

INTIMACY WITH GOD DEPENDS ON OUR COMMITMENT AND DEVOTION TO JESUS, AND OUR TOTAL SURRENDER TO HIM

- OUR **DEVOTION TO GOD** NEEDS TO BE LIKE THAT OF THE EARLY CHURCH
 - “**DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO PRAYER, BEING WATCHFUL & THANKFUL.**” - COL.4:2
 - The Greek word for devoted “proskartereo” is the strongest word in the Greek language for **COMMITMENT**. It means “to latch on (to Jesus) and refuse to let go” (see **Acts 1:14, 2:42**)
 - “**NOW DEVOTE YOUR HEART & SOUL TO SEEKING THE LORD**” - I CHRON. 22:19
 - “**BUT YOUR HEARTS MUST BE FULLY COMMITTED TO THE LORD OUR GOD, TO LIVE BY HIS DECREES & OBEY HIS COMMANDS.**” - I KINGS 8:61

- WE MUST **SUBMIT** ALL WE ARE, ALL WE HAVE, AND ALL WE DO TO GOD
 - “**I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST AND I NO LONGER LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME.**” - GALATIANS 2:20

TO DIE TO SELF ONE MUST:

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| - Die to your own Desires | - Die to your own Rights |
| - Die to your own Opinions & Views | - Die to your Will & Ways |
| - Die to your own Goals & Purposes | - Die to your Self Efforts (pride) |
| - Die to your own Preferences | - Die to the World (Idols) |
| - Die to Control & Ownership | - Die to the World’s Approval |
- “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” - Luke 9:23
 - “Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.” - Luke 14:33

SUBMIT to God’s Control, Will, Ways, Plans, Timing, Schedule, Agenda, Purposes, Interests...

“When we pray to be sanctified... are we prepared for what sanctification will cost ? It will be an intense narrowing of our interests on earth, an immense broadening of all our interests in God.”

“To fulfill God’s perfect design for you requires your **total surrender** - complete abandonment of yourself to Him.” - Oswald Chambers

“GREATER LOVE HAS NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS. YOU ARE MY FRIENDS IF YOU DO WHAT I COMMAND.” - JOHN 15:13-14

- IS THIS WHAT WE WANT JESUS TO SAY TO US ? (CHURCH OF AMERICA)
 - “You are neither hot nor cold. I wish you were either one or the other.” - Revelation 3:14-19
 - “You have forsaken your **first love.**” - Revelation 2:1-4