



INTIMACY
SERIES

THE BRIDE #1

PASTOR LAWRENCE

INTIMACY series
THE bride #1

BY
Pastor Lawrence

THIS BOOK HAS NO COPY RIGHT
PLEASE SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Smashwords Edition | Copyright 2013 Louwrens Oberholzer

This ebook is licensed for your personal enjoyment. This ebook may be given away to other people. If you would like to share this book with another person, please do so.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First off, I want to thank our Lord and Saviour for sharing what was written in this book with me over the years. Everything you are about to read and discover about the Lord is part of His goodness and mercy in my life. He is the beginning and the end of this book. Thank you, Jesus, for Your love that is so

pure and perfect. Amen.

Next, I want to thank my family – a family that has loved me over the years, no matter what. Thank you for all your support and for the prayers that have kept me standing through easy and not-so-easy times.

To all my friends in Korea, thank you for all your love and support and for accepting me into your lives. Without your support, this book would not be possible. Sunny: thank you for being more than a friend to me.

Lastly, I want to thank Benjamin, my brother, for editing this book. Thank you for all the hard work and the hours that you offered to make this book what it is. You have a gift of taking my ideas and presenting them like a pro.

FOREWORD

Dear reader and friend,

I am so glad you took the time to read this book. I am honored to share with you what the Lord has done in my life over the years. I pray that this book will guide you into a more intimate relationship with the Lord – something you were designed for from the beginning.

I have decided to teach the truths about intimacy in a story format. All the stories in this book are real, and are used so that the book will flow. Please try to see the hidden truths about an intimate relationship with the Lord.

I now ask you to take off your “religious glasses” because some of the things in this book might be totally new to you.

But give it some time. Let the Lord reveal to you what He wants you to take from this book. If you do that, your walk with the Lord will be transformed just by knowing the Lord – walking with Him daily. I hope that, in the end, you will be able to pray the following simple prayer with me, “Lord, I have nothing to give but my love. Lord, come and enjoy my love and my beauty in Jesus name. Amen.”

Index

Chapter 1: The first time I experienced God's intimacy

Chapter 2: The bride

Chapter 3: Intimacy is not a once-off experience

Chapter 4: Intimacy is written all over the bible

Chapter 5: Intimacy is for all!

A word from Pastor Lawrence

Arrange an intimacy conference

Chapter 1: The first time I experienced God's intimacy

Years of hunger for God and seeking Him ended in nothing. I was still empty and hungry, looking for the One I loved. I loved Him so much because He showed me His love, time and time again. His love came packaged in so many different forms: a loving family, friends who were always there for me, and the beauty of nature. The experience of His presence came over me in many church meetings, causing tears to stream

down my cheeks.

To me, God was real. I knew He was there, and there was a desire in my heart to give back to Him. I wanted to return His love, but I realized we, as humans, have nothing to give. Money was the first thing that crossed my mind, but how do you give riches to the One who owns it all? Then I thought about time, but time is in His hands. I really had nothing to give, until one day I found it.

I was on a farm on a prayer walk, enjoying His creation while praying in my heavenly language. After thirty minutes of praying, I realized my spirit was very excited. My spirit was talking to God in a special way, despite me not knowing the words. My hands were moving as if I were explaining something to someone.

Suddenly, I walked into *beauty*. It was more something I felt than something I could see with my natural eyes. This beauty was a thousand times greater than the most beautiful woman I have ever seen.

Amazed and captured by this experience, I said, "Wow, God! You're so beautiful!" At first I thought this experience was the beauty of the Holy Spirit, but I was wrong. I heard God's voice, "This is not My beauty. It is *your* beauty. It is the beauty of *your* spirit." His words were so simple yet so real. What a revelation! It was not His beauty. It was my beauty, my *spiritual* beauty! I always thought of myself as a sinner and ugly in God's eyes. That is what tradition taught me over the years. But it was a lie. God did not look through the eyes of tradition but through His eyes of love - through the blood of Jesus that washed away all my sins.

I walked in this beauty for about thirty minutes. It was pure, beautiful, and perfect. It was me - *my* spirit. The way God saw me. And I realized how true it was. The Bible is full of God's love for His bride. Everything He does is to prepare us for the wedding of the Lamb.

I thought about this experience for days to come. I realized that God desires me like a husband desires his wife. As a man, I understood that very well, and I realized that the intimacy we as humans experience is just a small taste of the things to come. God has planned an eternity to be intimate with us. I also realized that intimacy is not reserved for heaven alone. We can experience it right here on earth.

A few weeks later, I went for another prayer walk on another farm. Again, I felt the same urge to give God something. And again, I realized there was nothing I could give. But then I remembered my beauty. The beauty of my spirit I experienced a few weeks ago. And suddenly I realized that *that* is what He wanted – my spirit. That was what He longed for. And I have it! I have something to give!

I was lying down next to a dam, praying, talking with God, when suddenly new words came from my mouth, “God, I have nothing to give but my beauty. Lord, I give You my beauty. Come and enjoy the beauty of my spirit.” As I prayed that simple prayer, something happened. Suddenly, I could feel His presence covering me like a cloud. My body began to vibrate with a small vibration at first. I thought I was shivering from the cold, but it was not cold. It was a hot summer day. I just kept on praying, “God, come enjoy my beauty. I love you, Lord. I have nothing to give but my beauty and my love. Come and enjoy my beauty.” The more I prayed these words, the stronger the vibrations became.

God's power surrounded me. Never before had I experienced something quite this powerful. Until that point, all I knew were quiet moments of prayer and tears. I had always longed for something to happen, as I had seen so many people drunk in the Holy Spirit, laughing and falling over. But never had I been so fortunate to experience what they experienced myself. But this new experience was something I cannot explain in words. It was the answer for all the longings and desires I ever had. In that moment, I became aware of a hunger for His intimacy. It was built into me.

As a young boy, I attended several revival services at a big church near our house, longing for something special. But nothing happened to me – just tears. But this experience was much more powerful than that. The vibration turned into a shaking, and I no longer possessed the power to control it. At times, it lifted my body from the ground for a few seconds but without any pain.

The shaking continued for a few minutes and then suddenly stopped. And then I felt peaceful satisfaction as a fulfillment filled my whole being. I just had my first intimate experience with the Lord. I knew that *this* is intimacy. I saw Him enjoying the only thing I could give – my beauty. He came to enjoy my spirit as I asked Him to.

Waves of peace washed over me next to that dam. I just kept my eyes closed, enjoying every moment of it. It felt like I had just found everything I had been looking for my entire life. This experience with the Lord left me with joy and peace so great that no one can describe it. I was made for this – to be one with Him.

The sound of birds and sunshine on my face reminded me that I was still on earth. I slowly opened my eyes, expecting to see Him. The experience I had with Him was so real I thought I would see Him when I opened my eyes. He had to have been there Himself.

