



JOHN BEVERE

DRAWING
NEAR



A LIFE *of* INTIMACY *with* GOD

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

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CHAPTER ONE

THE GREATEST INVITATION OF ALL TIME

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What event or experience in your life initiated your desire to read this book?
2. Consider these examples of God's invitation to draw near:
 - Moses saw a burning bush and turned aside to investigate. In doing so, God called out to him.
 - The young boy Samuel heard a voice four times before he responded, "Speak, for Your servant hears."
 - When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water—walking as if he would pass them by—they cried out.

Which of these examples best describes God's invitation to you? Have you responded? If so, what was the nature of your response?

3. As you contemplate prayer being a dialogue, a two-way conversation, what has God been communicating to you, both verbally and nonverbally?

CHAPTER TWO

GOD'S PURSUIT

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. When the children of Israel were released from four hundred years of Egyptian bondage, they were confused about God's primary purpose for setting them free. The Lord declared, "I . . . brought you to myself," yet they whined and complained, thinking it was all about inheriting a promised land. As the author states, their hearts were on the what and not the Who they were to inherit.

God has set you free from the bondage of sin, desiring to bring you to Himself. Have you ever been whiny or complaining? How have you confused the what with the Who?

2. In this chapter, the question was asked, "Why would any person who has been so loved and valued want to return to the system where they were once enslaved?" How would you answer that question?
3. The author shared a dialogue he had with God, shortly after having received salvation, regarding how highly esteemed he was in the Lord's sight. How does, or should, the knowledge that you are a highly-valued "sought-out jewel" modify your life and relationships?

CHAPTER THREE

PROTECT YOUR HUNGER

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Proverbs 27:7 says, “A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb.” As you reflect on this verse, what cares, desires, and pleasures are you most vulnerable to? How can they dull your hunger for the “sweet honeycomb” of God’s fellowship?
2. In this chapter, the author shares his observations of over-twenty-year-olds and under-twenty-year-olds in two different church settings in regard to their passion—their hunger—for God. As you look at the life of your church, how would you characterize the appetite of your spiritual family—satisfied, hungry, indifferent?
3. In light of the admonition in Proverbs 4:23 to “above all else, guard your heart,” what steps can you take today to protect your heart? Is there some spiritual “junk food” in your diet which needs to be eliminated or replaced?

CHAPTER FOUR

PASSION FOR HIS PRESENCE

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In the beginning of this chapter, the author writes, “Over this time I’ve discovered two major groups within the church . . . The first are those who seek God for what He can do; while the second seek Him for who He is.” Be honest—in which group do you see yourself?
2. Following their release from captivity in Egypt, the Israelites were frequently praising and worshiping God for His provision on one day, only to be grumble and complain on another day because He had not provided what they wanted. As you remember “desert experiences” in your own life, what similarities do you see in your attitude as compared to the children of Israel?
3. You may be reading this book because you are currently having a “desert experience.” If so, what can you learn from Elijah’s experience with the manifestations of wind, earthquake, and fire?

CHAPTER FIVE

BEHIND THE VEIL

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In the beginning of this chapter, these questions are asked: “Why . . . have so many resigned themselves to an intellectual relationship with God? Why have we settled for Christianity void of the presence of Christ? How did we learn to be content without intimacy?”
How would you answer these questions?
2. The author mentions that psychology tells us that relationships we’ve had over the last five years will shape our personality. He also states that this is affirmed in Scripture: “Evil company corrupts good habits” (1 Cor. 15:33), and “He who walks with wise men will be wise” (Proverbs 13:20). Have you had periods in your life which exemplified either or both extremes? What were the results?

CHAPTER SIX

THE FRIENDS OF GOD

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, how would you describe what it means to fear God, versus being scared of God?
2. This chapter contrasts Abraham, “a friend of God,” with his nephew Lot, who was called “righteous.” As Lot surveyed the desirable lands toward the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, he obviously was trying to figure out a way to enjoy the cities’ abundance without being caught up in their influence. Are you ever inclined to reason in the same way?
How would proper fear of the Lord prevent such faulty reasoning?

3. Thinking back on the author’s Hawaiian encounter with the man on the beach, have you ever had similar encounters? How did you deal with them?
Whether they were as extreme as that incident or not, have there been times where you were the man on the beach—where your conversation or actions betrayed where your heart really was at the time? What have you learned, or are you currently learning, from those instances?

4. In light of Psalm 25:14 (“Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear him”), the author points out that God holds back his friendship to protect us from the dangers of familiarity.
What are the “dangers of familiarity”?

CHAPTER SEVEN

WHAT HINDERS TRUE INTIMACY?

