

The CALL to ABIDE



FEBRUARY 4/5

**OUR CALL TO BE
AN INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLE-MAKING
CHURCH**



FEBRUARY 11/12

THE CALL TO WORSHIP



VISION SERIES



FEBRUARY 18/19

THE CALL TO FISH



FEBRUARY 25/26

THE CALL TO PRAY



THE CALL TO ABIDE

ABIDE = Dwell = Connect = Remain = Deep Relationship

Psalms 91:1-2 (NKJV) 1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust."

WHY the CALL to ABIDE?

1. The blueprint of **life** is from God.

John 6:68, 63 (NKJV) 68 But Simon Peter answered Him,
 “**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**
63 **It is the Spirit who gives life;** the flesh profits nothing.
The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Psalm 16:11; Hebrews 12:1; Psalm 139:16

WHY the CALL to ABIDE?

2. To live life **abundantly** and **victoriously**, we must hence, abide in Him.

John 15:5 (NKJV) “I am the vine, you are the branches.
 He who **abides in Me**, and I in him, **bears much fruit**;
 for **without Me you can do nothing**.

WHY the CALL to ABIDE?

2. To live life **abundantly** and **victoriously**, we must hence, abide in Him.

Romans 11:36 (NKJV) For **of Him and through Him and to Him are all things**, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Acts17:28a

WHY the CALL to ABIDE?

3. **Abiding** in Him is a **journey** to **know-experience** Him.

- Knowing God and His Ways ([Jeremiah 9:23-24](#); [Psalm 103:7](#); [Isaiah 55:8-9](#))
- Efficacy of Prayer ([James 5:16](#)) - Right-Standing-Believing-Living
- Intentionally seek His involvement in our lives
- Confidence in relationship with God ([1 John 5:14-15](#))



Confidently ABIDE-CONNECT with God

- Connect with the Lord continually
- Guard-manage “distractions” that causes dis-connection
- Re-connect with the Lord
- Stay connected

HOW to ABIDE?

MODEL of the Apostle John

He declared **5 TIMES**,
in the Gospel of John, that he is

“the Disciple whom Jesus loved”.



THE CALL TO ABIDE

LESSONS and APPLICATIONS

from the Apostle John

In becoming a disciple whom Jesus loves

I-O-P-D-F

THE CALL TO ABIDE (I-O-P-D-F)

- I. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, develops Intimacy with Him.
- II. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, Obey Him. Obedience.
- III. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, develops Passion for God.
- IV. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, grows in Discernment.
- V. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, continually Follows the Lord.

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FIRST MENTION

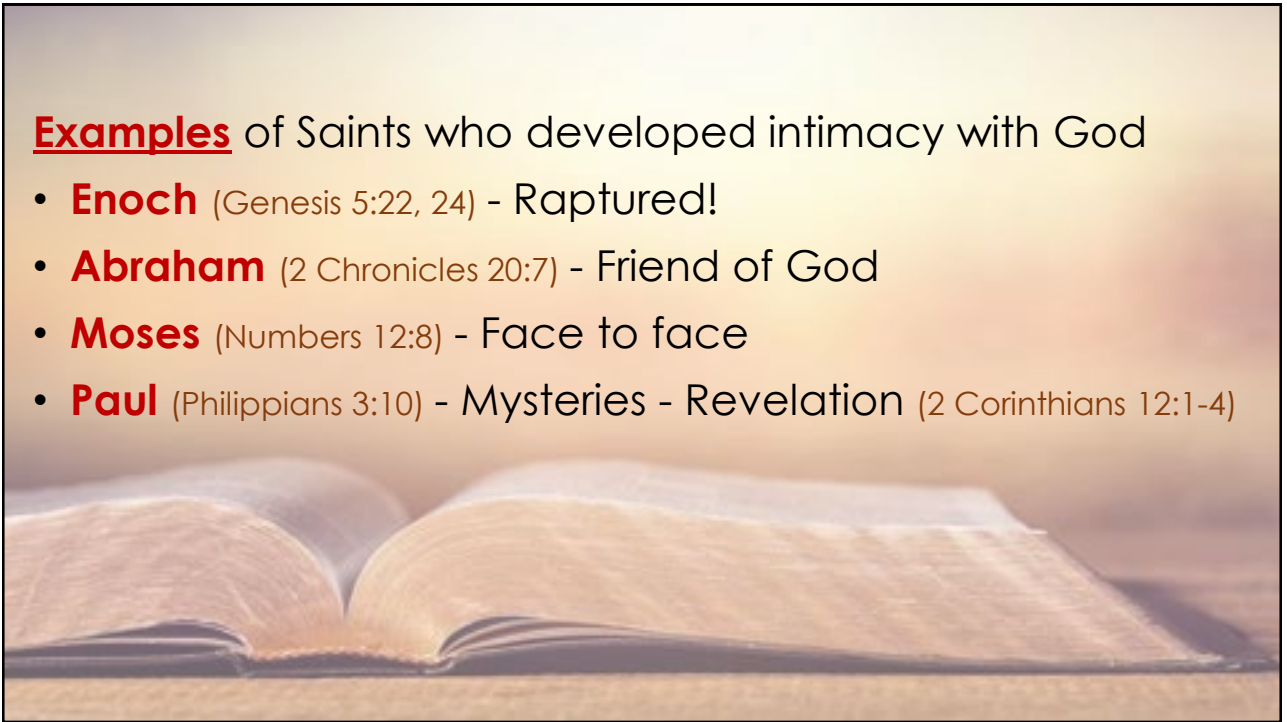
John 13:23, 25 (NKJV) **23** Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom **one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved**. **25** Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

