

LET INCENSE ARISE

TOOL FOR THE PRAYER ROOM A.R.K. – COREY STARK

I. THE GLORY, PLEASURE & TRANSFORMING POWER OF ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE WORD

A. There is *two stages* of receiving from Scripture – *milk* and *meat* (Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2). *Milk* is truth obtained from someone else's digested meat. *Meat* is learning to eat the Word of God for yourself and extract the nutrients (i.e. truth) through the *experiential knowledge* of encounter (Ezek. 2:8-3:4; Rev. 10:8-11).

Heb. 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles... of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age... who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.

B. Growing in the experiential knowledge of God is synonymous with growing in *intimacy* with God. I am most *intimate* with those I *know* the most. Therefore, the *more I know* about a person the *more intimate* I am with them. However, this is not purely *cognitive information* gained by memorizing facts about God, but growing in the *experiential knowledge* of how He *thinks, feels* and *acts* by encountering Him in the Word.

C. There are *three stages* to growing in intimacy with God:

1. *Invitation* (menu): Intimacy begins with understanding His *desire* for relationship with us at a deep heart level right now in the midst of our weakness not only once we've matured (Song 1:5). God doesn't need us as anointed laborers, He *desires* us to draw near Him, because He *really* likes us (Mk. 3:13-15; 17:24-26)!

Mk. 3:13 He called... those He Himself wanted... 14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, 15 and to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons...

2. *Substance* (meat): This is the *relational knowledge* of God gained by personally experiencing Him. This is the "one thing" needed (Ps. 27:4; Lk. 10:42). God doesn't hide things *from* us, but *for* us to discover (Pr. 25:2). The Holy Spirit was sent to escort us into the deep things of God's heart and mind (1 Cor. 2:9-11).

1 Cor. 2:9 "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor entered the heart of man the things God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God... 12 that we might know the things... freely given to us by God.

3. *Overflow*: As we encounter God in the Word our hearts are awakened unto *eternal life* (Jn. 5:39-40; 17:3), we receive spiritual *impartation* (Jn. 6:63), experience deep *interior pleasure* (Ps. 36:8), holy *fascination* (Ps. 27:4), the delight of *discovery* (Pr. 25:2), eternal *rest* that flows from our authentic identity (Mt. 16:18), end time *preparation* (Jer. 23:20), personal *transformation* – minds renewed, emotions restored, motives purified, bodies healed, as we delight to do God's will (2 Cor. 3:18), greater *freedom* (Jn. 8:32), lasting *character development* (Eph. 3:16-19), and radical acts of *selfless love* (2 Cor. 5:14).

Jn. 14:23 "If anyone [experientially] loves Me, he will keep My word"

D. As often as the *invitation* is given, so also the *overflowing benefits* are taught as a motivation to persevere. However, without engaging in the *substance* of intimacy we can never attain to the overflow! Unfortunately, after receiving the invitation and failing to experience the overflowing benefits as quickly as desired, I've watched many sincere well-meaning Christians wrongly conclude: 1. The message is *false* and it doesn't work or 2. They are the *problem* and it just doesn't work for them. The truth is they need to persevere in substance!

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II. THE SUBSTANCE OF INTIMACY: ENCOUNTERING JESUS' MAJESTIC BEAUTY (REV. 1) A.R.K.

A. The title is “*the Revelation of Jesus Christ*” NOT end time events (Rev. 1:1). The Father’s primary purpose is to unveil the unsearchable riches of Christ to transform the Church into a fully mature Bride who is made comparable to Jesus as His eternal companion (Jn. 17:20-26; Eph. 4:13-16; 5:27; Rev. 19:7; 22:17)!

Rev. 1:1 *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God [Father] gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants...*

B. As we behold the glory of Jesus seen throughout the book of Revelation we are progressively transformed into the same image (thoughts, emotions, desires) and prepared for mature partnership (Ps. 17:15; 1 Jn. 3:2).

2 Cor. 3:18 *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

C. In Revelation 1 Jesus reveals Himself, as the “*Son of Man*”, highlighting 52 distinct aspects of His eternal majesty, strategically given in 14 titles, 10 attributes (inherent qualities) and 28 descriptions (authority, appearance, apparel, articles, action, words), giving us the most comprehensive picture of who Jesus is today!

D. Titles (14): Jesus (Rev. 1:1, 2, 4, 9 x2); Christ (Rev. 1:1, 2, 4, 9 x2); Faithful Witness (Rev. 1:4); Firstborn from the Dead (Rev. 1:4); Ruler over the Kings of the Earth (Rev. 1:4); Him Who Loved Us (Rev. 1:5); Lord (Rev. 1:10); Alpha (Rev. 1:11); Omega (Rev. 1:11); First (Rev. 1:11, 17); Last (Rev. 1:11; 17); Son of Man (Rev. 1:13); He who Lives and was Dead (Rev. 1:18); Alive Forevermore (Rev. 1:18).

E. Attributes (10): *Blood* washed us from sin (Rev. 1:5); *Voice* like a trumpet; as many waters (Rev. 1:10, 12, 15); *Feet* like fine brass (Rev. 1:13, 15, 17); *Chest* with golden band (Rev. 1:13); *Head* white like wool (Rev. 1:14); *Hair* white as snow (Rev. 1:14); *Eyes* like flame of fire (Rev. 1:14); *Right Hand* (Rev. 1:16, 17, 20); *Mouth* with sharp two-edged sword (Rev. 1:16); *Countenance* like sun shining in strength (Rev. 1:16).

F. Agreement: Make declarations of agreement to Jesus about who He is (titles), what He’s like (attributes) and what He feels, says or does (emotions, words, actions). Identify the core truths in each of the fifty-two aspects (some overlap) and simply declare them back to Him with affection, gratitude and wonder.

1. “You are... the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the Dead, Ruler over the Kings,” etc.
2. “You have... eyes like a flame of fire, a sharp two-edged sword, the keys of Hell and Death,” etc.
3. “You do... hold the seven stars in Your right hand, dwell in the midst of the churches,” etc.

G. Revelation: Ask Holy Spirit for increased revelation of these specific aspects of Jesus’ majesty. Each facet is like the *tip of a massive iceberg of truth* just waiting below the surface that the Spirit will use to escort us.

Jn. 16:13 *When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth... 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine [thoughts, emotions, etc.] and declare [reveal] it to you.*

H. Keep the Prophecy: Make simple declarations of resolve to guard the truths, while asking God to empower us to faithfully express these aspects of Jesus’ majesty in our lives and ministries, whether resisting temptation, enduring persecution or simply overcoming the mundane seasons of routine life.

Rev. 22:7 *Blessed is he who keeps [guards] the words of the prophecy of this book. (Rev. 1:3)*