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The assertion is made that “without the fear of the Lord . . . an incorrect image is developed, shaped, and molded within our own soul or imagination.” As you look back at your faith thus far, was there a time when your image of God was incorrect? If so, in what way was it distorted?
2. The author points out that when we covet something contrary to God’s will for us, God will often give it to us. Looking honestly at your own prayer life, is there something you are continually approaching God about which might actually be a covetous desire? Is there an instance in your life when you received something you passionately desired, only to regret it afterwards?
3. In the first question at the end of the first chapter, you were asked what had initiated your desire to read this book. As you consider what you have gained thus far, how have you been challenged? What changes are you beginning to see in your image of God and what it means to please Him in deed and in truth?

CHAPTER EIGHT

TRUE WORSHIP

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. As you examine the lives of such characters as Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Esther, Daniel, and others in the Scriptures, you find the common denominator in all their lives was a genuine heartfelt obedience to God's desires rather than their own. What would happen in your life if you were to implement that type of obedience today?
2. Reflecting on the author's humorous statement, "Praise is the fast songs, worship is the slow ones," did you identify with that assessment? The message he ultimately received from the Lord regarding worship, was "It is a life." How does that statement affect the need for changes in your life?
3. As you think about what Jesus said in Luke 13:25–27 and Matthew 7:21–23, how would you describe the difference between His abiding presence and His presence that accompanies ministry?

CHAPTER NINE

WITH WHOM GOD DWELLS

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In this chapter, the point is made that even though humility is generally misunderstood to be weak, wimpy, and spineless, the truly humble are often mistaken to be arrogant. As you reflect on this, can you think of people you've written off as arrogant, who were actually quite humble? If so, what can you learn from that incorrect assessment?
2. Reflect on the three aspects of humility—obedience to God, total dependence on Him, and our view of ourselves—and the biblical examples of each. If you were to confess to one of these as your greatest challenge, which would it be?
3. In Isaiah 66, a group of people were serving and worshiping God by the letter of the law—bringing proper sacrifices, burning proper incense, and making on the proper offerings. Yet, the Lord did not delight in their worship due to their lack of obedience. In what ways can our worship be displeasing to God, even when it is led by gifted, talented leaders?

CHAPTER TEN

INTIMACY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever prayed a “please-take-me-home-to-Heaven-to-be-with-you” prayer? What were the circumstances when you did?
2. Many in the church attempt to draw near to Jesus apart from an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit, even when they know that no one comes to know Jesus without the Holy Spirit. Why? Have you found this to be true in your own life?
3. As you meditate on the partnership role of the Holy Spirit, how does His presence influence your confidence in speaking your heart to God? Is there really anything you can hold back?

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In the opening of this chapter, the author reflects on his young faith as a college student. He describes living a new life, but feeling that something was lacking even though he was diligently reading Scripture. Can you identify with that situation in your own past, or maybe even in your life now?
2. As you consider this study on what it means to speak in tongues, how are your beliefs being challenged? How are you affected by the news that it is God's will for you to be filled with His Spirit and to pray in the languages of heaven?
3. You have been reading this book for a reason—an experience or event has prompted you to explore what it means to draw near to God. Could it be that He has provided a means to draw closer through what you are studying now? Could the gift of tongues for personal and intercessory prayer be the next step in your walk with the Lord?

CHAPTER TWELVE

THE LANGUAGE OF INTIMACY

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Have you experienced situations where the gift of tongues has helped you better understand how God was working in your life? What illumination, peace, or refreshing did you receive?
2. The author writes about the need to properly steward the mysteries God reveals, pointing to Hezekiah's example (Isa. 39:2) and his own situation with a well-known pastor. How important is it for you to wait on the Lord's proper timing to reveal to others what He has revealed to you? Is there a real desire to impress others that needs to be controlled?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The biblical word hope—confident expectation—is contrasted with the “maybe so” hope which has evolved in the English language. Have you found yourself speaking words into the air with a “maybe so” attitude, lacking a confident expectation? If so, what might this tell you about the condition of your faith?
2. Two questions have been asked by believers since the time of the apostles. The questions are much the same in their wording, but profoundly different in what they are asking:
 - How do we get faith?
 - How do we increase our faith?From what you have learned in this chapter, how would you answer these questions?
3. As you compare the nature of Saul’s obedience with that of David, what differences do you see? How did their obedience influence their intimacy with God?
4. How does obedience affect one’s ability to approach God with boldness?

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

DRAWING NEAR

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Before reading this chapter, had you ever considered that God has “needs”? In what ways do we minister to those needs?
2. How important is it for you to listen the for Holy Spirit to speak? Even though you may have a wealth of praise and worship songs and/or Spirit-filled writings available to you, have you tried approaching God in silence? Consider trying this exercise in intimacy and write down or share with others what you learn.
3. In the first chapter, the author describes this book as a treasure map leading to the heart of God rather than a step-by-step “how to” message on drawing near. As you meditate on what you have learned, what treasures have you discovered? What treasures do you have yet to uncover?