I was shocked and amazed by what just happened. I lay there next to that dam for a few more minutes, soaking it in. I knew that this was what I had been longing for all my life. It had been more than a good sermon. It had been more than the hours of prayer and fasting I tried. This had been *it* - intimacy with the King of kings, and the Lords of lords.

Sunset brought the day to an end. As I stood up, my body felt stiff. The power that went through me was so strong that my human body almost couldn't handle all of it. But the peace was still all over me.

I do not know if my family sensed what just happened to me, for I was no longer with them. I was on a different planet with the One I loved, amazed by what just happened. Then understanding came over me like a flood.

Chapter 2: The bride

The more I thought about my experience, the more I realized that I was the bride of Christ in the spirit. Although I am a male in the flesh, I am His bride. We are all His bride in the spirit – the bride He longs for.

Then God showed me something. A beautiful bride in her finest moment, wearing her wedding dress. She has made herself extremely beautiful, coloring her face with make-up,

designing her hair, decorating herself with beautiful accessories to underscore her beauty for the wedding. And her beauty was enjoyed by everyone around her. The more attracted people were to her, the more she did to enhance her appearance, and the more beautiful she looked.

Suddenly, the wedding was over. It was time for the wedding night. But now, all the things she did to look beautiful had to be removed so that her husband could enjoy her real beauty. The beautiful wedding dress that transformed her into a princess for at least one day was all forgotten. Everything she added had to be removed for one of the best nights in a couple's life: the wedding night.

And then God showed me the meaning. We are all brides at heart. The problem is we do not realize it. We were created this way. Instinctively, we try to please Him. We pray for hours, and our prayers become like make-up. We add jewelry by fasting for days. We live lives full of religion and tradition - the wedding dress. All these things are done to please Him. People around us notice *our* "beauty" - something I call holiness. And the more holy we appear, the more compliments we get, and the more holy we try to be.

God showed me that all the things we do to impress Him were like being a bride, covering her true beauty. For Him to enjoy our real beauty, we need to stop doing all these things we do to please Him.

The truth is this: A new bride does not need all the accessories to be beautiful for her husband. She just needs herself. And so it is with the Lord. All the things we do do not necessarily impress Him. Does this mean that we should stop praying and fasting? For the moment, at least, *yes*. Stop all the things you

are doing and take a moment to realize that He is impressed with you just the way you are.

All the bride needs to impress her husband is herself. And that is all he wants. At some point, even talking needs to stop for a true intimate experience. I see this as prayer. Sometimes we talk so much in prayer that God cannot enjoy our real beauty. The Bible says, "Be still and know that I am God."
(Psalm 46:10)

If you can grasp this secret - being still and giving yourself to Him - just that knowledge will propel you into a life of intimacy with Him.

Intimacy is a giving game - the more you give, the more you receive. The same can be said with the Lord. We always pray, "God, I want more of You." But we need to take the next step and pray, "God, here is more of me. Here is *all* of me. All my love and my beauty! Come and enjoy my beauty."

After realizing that you are all He wants, you will start praying and fasting with new passion and purpose. Your prayer life will change. Suddenly, you're not praying to impress Him but rather just talking to the One you love. You are no longer trying to deserve His love. You just know, like a bride, that you are all He wants - all He longs for. The desire in His heart towards you was there from the beginning, and it will be there until the end to be continued for eternity in heaven.

Back at the farm, the day came to an end. The experience faded, and suddenly I felt hungry for Him again. I wondered if it could happen once more. Was this just a one-off experience?

Chapter 3: Intimacy is not a once-off experience

My family and I had dinner that night. I did not tell them what happened to me that sunset. I was not sure if they would ever understand it. It was all so new to me. I wasn't even sure what to make of it myself. All I knew was that it was as real as the air I breathed, and nothing could ever take it away.

My mom spoiled us with the finest of foods, and for a moment my focus went back to my family, away from the Lord. I wasn't focusing on Him specifically, but something was different. I felt a peace in me that I never had before. And that peace did not fade like it did before. I became aware of a closeness with the Lord that I never knew before.

After the meal, my family said their goodnights, and I made my way outside. The starry night welcomed me back into His presence, and the moonlight created the perfect mood and scene for the honeymoon experience I had with the Lord. But I was not sure if it could happen again.

Suddenly, I felt a deep longing for Him again. As before, I wanted to give Him something. This time, I knew what to do. This time, I had something to give! I had my spiritual beauty, and that was all He wanted. I prayed, "Lord, I give you my beauty. Come and enjoy my beauty!" And suddenly, I experienced His closeness again. This time, I knew that it was not the cool of the night. It was Him! The Lord took my prayer seriously.

Again, the vibration increased to a shaking, and it almost lifted my body from the ground. It ended suddenly, and an

indescribable peace flooded my being. I felt a fulfillment that I cannot describe in human words. This fulfillment was not only for my flesh. It was for my spirit as well.

Sin offers many ways to meet our needs for intimacy. It leads us to drugs, affairs, and much more. All these things provide us with satisfaction for a moment but then leave us with a feeling of death. But intimacy with the Lord is different. He does not misuse us as sin does. His love for us is real, and He desires to fulfill not only our human need for intimacy but also our spiritual need for intimacy.

Does this mean that we do not need marriage for intimacy? No, we still need it. Marriage is God's idea. It is His way of giving us a small taste of what eternity will be like with Him. Although we have a longing for intimacy with God in our spirits, we are still human beings in human bodies. And our bodies crave intimacy. Why? Because we were created in God's image and God is an intimate being. Human intimacy was not only created to keep us from extinction but also to be enjoyed in marriage - the perfect picture of eternity.

I see it in this way. God has provided your spouse for your body's intimate desires. But that is all your spouse can fulfill. There is a part of you that only God can fulfill - your spirit.

I believe that perfect intimacy in a marriage comes when both parties realize that God wants to be a part of it. God created your husband or your wife to take care of your human needs for intimacy, but He kept your spirit for Himself. Do not leave God outside! Make Him part of your marriage. God is the very origin of intimacy - remember that.

A new truth was revealed to me that night. I realized that

intimacy with the Lord is not a one-off experience. It is something we need daily. If we do not spend time with the Lord, our bodies will find other sinful ways to make up for it. This is why Jesus said, “Go into your room, close the door, and pray.” (Matthew 6:6)

There is a time and place that was designed for you and the Lord to enjoy each other. The problem is that we praise God together with the rest of the congregation, going to church and praying in groups. There is a time and place for that as well, but we need some time alone with the Lord every day. Neglecting this time with the Lord opens the door for sin to enter - sin that tries to meet our needs for intimacy and ultimately kills us.

Before I knew intimacy, I always thought that the circumstances needed to be perfect before the Lord would show up – for instance, being in a church with soft music (again there is a time and place for this). But I realized that this experience of intimacy can happen anytime, anywhere.

