



## Experiencing Real Life

**Listen!** After leaving the altar teary eyes of intimacy can quickly become teary eyes of distance or apathy or hostility or betrayal—and the intimacy is gone. **Sadly:** For almost every Christian at some time intimacy with God is gone.

<b>Relationship Elements:</b>	<b>With a spouse:</b>	<b>With God:</b>
<b>Beginning a Relationship:</b>	Wedding Ceremony	Trusting Christ
<b>Maturing in a Relationship:</b>	Growing emotionally and relationally.	Growing to look like Jesus Christ.
<b>Serving in a Relationship:</b>	Working for the other's wellbeing.	Serving in obedience to what God commands.
<b>Intimacy in a Relationship:</b>	Ongoing Attentiveness	Ongoing Attentiveness

- #1: In all relationships **establishing** is not the same as **servicing** is not the same as **maturing** is not the same as **intimacy**.
- #2: Intimacy happens through mutual, ongoing attentiveness.
- #3: Intimacy has a very short shelf-life—it can fade in a hurry.
- #4: Intimacy has a lot of predators—distractions, saturation, affluence, cares of the world, temptations, familiarity, loss of trust, competing intimacies...
- #5: Intimacy has towering value.
- #6: God invites us into intimacy: Ps 65:4; Ps 27:8; Ps 73:28; Jas 4:8; Heb 10:22.

**Core Truth:** I am obedient, fulfilled, and really happy...when I passionately pursue intimacy with God through continual attentiveness to Him. A key purpose of God is to draw the people He has rescued into intimacy with Himself.

**Our Prayer for Intimacy with God:** Our Father we will pursue intimacy with You through ongoing attentiveness as we: \_\_\_\_\_

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# “Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

**Core Truth:** I am obedient, fulfilled, and really happy ... when I passionately pursue intimacy with God.

- A key purpose of God is to draw the people He has rescued into intimacy with Himself.
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- **Today:** Please write a short definition of the following relationship elements:

- **Establishing:**
- **Maturing:**
- **Serving:**
- **Intimacy:**

- **Monday:** What would ongoing attentiveness look like for you in relation to God?

- **Tuesday:** How do you think God gives to you “ongoing attentiveness?”

- **Wednesday:** What does “intimacy has a very short shelf-life (it can fade in a hurry)” mean for your own relationship with God? What does it mean for the “daily-ness” of your relationship with God? What does it mean for the “moment by moment-ness” of your relationship with God?

- **Thursday:** What are the top two “predators” of your intimacy with God and what can you do to kill them?

Predator and solution: \_\_\_\_\_

Predator and solution: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Friday:** Read, reflect, and journal on Psalm 73:25-28.

- **Saturday:** Write a simple—really simple and doable—plan for showing greater attentiveness to God on an ongoing basis.

- **Bonus Exercise:** Buy a copy of *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henry Nouwen and read it with an eye toward the intimacy with God lessons.

**Note for Connection Groups:** The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: [www.cypressbible.org](http://www.cypressbible.org) and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.