- I. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, develops Intimacy with Him.



Examples of Saints who developed intimacy with God

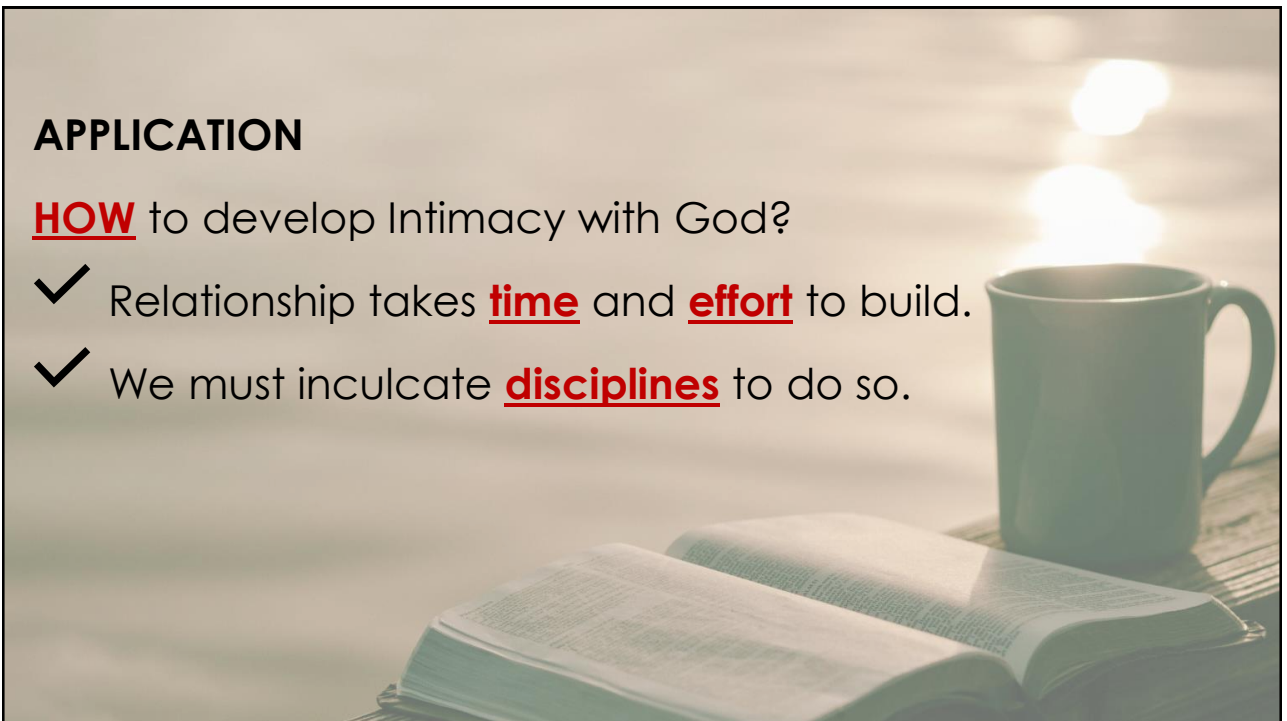
- **Enoch** (Genesis 5:22, 24) - Raptured!
- **Abraham** (2 Chronicles 20:7) - Friend of God
- **Moses** (Numbers 12:8) - Face to face
- **Paul** (Philippians 3:10) - Mysteries - Revelation (2 Corinthians 12:1-4)