Many times, I felt as if the Lord would reject my intimacy, but the moment I invited Him to enjoy my beauty, He showed up. I knew my sins were enough to keep Him away, but He always came. He never rejected my love. Not even once!

I realized that sin is the only thing that stands in the way of our intimacy with the Lord. Sin prevents intimacy by covering up our true beauty. Yet the good news is that He made a way - the blood of Jesus!

The blood of Jesus does not only cover our sins. It removes our sins, making us perfect and holy in His sight again. It cleanses us, transforming us into the bride He longs for. His

grace is so big. All you need to do is ask, "Please Lord, let the blood of Jesus remove all my sins so that You can enjoy my true beauty."(1 John 1:7)

Does this mean that you can just continue sinning, asking Him to cleanse us every time? You *could*! But when you are in an intimate relationship with Him, you become sensitive to His feelings. You can feel when He is happy or sad. You will start to sense His sadness towards our sins, and this will prevent you from sinning.

When you start to experience this intimacy with God, you will firstly start to live a life that is fulfilled by Him. Your desire for sin will lessen. Secondly, you will become so sensitive to His feelings that you will not want to hurt Him anymore, exactly the same way you would feel about your spouse.

I always thought that God is doing us a favor by visiting us with His presence in church. But intimacy taught me something else: His longing for us is much more than our longing for Him. I realized that He needs us more than we need Him. It might sound a bit strange, but it is true!

You are His life. You mean the world to Him. You cost Him His life (He gave His life for you!) Why? Because He could not imagine a life without you. He hungers for you. This might seem strange to you. When you think from a mind-set saying that we are the ones hungering after God, it might seem wrong. But His hunger for us is greater than we could ever think or dream.

Why does God hunger for us? What is it about Him that hungers for us? He showed me the answer in the Bible: Adam and Eve. God created Adam and provided him with everything

he needed to survive. God then entrusted him with the job of naming all the animals. I can just imagine how Adam realized that every living thing had a mate except him. He felt lonely. God knew that because Adam was created in His image. A deep sleep came over Adam. Here is the secret: God took a part of Adam that was very near to his heart, and He created Eve. (Genesis 2:18-25)

God showed me that the same scene happened in heaven. Heaven was perfect! All the angels worshipped Him, and His glory filled the heavens entirely! But something was missing. A mighty God felt lonely. He was looking for someone to whom He could give all His love to, but none in heaven could understand the depth of it because that is all they ever knew. The heavenly beings had been bathed in God's love from the beginning. Almost like rich children who do not know what it is like to be poor, who do not know the "need for money." Then God took a part of Himself that was very near to His heart - love - and with it He created us. He created us with one sole purpose - to show us love.

Things that happen in the spiritual world always have a manifestation in the natural world. Before sin entered the world, Adam and Eve were not aware of the fact that they were naked. There was nothing that prevented their intimacy. Likewise, there was nothing preventing their intimacy with the Lord. But the very moment they sinned - right then - their intimate relationship with the Lord was broken.

This event manifested itself in the flesh because suddenly they were aware of their nakedness, and they were ashamed of it. In their own human way, they covered up their nakedness with clothes that God made for them. And God covered Himself by removing them from the garden. (Genesis 3)

An intimate relationship between God and humans was broken right there. They were separated, and it seemed like a lost case. But God did not give up on us. He used the very thing that broke our intimate relationship with Him - sin - to show us more of Himself, grace. We all know grace. God's amazing grace. As the Bible says, "His love and grace is unmerited." (Romans 3:24 Amplified bible) He does not keep record of our sinful deeds. He just loves us for who we are.

Throughout the Old Testament, we see God's hunger for love. We see a God hungry for reunification with the very object of His love, humans. Throughout Israel's travels, He performed many mighty deeds! He "showed-off" His power like a man trying to impress the woman He loves. He snatched Israel from Egypt's slavery, showing-off His power with the ten plagues, following with the opening of the Red Sea. And then the grand finale: He drowned Pharaoh and the whole Egyptian army in front of Israel's very eyes! I feel sorry for Pharaoh. The Bible says that God hardened the Pharaoh's heart. (Exodus 9:12) Now we may wonder why God did that. I believe He did it to create a scene - a battle scene where He could show-off His love for His bride.

Israel did not leave Egypt empty handed. God favored them among the people of the land. (Exodus 3:21) He told them to ask the Egyptians for gold and silver. In addition, God changed the hearts of the Egyptians, and suddenly they felt, "We want to give. We want to give you everything!"

Next, God took care of His bride in the desert by providing food and water in the most amazing of ways. He healed all Israel's diseases. He kept her clothes and shoes brand new so that they would never wear off. He opened the Jordan River so

that His people could walk through into the Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey. Then Jericho - a mighty display of God's power! God Himself destroyed those walls as they entered the Promised Land.

God fought all of Israel's battles. One of my favorite stories is the one of Joshua. He destroyed innumerable armies with a few hundred men. He had only one enemy - time. But even time was in God's hands! God showed-off His power when Joshua commanded the sun and the moon to stop. He needed time, and time he got. (Joshua 10:13)

Do you realize what it must have taken for God to perform that miracle? I am not sure how God pulled it off, but all the planets and stars had to stand still in their orbits for a few hours - just because a small little human had paused time with his prayer.

Just think about it! We are travelling around the sun at a very high speed. And suddenly, it all had to stop dead - a miracle! Try driving your bike into a wall at high speed. The bike will stop, but you will keep on moving. In Joshua's case, the earth had to stop dead in its orbit to make that possible, but no one went flying! The sun had to stand still for a few hours - a miracle from humans' perspective. From God's perspective, it took more than a million things to make it possible.

God did all of this, and much more, to show-off His power. He so desperately wanted to be reconciled with the human race, but nothing seemed to work. God even showed up in person on Mount Sinai in the desert, but it was too much for the Israelites. (Exodus 19) They sent Moses to communicate with God because they themselves could not handle it. Even Moses - God's friend - could not stand up in God's presence! He asked to see God, but God's power was so great that He had to

cover Moses with His hand as He passed. Moses could only see God's back. (Exodus 33:23)

All these miracles were awesome displays of love and power by God towards His bride, but none of them seemed to work. All failed because the human race could not handle it. Sin was the barrier between God and the human race and prevented them from having an intimate relationship.

Even in Israel's temple, God had to hide Himself. A curtain separated Him from humans. His beauty could only be seen behind that curtain. Yet no one was allowed there. Only the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies once a year, and only after performing countless sacrifices to prepare himself. The Holy of Holies was so holy that the priest could die in there. They had to work bells into his dress so that they could hear if he was still moving and a rope around his foot to pull him out if he died inside. (Exodus 28:31-35)

I think God saw that all these rules and sacrifices were not working. Humans simply could not live up to His standards of righteousness.

