

August 29, 2021 James Gallaher Intimacy with God – Intimacy with Others
Series: The Heart of Freedom Fellowship

The foundation of everything we do at Freedom Fellowship is in these six words: Intimacy with God. Intimacy with others.

Proverbs 29:18 *Where there is no vision, the people perish.* Also, a vision without purpose will often perish. We need to ask "why" we do things. The purpose of what we do at Freedom is to create intimacy with God and intimacy with others. Intimacy is only found when we have a right view of who God is. You cannot have an intimate relationship with someone that you fear or that doesn't have your interests at heart. Intimacy with God cannot be based on fear or condemnation. How do you see God today - as a friend or as an enemy? Seeing God, not as an enemy, but as a friend is the first step to experiencing intimacy. Do we see God with fear of rejection or with hope for provision?

Jeremiah 29:11 *'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'*

Proverbs 3:32 *...But He is intimate with the upright.*

Jeremiah 19:13 *And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*

Having a right view of God helps us have a right view of others. Intimacy with others is often difficult as we desire intimacy with others but we don't view it as something we need. If we don't view relationships as something we need, we are much less likely to sacrifice for them.

Genesis 2:18 *Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."* God intentionally, by design, created Adam to need more than just a relationship with Him. We are created for relationships - with God and with others. We will often minimize God's purpose for relationships without this understanding of Adam having a perfect relationship with God and was still found lacking.

Barna states that 90% of people who came to a relationship with Christ, did so as a result of a relationship with someone else.

God uses relationships to draw us, to comfort us, to encourage us.

1 Samuel talks about sending Jonathan to comfort and encourage David in the wilderness. God often sends messengers to us when we are living in exile or a wilderness.

All throughout our lives, there are people who need to be comforted and people who need to comfort others. Instead of complicating relationships, we need to see relationships as simple as just showing up.

Explain viewing God with fear of rejection or with hope for provision.

What is your approach to God in prayer? Fear or Hope?

How has God met you through others while in a wilderness?