life.