Then God became very small. He came to us in the form of a human baby, born into a simple family who used a donkey to travel. He did not choose a mighty palace to arrive on earth. Rather, he chose to be born in a manger (Luke 2:6-7) – the most humble circumstances one can get. And from *that* manger, He started to show us His love and grace. This time, God became one of us. He came so that He could show us love – through His son Jesus Christ. (John 3:16)

As a human, Jesus demonstrated the Father's love for His bride wherever He went. He healed all! The bible says that, at

times, the whole town was healed! (Matt 12:15) He fed them with five loaves of bread and two fish. (Mark 6:41) After that, He cast out demons and showed grace towards a woman caught in adultery. (John 8:1-11) The law condemned her to death row, but Jesus challenged the rules. She was not killed because grace saved her life. Jesus' love and compassion towards her made her whole again.

His displays of love culminated on the cross where He died for us all. He paid the price and welcomed a murderer that was crucified with Him as the first blood-washed human being into heaven that very same day. His blood was the key that reopened the way for true intimacy between God and humans. (Luke 23:39-43)

The moment that the first drop of Jesus' blood mixed with the dust of this earth, God ripped the curtain in the temple from top to bottom. (Mark 15:37-38) It was finished! God paid the price for our intimacy! He showed us grace by taking the first step towards us. He was the first to reunite with us by opening the Holy of Holies again. On that day, God removed our sins from us as far as the opposite ends of the earth, never to think of them again. (Psalm 103:12)

He did all this to bring back His bride, the one He created to be loved from the beginning. All we need to do now is to accept it - His free gift of love, grace, forgiveness and reconciliation. We can find this in Jesus alone!

This new revelation of intimacy blew me away. I realized two things: First, the beauty of my spirit was so beautiful to God that He longed for my love and affection. Second, intimacy was not a once off experience. It is something I need to experience daily.

I went to bed quite late that night, and as I lay down, I suddenly started to feel a light shaking again. But it was not as intense as before. It was more like a gentle touch from the Lord every now and then. His presence was still close to me in my room though I was not even thinking of Him specifically anymore. I was about to sleep, but He was still there with me. It felt like I had fallen asleep in His arms for the first time that night.

The next morning, I woke up with an indescribable peace and joy, and the very moment I thought about Him, a light shaking went through my body again. I was amazed! His presence was still with me! It felt like He was there with me the entire night. It was almost as if He was waiting for me to wake up. I said “Good morning, Lord. I love you!” These simple words resulted in His power filling my room again.

Chapter 4: Intimacy is written all over the bible

This intimate experience I was having with the Lord was amazing, but I still needed more confirmation. And confirmation I got when I opened the Bible. The Holy Spirit started to show me that intimacy was written all over God’s word. He took me to the passage which described the tabernacle that Moses built and showed me that the recipe for intimacy was built right into it.

Firstly, the tabernacle had only one door though which one could enter. That door represented Jesus - the only way through which one could have a life of intimacy with the Lord. God said, “No one can come to Me but through Jesus.” The

Bible makes it very clear that Jesus is the *only* way to the Father.

Secondly, you have to cleanse yourself at the golden basin. This represents asking Jesus to forgive our sins. Our sins have to be removed before intimacy can occur. Just like clothes, sin prevents intimacy. But the good news is that sin can be removed just as clothes can be removed. And this is made possible by one thing only: the blood of Jesus.

Thirdly, there was a place where you had to bring your offering. With intimacy, it is the same. We need to give something to God. The good news is that we have something to give! I call it our spiritual beauty. As I told you before, God longs for our closeness. He longs for our beauty, and all we need to do is to give it to Him.

The truth is this: you have all it takes to impress Him. You do not need to add anything or take anything away. All He needs is you and you alone! It is all He longs for. I hope that this truth will set you free from years of performance, trying to impress Him, trying to get His attention with the things you do. No! He does not need your good deeds to impress Him. He has been impressed with you from the beginning!

This place of offering is also a place of worship where you can tell Him how much you love and adore Him. Or you can just sing a song to Him. He loves your worship. All this might sound very spiritual, but it is not. In fact, it is the most natural thing on earth. Our problem is religion. We were misled by our own traditions for years. We need to let go of all the rules tradition taught us and just accept the fact that He is madly in love with all of us.

Past the place of offering was the Holy of Holies. It was a sacred place - only the high priest could enter it once a year. But Jesus provided us with a way back to God's throne of love. The good news is that, today, all of us can enter freely into the Holy of Holies. The Bible tells us to come boldly to the throne of God. We no longer have to be ashamed. The price was paid, and we are cleansed. God is waiting for us to love Him so that He can love us back!

Again, we see that intimacy is a giving game. The more you give, the more you receive. As you enter into the Holy of Holies, you will suddenly realize that there is nothing that you need to do. All you need is your love for the Lord because that is all He wants! The Holy of Holies is the place where you will experience His love in the most amazing ways.

I also realized that in the Holy of Holies we do not need to talk much. The same thing is true with human intimacy. There is a time and place where couples do not need to talk. It is a place where they can just enjoy each other's beauty and appreciate the moment. When we are intimate with the Lord, we do not need to say anything either. The Bible says that He knows what we need even before we ask Him. Jesus himself said, "Do not pray like the Pharisees." They prayed long prayers to impress God and men, but Jesus was not impressed. All God longs for is your love and affection towards Him.

Sometimes we might need a hug from our loved ones. In this aspect, God is much like us. There were many times where I felt God's need for comfort. It might sound very strange, but every now and then, I just comfort Him. I can feel the need for comfort from His side, so I just love Him. I do not understand it myself. How is it that our affection means so much to Him when He is God of all? How is it that He needs our love to

comfort Him? I do not know. All I know is that this is very true.

God explained this to me one day through the following example. He said, "Consider a rich businessman who has it all - cars, planes and everything else money can buy. He is crowned with all the success in the world. The truth is that all his fame and earthly possessions cannot give him the one thing we all need - comfort. Only his wife can comfort him. She was designed that way. The same is true between God and us. He made Himself dependent on us.

God has it all. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He has millions of angels worshipping Him 24/7. He owns it all, and everything belongs to Him. In addition, His words are powerful - when He says something, it is done. As the Bible says, "His words will not return to Him empty handed, but they will do all that God sent them to do."(Isaiah 55:11) But even with all these riches and glory, God still needs something. He needs our love! For His love is in us. He used His love to create us. There is something in us that nothing in heaven or earth can give God. He needs and longs for our comfort daily.

One day I took my dogs along on one of my many prayer-walks on our farm. It was a bright and sunny morning, and we enjoyed every moment of it. I walked towards the dam because I knew that my dogs loved swimming. The dam was still covered with fog, and the fog seemed too lazy to get up as the sun beams told them it was time to leave. In contrast with the fog, the birds were not lazy at all. They were singing praises to God since hours before sunrise.