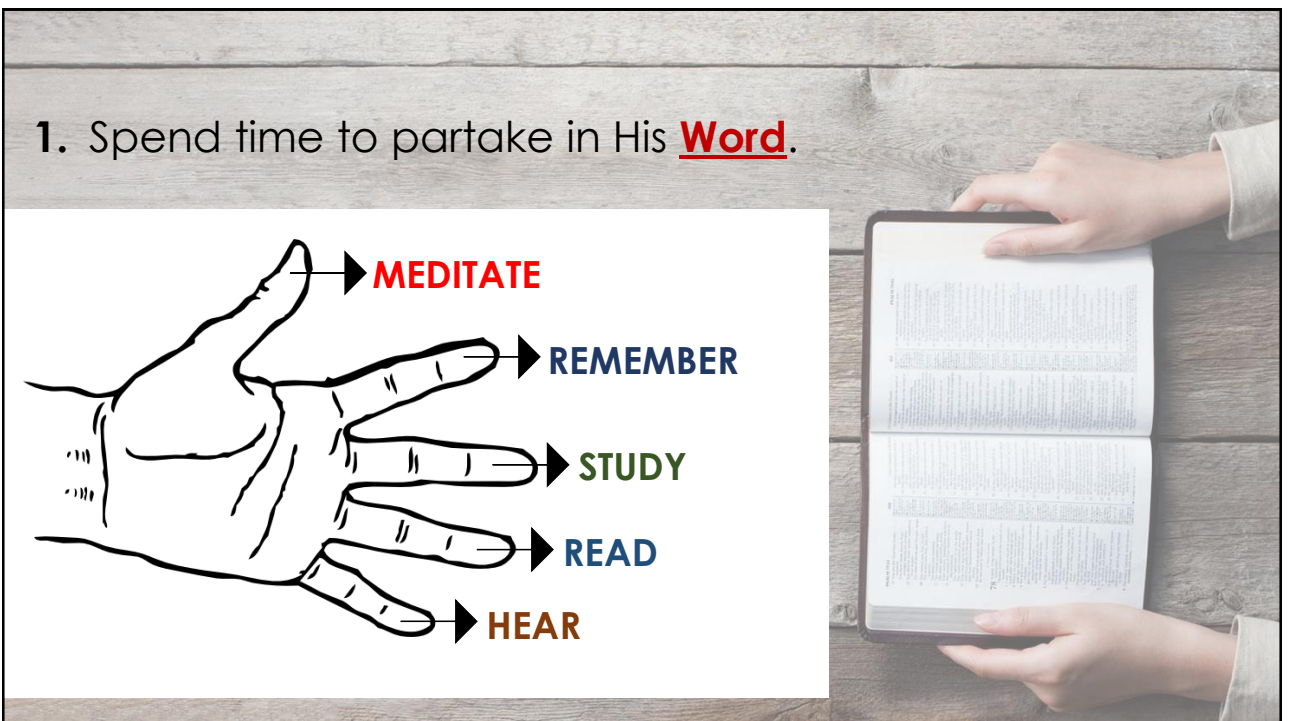
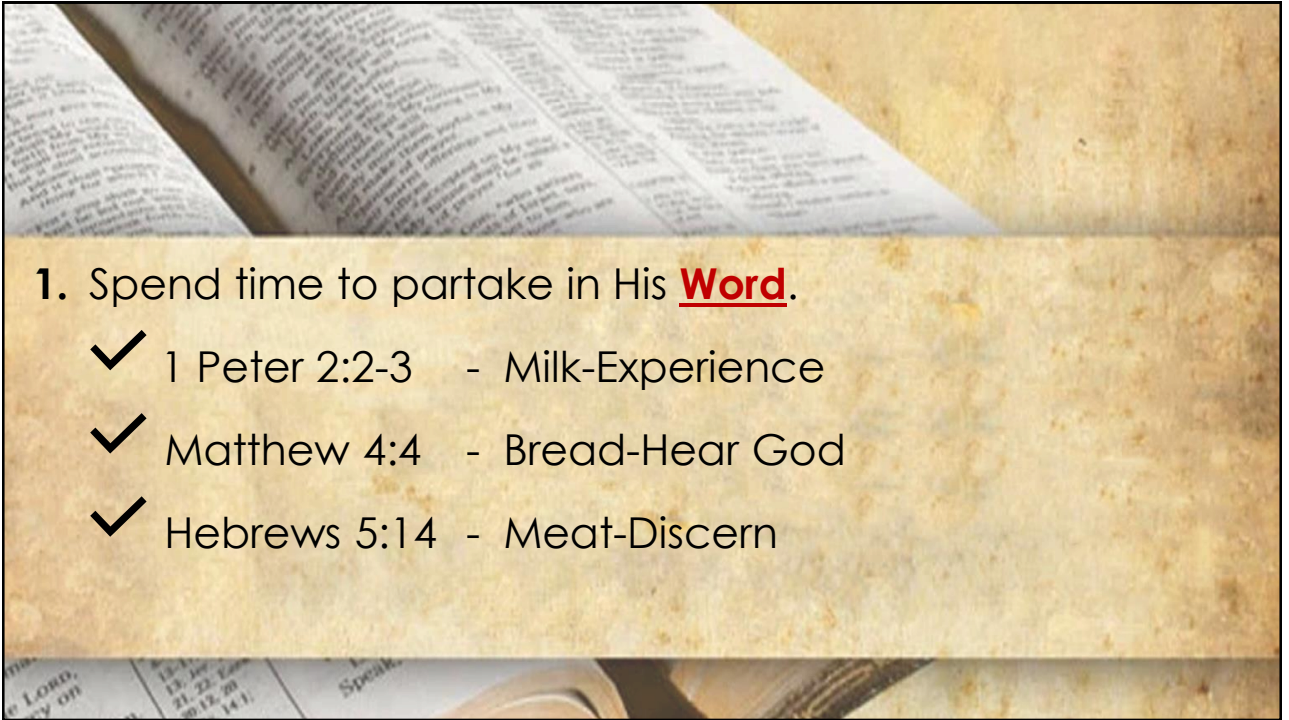


