

Called to Reign –

Lesson 5-

**“Resting – Receiving – Reigning”**

### **The Overflow of Intimacy-**

Our Father has invited us into a covenant relationship to become one with Him, but we have to take that same culture that exists among the Father, Son and Spirit and apply it to our human relationships:

- Becoming one with our spouse
- Having intimacy in our families
- To be humble and vulnerable in our friendships

Jesus told us it is impossible to love God and not also love others:

1John 2:9-11 “The one who says he is walking in the light and hates his brother is still in the darkness. The one who loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause of stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness. He doesn’t know where he is going, because the darkness had made his eyes blind.”

3:10-15 “It is clear who are the children of God and who are the children of the devil by this – anyone who does not act righteously or love his brother is not of God. For this is the message you have heard from the beginning – we should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, while his brother’s were righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters the one who does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

If we are saturated in the environment of heaven in our relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit, we will also live out the environment of heaven in our relationships with other people. Intimacy is meant to spill over into other areas of life.

John 15:5 Jesus declares “He is the Vine and we are the branches, we are to abide in Him.”

- Branches demand pruning from time to time in order that more fruit can be produced.
- A good Gardener knows when to prune the branches so they can carry more fruit.

- It is a beautiful time to see a tree that is full of fruit, but we should also look at the tree that has been pruned with limbs cut back, leaves gone and realize that this process has to happen in order that maximum fruit can come forth.
- It's like that with us being the branches and Jesus being the Vine. The Vine provides all the needed nutrients to cause the branches to bear fruit.
- So, with us; it's as much a proof of the Father's love when we are bearing fruit as it is when we are being pruned and feel striped and naked and useless and look pitiful.
- It really is when we are humble and vulnerable that authority flows greater through our lives.
- You are being pruned so you can carry more fruit and authority.
- He will take you deeper in order to take you wider and higher so you can be entrusted with more.
- As you become a resting place through intimacy, you bear the fruit of your Father.

### **Abiding in the Fullness of Intimacy**

*The ultimate purpose of our intimacy is union –  
Oneness with the Father, Son and Spirit*

What happens inside of us affects what happens outside of us.

The One we are with is the One who is being released through us.

The One we behold is the One we are becoming.

The One we become is the One we are able to reign with.

### **Learning how to Receive**

We have been practicing what is called Soaking in the Presence of the Lord for some time now.

I was made aware of this type of intimacy with the Lord a few years ago.

We were meeting on Saturday evenings for prayer during a period when a lot of spiritual warfare was going on.

We had the prayer banner and posters and prayer power points running.

One day, I sensed the Lord spoke to me and said: "Cant My people just come into MY presence without asking something of ME and just spend time with Me?"

I didn't know what that meant or looked like. We were used to praying in tongues and walking and shouting and whooping it up thinking we were running the enemy off.

We began to try it and it was awkward at first. We didn't know how to just come before Him and wait and love Him without doing something.

So, when people today ask about what is Soaking Prayer and what do they need to do? My response is NOTHING, there is no struggle, just be with the Lord and think on Him and verbalize your love for Him and sometimes just be quiet and listen.

Learn to RECEIVE!

There is no agenda other than just experiencing Him.

We need to learn to become a resting place for the Heavenly Dove.

From that place of resting, we can start our **assignment** because there has first been proper **alignment**.

- Too many times, we try to go directly to our assignment without the anointing of the Dove for it yet.
- When you have the Dove resting on you for your assignment, you will be like Jesus coming out of the wilderness with a message: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me.” Luke 4:18
- You will have good news in the midst of bad news all around you.
- You will be a light in the middle of darkness.
- Healing in the midst of sickness and disease.
- Joy in the middle of sadness.
- Dancing in the place of mourning.
- Beauty in the places of ashes.
- Whatever issue you find yourself in, you will have something to offer from heaven.
- You represent a Good Heavenly Father in a world that is desperate for His love.

John 17 this is what Jesus said the Gospel is all about:

21-23 “I pray...that they all may be one. Just as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You, so also may they be one in US, so the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory that You have given to Me I have given to them, that they may be one just as We are one – I in them and You in Me – that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them as You loved Me.”

Jesus has already prayed for His followers [us today] that we would be one with each other and also that they would be one with Him – in the same way the Father, Son and Spirit are one.

There is no closer unity than this – we are in Him, and He is in us.

- It’s the relation Paul teaches us in Eph. using his phrases “In Christ” and “Christ in us” that we are called to something even more than a face to face relationship – its oneness.