I joined in the worship and sang a well-known song, "I love You, Lord. And I lift my voice to worship You. O my soul,

rejoice!” Suddenly, I had a vision of heaven. (Please note: I had only a few heavenly visions up to now. I do not get heavenly visions often. But this was one of them.) I saw myself as a beautiful young woman in Jesus' arms. We were standing next to a crystal-clear sea on a golden beach. He embraced me as I sang that song over and over to Him. Then I looked to see His face. In this vision, I could see His face – normally I only saw his body and the outline of His face, but this vision was different. I was shocked by what I saw! There were tears streaming down His face. “Why are you crying, Lord?” were the first words that made it to my mind and out of my mouth. His answer was filled with passion and pain at the same time. “I am so glad you love me. I was so worried that you would never find Me, but you did.” Wow! God cried tears of joy, mixed with worry. He was so happy that I found Him, yet He feared the possibility of losing me.

Can you grasp this, my friend? God's love and His longing for us are indescribable. I am trying to explain to you in human words how much He loves you, but it is almost impossible! I hope that the Holy Spirit will make Himself real to you in this very moment - in such a way that you will never doubt the Lord again. His love is not only for me. It is not only for a chosen few. It is for all of us!

The Holy Spirit continued to show me intimacy in the Bible by taking me to Songs of Solomon. I can still remember the first day that I read Songs of Solomon as a young boy. I was at school, and a naughty friend showed it to me after a Bible class. I was shocked! At that stage, I thought that intimacy was something that could only be experienced between humans. As with any other young boy, intimacy was a mystery that I had to discover. It was a secret which grown-ups tried to keep for themselves. But now I suddenly discovered that it was written

in the Bible - all of it! I couldn't believe my eyes! Never have I imagined that the act of passion would be talked about in the Bible - not to mention described in the finest detail.

I remember going to my room after school and reading Songs of Solomon again. I was sitting on my bed, and it felt like I was doing something wrong. Just then, my mom made a surprise entry into my room.

“Hello! What are you doing?”

Her words spurred a reflex in my brain that closed my Bible in an instant, giving off a loud clapping sound as it slammed shut. “I’m.. I’m just reading the Bible!” I managed to find an innocent smile for her in a second. My mom looked happy as she left the room. Little did she know that a young boy had just discovered Songs of Solomon for the first time in his life - a book filled with mystery and passion!

And now, many years later, the Holy Spirit took me back to Songs of Solomon. To my surprise, intimacy was written all over the book. I found everything in its pages - my spiritual beauty, God’s longing for me... It was all in there, and it was no secret! God is in love with us, and we are the very thing He loves and longs for. It all made sense to me! I realized that *that* is the reason He put Songs of Solomon in the Bible.

Human intimacy as we know it today is just a shadow compared to a true intimate relationship with Him and the things He has in store for us. The Holy Spirit told me that day that God created human intimacy so He could teach us about intimacy with Him. Human intimacy is just a taste of what God has planned for eternity. And we are all a part of it - being one with Him forever and ever! Paul talks about the church as the bride of Christ. He said that husbands should love their wives as they love themselves. And that is just what God did! We

were so much a part of Him that He let His Son die so that we (His “other half”) could live!

When referring to our spouses, we as humans sometimes talk about our “other halves” - something we got right! We are all “half-beings,” and we need our other halves to make life perfect. Life is perfect while we are with our other halves, but when they leave, we feel half again. It amazes me to see how much we long for each other’s closeness. Only being close to them again can make us perfect.

The same is true between God and us. God is half. God is incomplete. He needs you because there is a part of Him within you that can make Him complete! He can only become complete when you spend time with Him. But the same is also true for you. You, too, are a half being, and your other half is found within God. When you become one with Him, both of you become complete beings for that moment.

Completeness is a wonderful thing, but it only lasts for a few hours. Soon after you spend time with Him, you will find yourself hungry for Him again. Why this constant hunger for God? It is like human intimacy - something we need daily. Sometimes we just need a hug. Sometimes we need more than a hug. But we are always in constant need of our loved one's affection, and we need it in all its different forms. The same is true with God. He needs our love more than we can ever dream or think. In the same way, we need His love more than we can ever imagine. My point is this: Make time to be one with Him. You need it! And He needs it!

The Bible says that a couple becomes one in flesh through the act of intimacy.

(Ephesians 5:21-32) The amazing thing is that the same verse

states that, like a couple, we become one with God in spirit when we are intimate with Him. I remember two of my friends who were in love. Their passion for each other grew daily. One day, I looked at them and was amazed at how alike they looked to me. Something about them just told me that they were one. Both of them changed a little bit to become more like the other. One of them later told me that they slept together for the first time just a few days before. I was amazed because I could perceive their oneness with my natural eyes even before he told me! The fact is this: Although they were not married at that stage, sleeping together made them one. And it was very visible even before I knew what happened. The same is true for our intimate relationship with the Lord. When we are intimate with Him, we become one with Him - we start to look like Him and talk like Him.

Sometimes I am amazed by the love I have for other humans. Just looking at them makes me feel God's love bubbling up in me. The things I do in life are driven by the love I feel for human beings. It is born out of a true desire to make them happy. It is because of this love that I can do things with a passion that is above my human nature. I realized that this is not me but rather a part of God's nature working in me. Please do understand me well when I say this. I do not want to sound super-spiritual, but some of the things I do in life flow out of an intimate relationship with Him.

When we have an intimate relationship with God, we start to look like Him in spirit and in flesh. I realized this one day as I entered a room where my sister was talking to her friend. I did not really like her friend at the time, and my feelings towards her were more feelings of irritation than love. But a few seconds after I entered the room, she shocked me with her words, "Something just happened! I came here feeling sick and experiencing a lot of pain, but the moment you walked through

that door I was healed.” I could not believe my ears! Truly, my first thoughts towards her were not filled with love, but it was very clear that she was healed the very moment she saw me. The shocking part is that I did not do anything to bring along her healing.

This incident taught me another lesson. Some diseases, though not all, are caused by demons. These demons that attacked her body could see in the spiritual realm. As soon as I walked through that door, she saw me as a human, but the demons saw Him! Why? They saw Him because I already had an intimate relationship with Him, and that made Him visible in me. As I mentioned earlier, intimacy creates a [spiritual](#) oneness between you and the Lord. This oneness is not only visible in the natural world but also in the spiritual world. The truth is that the demons saw God in me! For them, it was as if Jesus just walked into the room. That is why they left, resulting in the girl being healed. Can you see? Her healing had nothing to do with me. It was all His doing. It was the result of our intimacy. It is evidenced that an intimate relationship with the Lord creates a oneness between you and Him that is visible in the natural world as well as in the spiritual world.