APPLICATION

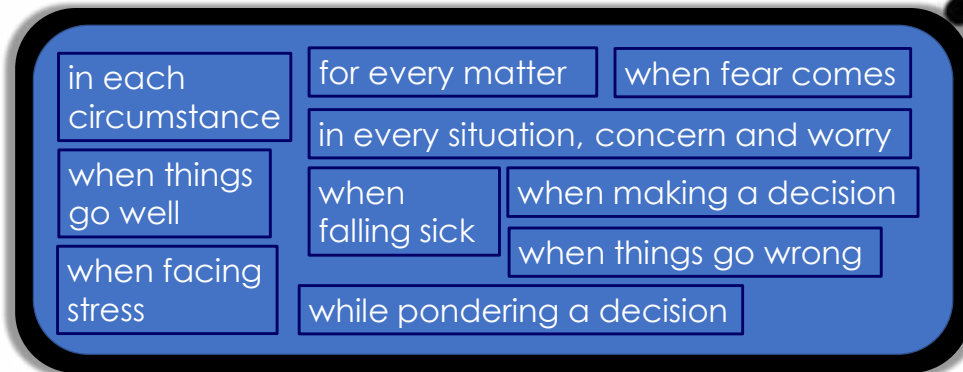
HOW to develop Intimacy with God?

- ✓ Relationship takes time and effort to build.
- ✓ We must inculcate disciplines to do so.





2. Chat-Connect with God continuously.



2. Chat-connect with God continuously.

The importance of meditating and speaking forth His Word in us is the Spirit of Faith.

2 Corinthians 4:13 (NKJV) And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak ...



Joshua 1:8
Psalm 1:1-3

3. Build your **Altar** of Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Time Issues

PERSONAL RESPONSE - INTIMACY

How are you currently developing your intimacy with God?

