

The Narrative, Lesson 5, The Tutor: Disciplines to Intimacy

1. Spend intentional, abundant time in God's Word, alone, in the quiet.
2. Do not depend solely upon your pastor or others to be God's "medium".
3. Remove distractions. ("Seek first the kingdom of God.")
4. Pray continually. He will guide your conversation with Him whether you realize it or not.
 - a. Write down your thoughts, questions, and/or concerns.
5. Come to Him expectantly. (James 1) "What do You have to say to me today?"
 - a. Approach the Word as a book written to you, for your instruction, correction, reproof, and guidance.
 - b. When a passage is illuminated—i.e. you find yourself going back to it or thinking on it—record it.
 - c. Seek answers to questions one at a time. "Step one, then, step two." (Example question: "Should I keep going?" Example answers may be: "This is the way, walk in it. Do not turn to the right or the left." Or it may come in story form: Paul was prevented from going to Asia by the Holy Spirit.)
 - d. Look for common themes, and/or words.
 - i. I am often in several portions of Scripture at one time, also a devotional.
 - e. Trust that God knows where you are in the Word, in the book or devotional you're reading, etc. (You need not flip through its pages in a frantic search.)
6. He WILL answer. WAIT. (You will always wait longer than you want to; He will answer in His way.)
7. Until it's time for the Lord to fulfill what He has spoken to you, He will confirm and reaffirm.
8. Look and listen attentively for Him and His answer. ("If you seek Me, you will find Me.")
9. When He speaks you may not have understanding, but you will have peace.
 - a. If you are uneasy, anxious, confused, fearful, etc., it is not Him or it is not His timing. WAIT for clarity.
10. If you are unsure after He has answered, ask for further confirmation. (Gideon)
11. Be flexible.
 - a. His thoughts and ways are not your own. (Isaiah 55)
12. When you are SURE, do not delay. Take the first step, knowing He will bring it to completion. (Philippians 1:6)
13. Seek to honor and obey Him in small things. When He has your heart, and your ear, He will entrust you with more.
14. Be practical. He will use a variety of means to gain your attention.
 - a. Others, Circumstances, Feelings