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:
- Die to your own Desires
- Die to your own Opinions & Views
- Die to your own Goals & Purposes
- Die to your own Preferences
- Die to Control & Ownership
- Die to your own Rights
- Die to your Will & Ways
- Die to your Self Efforts (pride)
- Die to the World (Idols)
- 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