- Intake of the Word
- Prayer-connect
- Altar of Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship



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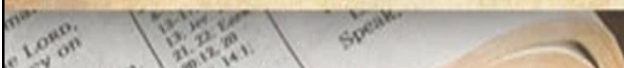
SECOND MENTION

John 19:25-27 (NKJV) 25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the **disciple whom He loved** standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"

27 Then He said to the disciple, "**Behold your mother!**" **And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.**

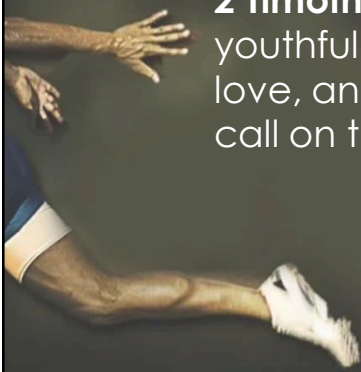
- II. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, Obeys Him.



THE CALL TO ABIDE (I-O-P-D-F)

II. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, Obeys Him.

2 Timothy 2:22 (NLT) Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.



OBEDIENCE

We pay the price to walk in righteousness and holiness.

- Separation from : everything that hinders the fulfilling of God's purpose.
the things that do not value-add to our godliness.
- Separation to : everything that value-add to the fulfilling of God's call.
the things that will value-add to our godliness.

**Relationships-Activities-Hobbies-Attitudes, etc.
How you spend \$, time, energy, resources, etc.**

YA-Tithe-Career

OBEDIENCE

We pay the price to walk in righteousness and holiness.

- What is permissible for others may not be permissible for you.
 - What was permissible may not be permissible now as you grow spiritually.
- Develop Fear of God (**Exodus 20:20 - Flee sins**) - He is Holy!
 - New Commandment (**John 13:34-35**)
 - Conscience clear before God and Man (**Acts 24:16**)

WHAT ARE GOD'S LAWS?

“**Mandata**”

= moral laws that are to be obeyed absolutely

“**Exemplar**”

= examples used in parables and stories that reveal principles to follow; they are not commands.

EG 1 : of Peter walking on water (**FOCUS on JESUS**)

EG 2 : of Jesus telling the rich young ruler to sell everything to follow Him (**IDOLATRY**)

EG 3 : widow putting in 2 copper mites (**SACRIFICIAL GENEROUS GIVING**)

PERSONAL RESPONSE - OBEDIENCE

How am I currently walking in obedience?

- What are some areas in my life I need to **separate from**?
- What are some areas in my life I need to **separate to**?
- What was **permissible** for me in **the past** may not be permissible for me **now** as I walk in righteousness and holiness?



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THIRD MENTION

John 20:2-4 (NKJV) **2** Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the **other disciple, whom Jesus loved**, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." **3** Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. **4** So they both ran together, and **the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.**

III. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, develops **Passion** for God.

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Passion comes from knowing something is **worthwhile to pursue**.

beauty	travel	hobby	skill
sports	Food	cars	music
ministry	money	studies	leadership
career	winning	watches	ambition
potential spouse	missions		

Temporal

Eternal

Destiny

Vision

III. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, develops **Passion** for God.

- Develop **priorities** in life to pursue your passion
-God-People-Things (Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:1)
- Take responsibility for own **spiritual life** and **growth**
- Be **intentional**-plan-prioritise-protect
- Persevere to **serve** God (1 Corinthians 15:58)



TIM KELLER was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer
i/v 10 Apr 2022

An encounter with your own mortality will change
how you see your life, etc.