As I said above, humans can clearly see when we are one with the Lord. I had first-hand experience of this not long ago in the Philippines. I went there on a mission trip, mixed with some holiday motives. (After all, the country is home to the number one beach in the world, Boracay.) On my way there, I visited a Korean woman who had been doing missionary work in the Philippines for more than ten years. This woman amazed me! She left everything behind to be a missionary in a country that is very different from her own. She became a Philippine in every way, learning to speak their language with amazing fluency and living in a tiny middle-class house - the same kind

the natives lived in. She even asked her South Korean friends and financial supporters to grant her a salary no more than that of a middle-class worker. Although she could have become a very rich person in the Philippines, she chose to be just like them.

She happened to be celebrating her birthday on the same weekend of my visit, and it was celebrated in true Philippine fashion - with plenty of noise! The Philippines are a noisy people, and they are proud of it. The celebration was held out in the open, where they blocked an entire street in front of the church with a big tent and a stage. Colorful balloons and decorations set the atmosphere for a kids-party. The thing that amazed me the most was the fact that all the other citizens had no problem with the street being blocked. In Korea or other parts of the world, it would not have been allowed or tolerated in any way.

The celebrations started around 4'o clock, and a whole program was scheduled for the evening. Somewhere in the middle of it, she called me to the stage and asked me to pray for the sick. I was reluctant at first because it was not exactly the setting I had in mind for healing service. But then I reasoned that God could heal the sick right here, in a true Philippine fashion. He was not limited by place or setting!

I started with a song, and the band joined me in singing "I am the God that healeth thee." The inspiration for this song came from the Old Testament where God said those very words to His people, the Israelites. As we sang the song, God's presence filled that tent, and I knew that it was time to pray for the sick. I prayed, and God healed many of them. Then suddenly, God started pointing out the healings to me as they were taking place. I just knew that someone's back was healed that very

moment.

Many more people were healed, and they all came forward as I called out their healings, testifying of God's goodness. I asked if anyone else had been healed, and a woman in the back stood up. She was big, really big, and she was wearing a purple dress. She made her way to the front with a slow motion only she could create and started testifying, "You said that we should put our hand on the place where it hurt. I did it. And when you asked Jesus to heal us, I felt Someone touching my hand, and the pain left at that very moment!"

We were all surprised and happy that she was healed. But then she said something that shocked me, "When I saw you today I thought that I saw Jesus. I thought I found Jesus!"

I asked her, "Are you a Christian?"

"No, I am Catholic." came her astounding answer, and I was shocked all over again!

This made me realize another truth - Jesus came to heal all of us! He is not a respecter of persons. He healed that Catholic woman irrespective of her background or religion. As I said, He will give you His love until the day you die, even if you never believed in Him. The choice is yours. It is up to you to accept or reject it!

It amazed me that she thought I was Jesus. But I immediately understood why. As I said earlier, when we have an intimate relationship with the Lord, people can see it in the way we walk and talk. When we spend time with the Lord, we become one with Him, just like the couple I talked about earlier. Our oneness with the Lord becomes very visible to the people around us. I know this for sure!

All human beings have a built-in hunger for the Lord. We were

all created with a missing part that can only be filled by the Lord. This reminds me of a little toy I played with as a kid. It was a colorful ball covered with openings in all kinds of shapes - circles, triangles, Christmas trees, and many more. Then there were pieces that could fit through the openings, but each piece could only fit through one opening. The aim of the game was to match the pieces to the openings. I tried many times to put the circular piece through the Christmas tree opening, but it never worked. Although it was entraining to try to force the shape through the wrong hole, it became very frustrating in the end, resulting in me throwing away the toy for a day. Our hearts are exactly like that. It has an opening shaped only for the Lord. We try so many things to fill the emptiness inside - things that look good and entertain us and even almost fit! But the truth is that only God can fill that space in your being.

Throughout my life, I've seen many strong, tough, hard-core men break up in tears when they experienced God for the first time. Most of these men never cried before. They firmly believed that "men do not cry." But it all changed the moment they found the perfect piece to fill the opening in their toy-hearts, many for the first time in their lives. The tears streaming down their faces were proof that they found the part that fit - God! Only the Lord can fit through the openings in our hearts. This brings me to the next point. Intimacy is for all!

Chapter 5: Intimacy is for all!

I was amazed by God's longing for our love and affection. Yet, another question came to mind. I wondered if this intimate experience was only for me or if other human beings could also experience it? I was not sure because I knew that some spiritual experiences only happened to some people.

Thus, I decided to call my best friend. He had been my roommate in Bible school for years and was a young man who really loved the Lord. I remembered seeing him praying for hours on end. He was our prayer coordinator and took care of the events in our Bible school's prayer room - a task he performed with the utmost care. He decorated it with pillows, pictures and books, and it always made prayer times something special. He also organized some worship music that created an inviting atmosphere for prayer.

I remember the day he played a secular song by Celine Dion. He had me in stitches as he dramatized the song with a few dance moves only he could make up. He changed the meaning of the song, and it became more of a love song to the Lord than a secular song.

I had to talk to someone about the intimate experiences I was having with the Lord. I wanted to be sure that it was real, and I just knew that he would understand. So I called him. He answered the phone almost immediately.

“Hello, Anointed!” We called each other “Anointed.” He never used my real name.

I began my story, “Hi! I have something to tell you. Nowadays, I am having the most amazing experiences with the Lord!” He listened attentively as I told him the whole story.

His response was filled with excitement and awe. He understood and was ready to try it for himself. As we hung-up, I wondered if he would have the same experience as me, and, if he did, how much it would differ from mine.

By now it was clear that I had found something very special. The Holy Spirit made it even more special by confirming it to me through the Bible. But I still had one more question: Could

all human beings experience what I was experiencing?

The next day, I called him, eager to hear if he experienced intimacy. His phone rang longer than usual. The few seconds he took to answer felt like hours to me because I knew that I was about to learn more of this new thing I discovered.

“Hi, Anointed!” came his greeting as usual.

“Hello, Anointed!”

“What happened? Did you try to experience intimacy with the Lord?” I asked, eagerly awaiting his confirmation.

“Yes! I tried it, and it was amazing! I experienced it!”

I breathed a sigh of relief. I was so happy to be confirmed by my friend!

“Tell me more!” I said. To my surprise, his experience sounded much different from the one I had. He told me that, as he gave himself to the Lord, he had a vision of being on a big ship with the Lord. In the vision, he was a bride, and they were enjoying the sunset together. It sounded very much like the famous scene in the Titanic movie where the couple stands together on the front end of the ship.

This taught me another important lesson about intimacy. We are all different, and therefore our bodies will interpret intimacy with the Lord in many different ways. When I experienced intimacy with the Lord, my body started shaking, but when my friend had the same experience, he had a vision. Here is the secret: the theme is the same – intimacy! This means that we cannot and should not try to define intimacy or put in a box. It is the same with human intimacy: we all experience it in many different ways. The problem is that religion tries to put God in a box, giving us a so-called “five step plan” in order to get good results with God. But God does not work that way. He is fresh and new every day.

