

Intimacy with God – Part 17
Partnering in Prayer with the Lord

Matt. 26:36-46

–When the disciples failed to join Him in Gethsemane in prayer, sharing His suffering, they went into heartache, confusion and spiritual blindness.

–Their minds and hearts were opened again, tarrying in prayer on the Day of Pentecost.

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Song 5:1-2

–Among the many levels of imagery here, one focus is this is the Lord's call to enter the fellowship of His sufferings in intercession to His bride.

•Notice, the bride is asleep when the call comes (Matt. 25).

–He wants us to join Him in His present state and ministry.

•He is still seeking for someone to share union with Him, including His burdens, but we're asleep or busy with earthly things.

•He still does nothing on earth without the cooperation of His bride.

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Song 5:3

–Once the bride is clean and cozy in bed, the call comes.

•The call of the Lord always calls us out of our comfort zones to test our love and desire for Him.

–There can be no hesitation or the manifestation of His presence and glory is veiled.

•Comfort cannot be a factor in answering the Lord's call to intimacy and partnership.

•Maturity and transformation comes into our lives through dying to our plans, goals, and desires.

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Song 5:4-5

–The entrance doors of this day only opened from the inside.

- There was a slot in the door for people to slip their hand through to open in from the inside.*

–After wrestling with the call in the heart, when the bride finally arose to open the door, her hands were covered with the same fragrant oil that covered His hand.

- Notice**, even though He could have opened the door, He did not.
- He wants a voluntary response of love and desire from us to join Him in the garden of intimacy and prayer.*

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Song 5:6

–Because carnal comfort over and against complete oneness with Him has not been yielded to the cross, intimacy and the sense of His manifest presence is veiled.

- This is where the spiritual disciplines come into play...we pray, study, fast and seek Him for the desire to be near Him, to be like Him, and not to get anything from Him.*
- Desire for intimacy and His presence is the basis of fasting and the other spiritual disciplines.*

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Song 5:6

–There are basically three types of prayer:

- Prayers and concerns that are mainly focused on personal needs.*
- Prayer that is offered on behalf of others or purposes.*
- Prayer that is entered to draw near to Him alone.*

–It's easier to look at a person's nose, mouth, hand or other body part than their eyes.

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Song 5:6

–When two people have their gazes meet, something changes...a connection is made.

*•**Beggars ALWAYS** look at the hands of people – trying to find out what others can do for them.*

*•**Lovers** look into the eyes to see the heart!*