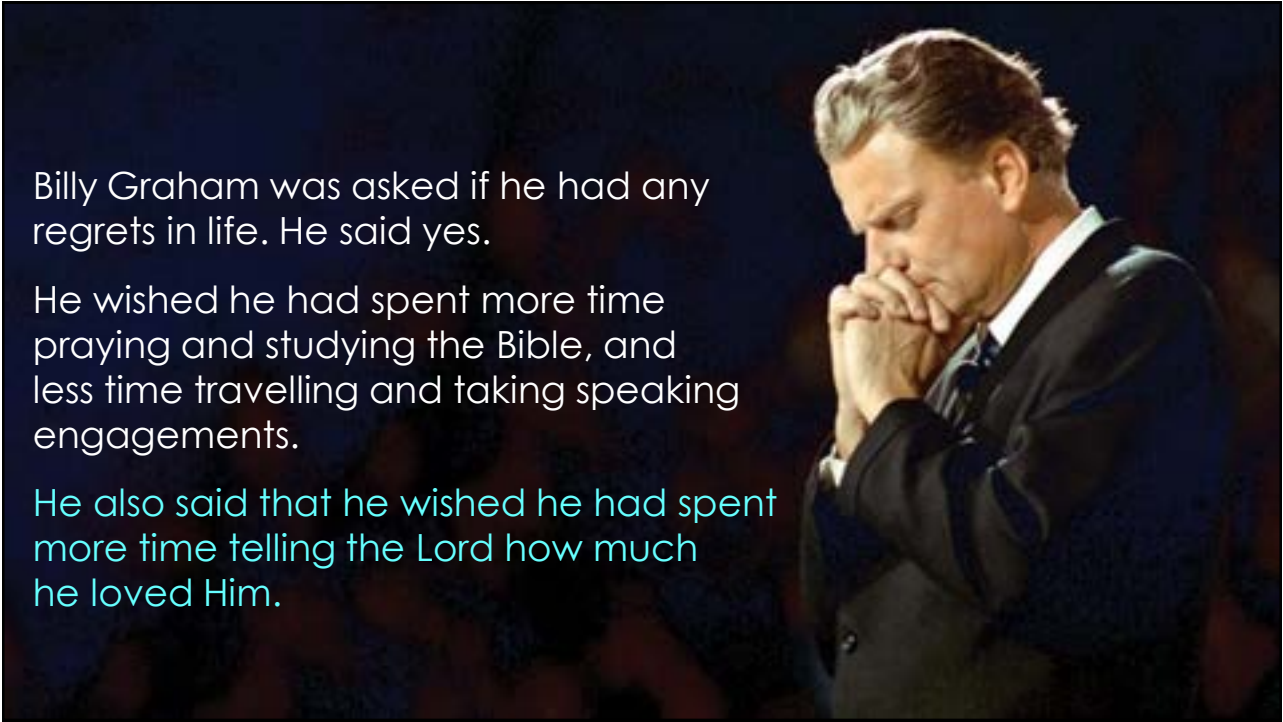
It's one thing to believe God loves you, another
thing to **actually feel His love**.

It's one thing to believe He is present with you.

It's another to **actually experience His Presence**
... know the Lord ...

My **experience of His Presence and His love must
double, triple, quintuple or I wouldn't make it!"**



A photograph of Billy Graham, a prominent Christian evangelist, shown in profile from the chest up. He is wearing a dark suit and tie, with his hands clasped in prayer and his head bowed. The background is dark and out of focus.

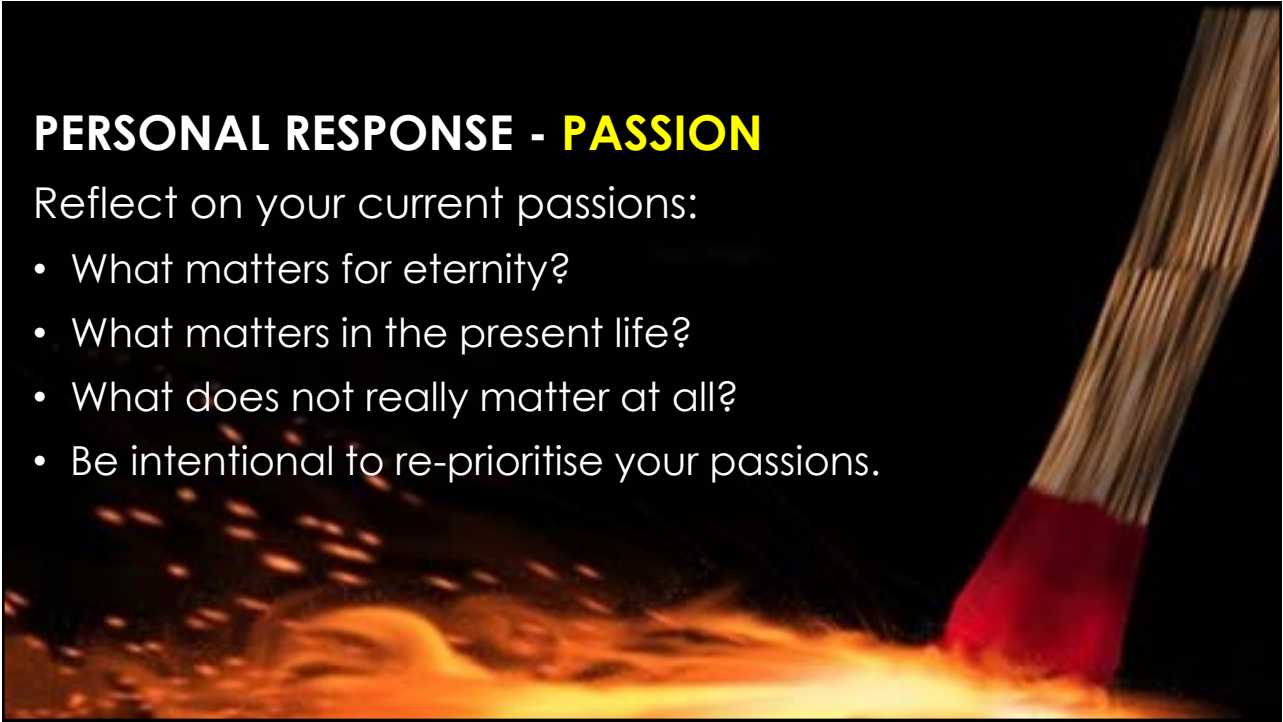
Billy Graham was asked if he had any regrets in life. He said yes.