The same thing is true for human romance. We all know the power of spontaneous acts of love. Sometimes a picnic or a surprise breakfast at sunrise means a lot more than taking your loved one to a regular restaurant the same night every week, year in and year out. In this way, even the best restaurant in town will become boring after a while, resulting in you losing the interest of your loved one.

We have it perfected when it comes to human romance. But with God, we got it all wrong. We follow man-made rules and recipes that were created over the years. It tries to tell us what will happen when we do certain things. I am not against it - there is a time and place for everything. But please do try this: allow God to be creative in showing His love to you. And on your part, be creative in showing Him your love.

Believe me, God can be surprised! If you are wondering how to express your love to God, just think of what you would do to express your love towards your spouse. Surprise Him with a "Thank you, Lord!" or just sing Him a love song. Do everything you can to show Him your love. Remember this: He is not only in the church, just as He is not only in the "five steps to holiness" that tradition taught us. He is everywhere, every day, and you should know that! Many times we treat Him as if He exists only in the church. We have that partially right, for He is there, too. Why? Because it is a church? No. Because we are there and because He loves us.

The Bible says that He shows up when we worship Him. I experienced this first-hand at the Saturday evening services at our church in Korea, where God visited us in amazing ways every Saturday night. We saw so many miracles, and people were being healed from all kinds of diseases. Every Saturday night's service in that church was very special to me because

the moment I walked into the church every night, I could feel Him in the air. As the worship started every night, I would get lost in His love as I joined the others in worshipping Him. The worship normally built up to a moment in the service where His presence would become so real that all of us could feel it! Some people would start to cry, others would start to pray softly, while the rest would just enjoy His beauty. And then, because of His presence, people would start to get healed in many ways. Normally, there was no set time that the service would end. We just prayed the final prayer and told the people that they could leave whenever they wanted to. Next, we start ministering to them in prayer, praying for each one individually as they lined up in the front.

These services would normally start around 8 o'clock in the evening and continue until around 2 o'clock in the morning as the last visitor would make her way to the door. Because I was one of the pastors, I would help with the praying, sometimes until the very end. Here is what I felt during those times: the intensity of His presence started to decrease as the people left the church. It always amazed me how tangible His presence was just a few seconds before the end and how it would then decrease as the people left. It felt as if the atmosphere returned to normal.

During the week, I would go to that very same church to pray by myself. Although His presence would always be there in much the same way as it would be in my inner room, it was never the same. And that proves to me that God is not the God of the church but that He is the God of the people. In other words, He comes and goes with humans. God is more of a God for outside the church than He is a God inside the church. The problem is that we have become accustomed to limiting Him to the church. When we leave the church, we think that He stays

there. But that is not true! He leaves with us, longing for our love and companionship daily!

We all know that when human intimacy is controlled by rules and methods, it becomes a disaster. Let us be careful not to do this with God's love. Let Him out of the box. Let Him out of the church and back into your life - into every part of your life. Then you will meet this new Friend, Someone who was in love with you from the beginning. Allow God to show His love to you in a new way, and be creative in the way you love Him back. Do something new. Start with a small "Thank you, Lord" to thank Him for the simple things in your daily life. That simple act means a lot to Him when it comes from a pure heart. Another truth that came to me is this: we have just as much control over an intimate relationship with Him as He does. I always thought that God is in control and that He would visit us when He wanted to and when it pleased Him. But that is not true! We know one thing leads to another in human romance, and we all know what to do to increase the fires of love. The same is true for the Lord. He is not a robot that one can switch on or off whenever one want to be with Him. He is a true being with emotions and feelings, just like you!

The truth is this: He is not like you. You are more like Him! You were created in His image. Everything that we experience as humans is also experienced by Him – excitement, happiness, sadness. We know when we are welcome, and we know when we are not welcome. The same is true for the Lord.

This intimacy with Him made me discover that we can draw Him closer to us with our love. It is the same with a human relationship. Different actions towards a loved one will have different reactions. Holding hands will result in something much different than kissing would. And so it is with the Lord.

You can draw Him close with your love. There are certain things that we can do that will sort-of overpower Him in a way. Did I shock you again? Let us see what the Bible says about this. Songs of Solomon reads, “Turn away your eyes from me for it makes me weak.” (Songs of Solomon 6:5).

It is amazing how a young man can grow up with a family who loved him for years - a mom and a dad who took care of him throughout his youth. Sometimes he made them proud, deserving their love. Sometimes he broke their hearts. But they still loved him. They cared for him in every way possible by providing everything he needed. One would reason that this family bond was unbreakable. His parents invested so much time and money in his life to make him feel that he owes them something forever. But how then is it possible that everything can change in a second? For every man, there comes a moment in time where a beauty walks through the door and steals his heart. Just the way she appears has the power to break years of loyalty to his parents in a second! His mind will be forced to let go of everything he knew. And he would take her as his wife and provide for her.

I saw this first-hand with a friend of mine. He was a well-organized businessperson, and it would seem as if he carefully planned every step he took. All His words were filled with wisdom. He had a great career, and he was a young man who had lots of success at an early stage in his live. He became the CEO of a powerful company in South Africa in his mid-thirties, and he became very rich.

Everything about him bespoke of how much in-control this man was until the day he fell in love with a very beautiful young woman. They got married not long after that, and I was invited to visit them in their new house. My GPS led me to a brand new, very expensive estate. The security at the gate

looked like something one would expect at the White House. After an eye-scan and a few phone calls to get my friend's approval, the beam gates lifted, letting me into paradise. And paradise it was! Money was written all over the place. Every house looked different, as if its owner had something to prove. The gardens were something out of this world. Every house had a water feature in front of it - some of them were several meters high, and others were catchy in their simplicity. An old African pot had transformed into a never ending source of water, streaming down into a pond full of fish.

In South Africa, all houses are built with a lot of security in mind. We lock ourselves in with high walls and electric gates. But this estate was different. There were no high walls or electric gates. It was more of an open-plan design, and all the security matters were taken care of by the estate management, protecting the rich and famous residents from the dangers of the outside world.

A palace-like clubhouse with tennis courts and a deep blue swimming pool formed the centre of this piece of heaven on earth. Many footpaths led from it, taking you to rivers with banks of green grass – almost like the golden streets in heaven. Here birds swarmed around in hundreds while ducks quacked away the city noises from the outside world.

I felt poor as I rang the gold-plated doorbell. An expensive German car parked itself next to my four wheels, adding to my embarrassment. My friend's voice welcomed me over the intercom, as he made his way down from the third floor. It felt as if I was on TV - live TV - as a dozen cameras pointed at me with their red lights flashing, almost like a real shoot.

“Welcome to my humble home!” he lied. It was all but humble!

The lighting inside was perfect, creating a warm, welcoming mood. The floors were covered with the biggest terracotta tiles I have ever seen in my life. The roof in the living room shot right up into the sky - a few stories high - and was covered by a thatched roof. I had nothing to say, and I did not know how to respond in a place of such wealth.