- True rest in the Kingdom of God is the overflow of this union of our spirits with God's Spirit. It is a covenant of love that forever binds us with Him.

## **RESTING - RECEIVING – REIGNING**

*In order to be about the Father's business, you must be rooted and grounded in love, knowing who you are and whose you are.*

This relationship is a place of identity and intimacy where you open yourself up to be seen by your Heavenly Father.

From that covenant of oneness, there's **responsibility** and we see how an **inheritance** is available for us and a **destiny** awaits us.

- To enter this kind of relationship with our Heavenly Father, we first have to learn how to **rest** and enter the place of knowing our **identity** and learning how to cultivate **intimacy**.
- This is where we **rest** and **receive** so we can then reign with Him.

It is a lifestyle of humility because it involves realizing that without Him, you can do nothing – John 15:5; and what you do comes from your unity with Him.

Yet, it isn't false humility, because you also acknowledge that in Him, you can do all things – Phil. 4:13.

- This is where our confidence & courage comes from.
- His grace gives to the humble, so in humility I can always find grace to do all things.
- Pride says: "It's all up to me and my talents and abilities; I'm at the center.
- So, no grace is available in that situation – you will always struggle and sweat.
- Jesus Himself said He did nothing without the Holy Spirit and He could only do what HE saw the Father doing and say what HE heard the Father saying.
- He lived from a place of intimacy; that's where His power flowed from
- He set the model and example for us to live as the redeemed human race.
- Where Adam & Eve failed due to sin, He restores us and refills us with His Spirit and gives us another chance to fulfill His purpose on the earth.

We must keep the order of Resting – Receiving – Reigning.

- As we learn to abide in Him, we can see the culture around us change as heaven is manifest on earth.
- It becomes the experience of knowing and living what you were created for!

*Instead of looking for the presence of His promises,  
you begin to look for the promise of His presence.*

**“God had a dream and He wrapped your body around it”**

*Bill Johnson*

Eph. 1:4 “He choose us in the Messiah before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him in love.”

- He knew you and had a purpose and destiny for you before the foundation of the world.

All things that exist are designed to be God-centered; they are **from Him**, **through Him**, and **to Him** – Rom. 11:36.

- When you were conceived in your mother’s womb by the joining of the sperm and the egg, He knew who you were and what His destiny was for you.
- He created you to be unique in the ways only you can know Him.
- There is no one else in the universe that can worship Him exactly like you can.
- You are the Fathers dream.

Amazing things begin to happen in your life when you realize that the best thing about God is God Himself – enjoying who He is and just being in His presence as a fulfillment of His dream.

Story: A father who was a minister, had to travel a lot and had to leaven his wife and kids at home most of the time. When he was home he would have “daddy dates” with each child separately taking them to their favorite place, eat their favorite food and take them shopping at their favorite store.

This happened for several years and the children became accustomed to the “daddy dates” and would always say they were glad he was home, but it wasn’t long before they would ask when he was going to take them out.

He began to wonder if they were just happy to have him home for what he did for them rather than for him to be with them.

One time, one of his daughters came to him and said: “daddy, I love you.” He was touched but kept waiting for the request of where she wanted to go. After a while of waiting for her, he asked: “Do you need something?”

Her replay was: “NO, I just wanted to be with you.”

Wow, his heart was thrilled to hear that. His response was to just spend time with her and get to know her heart. After a while, he asked if she wanted to go shopping. She didn’t have to ask him, he just wanted to get her whatever she wanted.

I think that is what God has in mind in Psa. 37:4 “Make God the utmost delight and pleasure of your life, and He will provide for you what you desire the most.”

- Instead of focusing on His gifts, we find that the best thing about God is God, the best thing about Jesus is Jesus.
- When we come to Him with nothing but requests, He is gracious enough and often answers us, but that ends up being the extent of some folk’s relationship with Him.
- When we come to Him just to be with Him, His heart bonds with our heart, our desires blend with His, and He enjoys satisfying our desires, sometimes without our even asking.

That is what happens in intimate relationship – connected hearts seek to meet the needs and desires of others.

May we continue to hunger after the supernatural experiences, continue to attend classes and conferences, healing services and hunger to experience His goodness and celebrate the things He does in the land of the living.

But when it comes to just He and us, if He were to ask us what we wanted – may we say: “I just want to be with You and rest in Your presence.”

When your heart’s desire is always to have Him close, you know you’ve crossed over into intimacy territory.