He wished he had spent more time praying and studying the Bible, and less time travelling and taking speaking engagements.

He also said that he wished he had spent more time telling the Lord how much he loved Him.

PERSONAL RESPONSE - **PASSION**

Reflect on your current passions:

- What matters for eternity?
 - What matters in the present life?
 - What does not really matter at all?
 - Be intentional to re-prioritise your passions.
- 
- A close-up photograph of a lit matchstick. The matchstick is positioned diagonally, with the red-tipped head at the bottom right, glowing with a bright orange and yellow flame. Sparks are visible as the match burns.

THE CALL TO ABIDE (I-O-P-D-F)

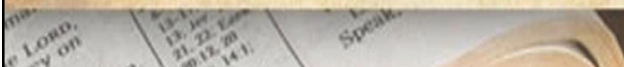
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FOURTH MENTION

John 21:7 (NKJV) Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.


- IV. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, grows from information to revelation.





IV. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, grows from information to **revelation**.

- John very quickly was able to **perceive** and **recognise** the resurrected Lord Jesus.
- This is because of the simplicity and purity of his heart and **devotion to the Lord**.
- He **outran** Peter and came to the tomb first (John 20:4).



IV. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, grows from information to **revelation**.

- He **saw** the empty tomb and **simply believed** that the Lord Jesus rose from the dead (John 20:8).
- That is why he has **revelation** and **spiritual discernment-perception**, not ordinarily available to the shallow Christian.

HOW?

APPLICATION #1

Daily ask for the **Spirit** of Wisdom and Revelation.

Ephesians 1:17-18 (NIV) **17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the **Spirit of wisdom and revelation**, so that you may **know him better**. **18** I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may **know** the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people ...



1 Corinthians 2:9



APPLICATION #2 Seek **revelation** from your **intake of Scriptures**.

Psalms 19:8 (NKJV) The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, **enlightening the eyes**.

APPLICATION #2 Seek revelation from your intake of Scriptures.

- Direct source of pain and sufferings.
- Don't beg-ask for Presence of God - acknowledge by faith.
- Pursue a guilt-free no-condemnation relationship with God.
- No offenses - be unoffendable.
- No comparison, no competition, no condemnation!



APPLICATION #2 Seek revelation from your intake of Scriptures.

- Ways of God - Righteousness - He will not override our wills - or anyone's.
- Prayers involving the will of others.
- Our needs. Faith. Hebrews 11:6.
- 95% problems carnality.
- Strategic prayer.



APPLICATION #3 Seek wisdom from above.

James 3:17 (NKJV) But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy ...

Plenty knowledge-content
But no discernment

PERSONAL RESPONSE - DISCERNMENT

Hebrews 5:14 (NKJV) But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Discernment comes from getting into the meat of the Word and by constant practice.

How am I developing discernment?

THE CALL TO ABIDE (I-O-P-D-F)

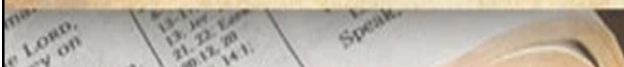
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FIFTH MENTION

John 21:19-20 (NKJV) 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him [Peter], "Follow Me." **20** Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

- V. A disciple, whom Jesus loves, continually follows the Lord.