“Hi! Nice to see you again! Can I use the bathroom?” I did not really need the bathroom. I just needed time to think. Time to get used to my friend's success. The bathroom with its chrome accessories and black tiles did not help much. The shower itself was as big as my room, with a showerhead that could water my whole garden in a second. It was big! Everything about this place was big!

His wife showed up, joining us in all her beauty. Her blond hair and blue eyes made the perfect match.

“Would you like some coffee?” I do not really like coffee, but something made me say yes. My friend and I made our way to some leather couches that were inviting. Music came from everywhere. This was not like the stereo in my room. It was a multi-channeled music centre, bathing us in classical music.

I cannot remember what we talked about. All I was aware of was the fact that my friend had “made it” in life. And he made it big-time! It was written all over the place that he was a wise man and that nothing could knock him off his track. The sounds from the kitchen with its granite tops and cherry wood finish reminded me that coffee was on the way.

A strange sound broke the atmosphere. It came from an ugly looking dog entering the room! He raced around the coffee table about four times, making scratchy sounds on the imported carpet with his nails as he cut the corners. He was barking. Or rather shouting! His bark sounded more like a shout than a bark. Excitement was written all over him as he ended up next

to me on the leather couch, fighting for air through his open mouth.

“Off! Hey you, get off!” My friend's voice reminded this “pavement-special” of a dog about its place in life.

Just then, his wife entered and said, “Come on, my love. Let him sit on the couch just for now. How do you like your coffee?” Her voice was cool.

“Black with two sugars, please.”

To my surprise, my friend obeyed his wife's command. Something I thought to be impossible! This man was all about control, and now right here in front of me, she took it all away.

The rest of the night was filled with more classic music and laughter, and the dog was there the whole time. Every now and then, the dog did something wrong, resulting in my friend's anger. But every time, his wife calmed him down with her perfectly soft voice.

Then came the grand finale as she asked, “Lovey, can the dog sleep in the house tonight?” Everything inside me thought “No.” It was obvious that this house was not made for a dog. It was made for humans to live in.

“No” came my friend's response and confirmed my answer.

“But lovey, please! It is cold and windy outside. Poor Snoopy might die.” Her voice was so soft and full of love that it broke both of us. It did not take me long to change my mind. According to me, it was all right. No matter how out-of-place this dog was, he was suddenly welcome to do whatever he wanted.

Again, my friend confirmed my thoughts. “Ok, my love. Let him sleep inside.”

I was amazed! This control freak lost all his power the day he got married.

It is the same between the Lord and us. It occurred to me that

we are like my friend's new wife. There comes a time and place where we can change God's mind. Moses comes to my mind. When God was angry at Israel, He was ready to kill them all in the desert. God told Moses to get out of the way, for He was ready to destroy the whole nation. But Moses reasoned with God. He said, "God, if you destroy them, the other nations will say that You could not take care of them in the desert, and that is why You killed them." This made God change His mind, and the Bible says that God repented of His evil thoughts (Exodus 32:1-14). Wow! I thought that only humans needed to repent from their sins, but the Bible says that Moses' prayer led God to repent. Moses' prayer changed God's mind, and He did not destroy the Israelites that day. He showed mercy unto them, and they become God's nation.

Let us talk about Abraham for a moment. God was ready to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because their sins deserved death. But then Abraham asked God to spare them. Abraham asked God if He would change His mind should he find fifty righteous people in the city. God said yes. Then Abram asked God again several times, bringing the number down to ten righteous people. And every time, God allowed it. I believe if Abram asked for five righteous people, God would have spared those cities.

I want to bring all this together and conclude. Moses and Abraham could change God's mind just as my friend's wife could change his mind. I believe we can do the same! God sees us as His bride. We all know that a bride has a great deal of control in her husband's life. The same is true with God and us: God sees us as part of Him. We can change His mind just as a wife can change her husband's mind. Should we misuse this ability to our benefit? No, but we should realize that an intimate relationship with the Lord gives us a place with Him.

So when you pray, pray knowing that He listens to your advice. As in my friend's case, I believe that our prayers can sometimes change His mind.

Conclusion

I believe that this book transformed your life into a life of intimacy. Intimacy is not a far fetched idea, it's something that God designed for humans from the beginning. It is His desire to be one with us but He gave us the power of choice. It all comes down to you: You are the one that needs to decide if intimacy is for you or not.

Many times we ask God to give us more of Him. That is wrong: He already gave us all He has. Now it's our turn to give back, to give back to the King of kings and Lord of lords. And He wants something that He was ready to die for: Our love.

You may ask, "Is it that simple, is that all He longs for?" Let me ask you a question. What is the deepest longing in your human heart? Think about it. The deepest longing in our human hearts is to be accepted, to be loved. That is why we do what we do to impress others, so that they can accept and kind-of love us. That hunger for love is the same hunger God feels in His heart.

He is like a young boy, dreaming about the love of His life, hoping to find her, hoping to someday show His love to her in everything He does. In this case you are the object of love, the one that Jesus is dreaming about. Give Him a chance in your life, start by prying the following prayer with me, "Lord, I have nothing to give but my love, come and enjoy the beauty of my spirit and my love. Amen."

A WORD FROM PASTOR LAWRENCE

Dear readers and friends,

It was so wonderful to share this book of what God did in my life with you. Two years ago I woke up one morning with a feeling that told me that I should start putting the things which the Lord had done in my life on paper. I had no idea how to do it. I just started by jotting down the main highlights of all the things that happened in my life over the years. Then I asked the Holy Spirit to inspire me as He inspired the people who wrote the Bible. This is how this book which I call “A Miracle” was born.

It amazed me how I was never in need of something to write. Every day when I sat down in some coffee shop to write, the words just flowed. It was an amazing experience, I know that this is not my doing, it is the Lord's doing.

THE BRIDE is the first book in the INTIMACY series. I know a few more books will come in this series as God continues to do His work.

I NEED YOUR HELP: My desire is that all humans will know God intimately. You can help by taking a moment to share this book with your friends in any way possible. This book has no copyright, for I believe that intimacy is a message that needs to go out now to the whole body of Christ. I believe that your life was changed by this book. Now you can change a few lives by sharing this book with your friends.

CONNECT WITH ME: Throughout this book we started to build a relationship. Please connect with my on Facebook by joining our ministry's Facebook page. By doing this we can stay connected and share more about our wonderful Lord. Please go ahead and like my ministry's page at www.facebook.com/healingtouchministries/.

ARRANGE AN INTIMACY CONFERENCE

My dream is to have Intimacy Conferences at churches all over the world. Here is how you can help me:

1. Talk to your pastor about the possibility of hosting an Intimacy Conference at your church.
2. Let us know via email so that we can start with the planning. Our email address is:
events@pastorlawrence.com