

Session 8 Intimacy with God: My Two Favorite Verses and Prayers

I. REVIEW: JESUS WILL RESCUE US FROM SPIRITUAL DULLNESS—BY DINING WITH US

- A. Jesus promised the church of Laodicea deep fellowship with Him. He required that they repent of being spiritually lukewarm and promised to give them “gold” and to “dine with them” (Rev. 3:20).
¹⁶“...you are lukewarm...¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire...¹⁹...be zealous and repent. ²⁰I stand at the door and knock. If anyone...opens the door, I will...dine with him... (Rev. 3:16-20)
- B. ***Buy from Me gold:*** We are repenting in order to “buy gold” or to engage in the God-ordained process of acquiring a deep relationship with God as highlighted in John 13-17. In “buying” gold, we do not “earn” it, but we invest ourselves in a costly way to position ourselves to receive “gold.” Isaiah called us “to buy food” by listening and being attentive in our conversation with the Spirit.
¹“Everyone who thirsts...come, buy wine and milk without money ²...Listen carefully to Me... let your soul delight in abundance. ³Incline your ear, and come to Me...” (Isa. 55:1-3)
- C. ***I dine with him:*** To eat together speaks of deep fellowship as the Spirit tenderizes our heart. The teaching in John 14-16 is in the context of the meal the disciples shared with Jesus in John 13. Thus, we spiritually eat the food—the truths and promises that Jesus highlighted in John 14-17.
- D. On March 3, 2021, I had an open vision of ***“a door opening to a room that was filled with light.”*** I had been praying for grace to open the door of my heart and of our spiritual family more widely for Jesus to “come in and dine with us” according to Revelation 3:20. I understand this vision as the Lord helping us by opening a door of understanding to receive glimpses of His glory (Rev. 4:1) and to *dine with Jesus*—by engaging in the Trinitarian conversation as highlighted in John 13-17.
- E. John 13-17 is an invitation to Trinitarian fellowship—to engage in conversation with Trinity. This will be emphasized to the end-time Church which will get ***caught up in Trinitarian joy*** (Jn. 15:11) as key to walking as overcomers who are victorious over the Antichrist (Rev. 12:11; 15:2).

II. MY TWO FAVORITE VERSES AND MY FAVORITE PRAYER—JOHN 15:9 & 17:26

- A. My favorite way to start my prayer times is by praying according to John 15:9 and John 17:26. These two verses set us on the trajectory of being transformed by God’s love.
⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide [stay engaged] in My love.” (Jn. 15:9)
²⁶And I [Jesus] have declared [revealed] to them Your name [glory], and will declare it, that the love with which You [the Father] loved Me may be in them...” (Jn. 17:26)
- B. In John 15:9, Jesus declared the two most significant truths (that the *Father loves Jesus*; that *Jesus loves His people in the same intensity*) and gave the most important command (*to abide or stay engaged and in conversation with God* related to these two truths). The kingdom of God is secure forever because of John 15:9ab; our personal lives are strong as we obey John 15:9c.

- C. I enjoy starting my prayer times by praying according to John 15:9 and John 17:26. I intermittently pray in the Spirit while praying through these two Bible verses.
1. “Thank you, Father, for the way You love Jesus and the Holy Spirit (Jn. 15:9a). Show me more details! Holy Spirit, let me see what You see and feel what You feel about the love You share with the Father and the Son.”
⁹“As the Father loved Me...” (Jn. 15:9a)
 2. “Thank you, Jesus, for the way You love me and Your people (Jn. 15:9b). Show me more! Holy Spirit, let me see what You see and feel what You feel about the love that Jesus has for me and for others.”
⁹“...I also have loved you...” (Jn. 15:9b)
 3. “I commit to abide in Your love (Jn. 15:9c), help me more!”
⁹“...abide [stay engaged] in My love.” (Jn. 15:9c)
- D. Jesus promised to reveal the Father’s name (glory) and prayed a most important prayer—that the Father’s love for Jesus be imparted in us. I pray, “Holy Spirit, reveal the Father’s glory to me and impart His love for Jesus in me. Escort me into Your sapphire glory (Ex. 24:10; Ezek. 1:26).”
²⁶And I [Jesus] have declared [revealed] to them Your name [glory], and will declare it, that the love with which You [the Father] loved Me may be in them...” (Jn. 17:26)
¹⁰...There was under His [God’s] feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone... (Ex. 24:10)
- E. Our words are in His heart, and His words are in our heart—this is foundational to our union (15:7). It starts with words—the Christian life is an ongoing dialogue with a Person. Jesus’ words are *spirit and life* (Jn. 6:63), and His Word is *living and active* (Heb. 4:12). Over time, what He thinks, feels, says, and does gradually fills our hearts. Simple phrases spoken to God can shift our emotions.
- F. Hosea taught that returning to the Lord includes bringing words to speak to Him (Hos. 14:1-3).
¹O Israel, return to the LORD...²Take words with you, and return to the LORD. (Hos. 14:1-2)
- G. In Deuteronomy 30, Moses taught that the command to love and obey God was not *too mysterious* (too hard to understand), nor was it *far off* (outside their ability), nor did they need to *ascend to heaven* (have a heavenly encounter), nor *go overseas* (to receive it at a revival center) to do it. His point is that the power to love God is so near us—in *our mouths* (30:14)—by speaking to God.
⁶The LORD your God will circumcise your heart...to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul...¹¹This commandment...is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, “Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us...?”¹³Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will go over the sea...and bring it to us...?”¹⁴The word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. (Deut. 30:11-14)
- H. It is a common error to try to live the Christian life without Christ—*without conversation with Him*. We cease from striving to love God and people by continually returning to conversation with Jesus which empowers us to love instead of striving in our human strength to love by our own efforts.