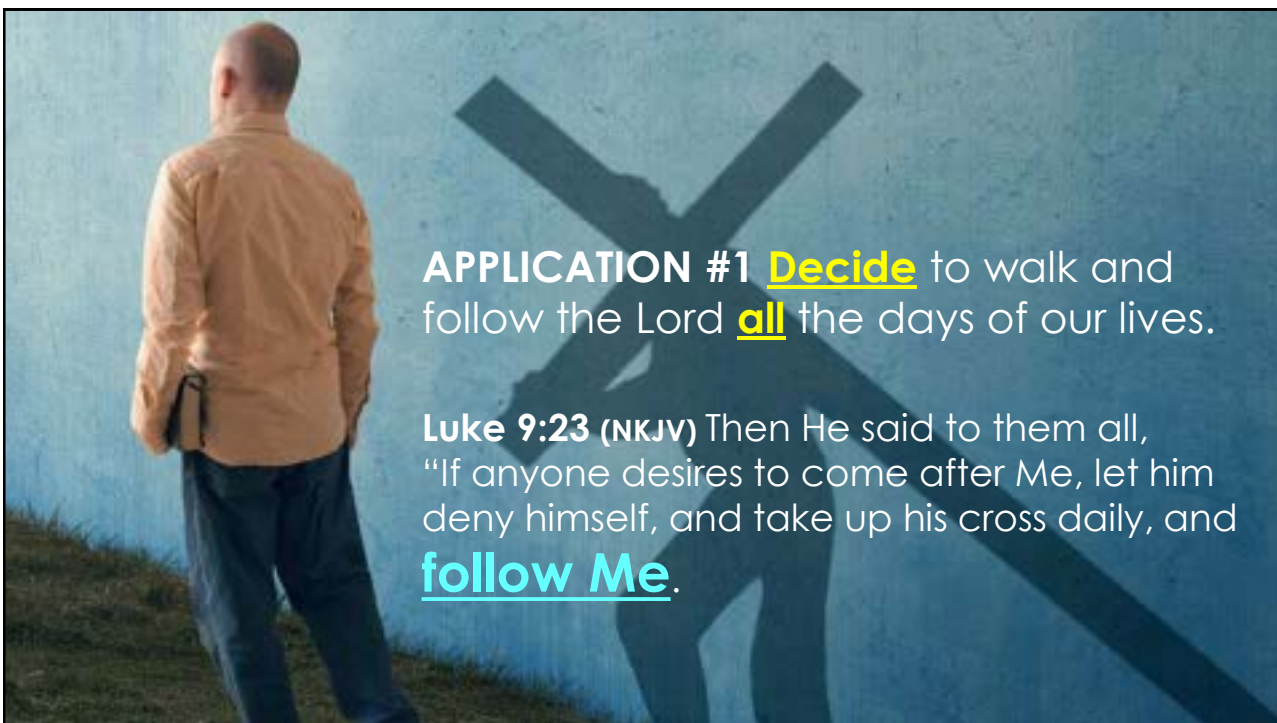
John 21:19-20

- Peter needed to be restored by the Lord.
- Peter has to be told by the Lord to follow Him again!
- Not John, because John was already following the Lord.
- History records that John lived to a ripe old age; received much revelations on the island of Patmos before he finally died in Ephesus.



APPLICATION #1 Decide to walk and follow the Lord all the days of our lives.

Luke 9:23 (NKJV) Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."



APPLICATION #2 Build our lives on the Word to anchor us through difficult times.

Matthew 7:24-25 (NKJV) 24 Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and **25** the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

2 Peter 1:10; Jude 23-24
BMC Lady Cancer-Why-Allow
See present pain-suffering in light of Calvary

APPLICATION #3 Walk with people who walk with God.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV) 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **25** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Guard deception/conspiracies-2Ps

PERSONAL RESPONSE

- CONTINUALLY FOLLOW THE LORD

Reflect on how you handle disappointments, un-answered prayers, trouble, pain, conflicts, etc.

- so as not to stumble and fall away;
- so that you will continually follow the Lord.

BOTTOM-LINE: The CALL to ABIDE

Hold extremely tightly to:

1. The **WORD**

John 15:7 (NKJV) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

BOTTOM-LINE: The CALL to ABIDE

Hold extremely tightly to:

2. The **HOLY SPIRIT**

1 John 2:27 (NKJV) But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

SUMMARY - THE CALL TO ABIDE (I-O-P-D-F)

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