



We learned that for us to expand in our spiritual authority, we first need to grow in our intimacy with the Lord. How do you practice 'friendship with the Lord' in your own life?

Read John 4:32-34. Jesus's question to always ask was: What is the Father doing? He got pleasure and full satisfaction from doing the will of the Father. Jesus said it is 'food' to him to do the will of the Father. Doing the will of God provides ultimate fulfillment and satisfaction. What is God calling you to do for His will to be done in your life?

Read Psalm 63:6. What are some spiritual disciplines and rhythms that work and do not work in your own life? Pray and consider as a life group if you guys could do a 'prayer watch' together sometime? This might mean everyone signs up for an hour or two block to pray together over one night or evening.

We learned there are 4 ways to start to develop this lifestyle of intimacy with God to start to expand in spiritual authority and bringing heaven to earth. These were: **1. Abiding in the lonely places, 2. Doing His will, 3, Sacrifice and Struggle, and 4. Drawing from the Father's strength.**

Comment and share in your groups on each of the questions below.

1. Abiding in The Lonely Places

- Read Mark 6:30-31
- How can you begin to develop a lifestyle of 'rest over results' for your walk with Jesus?
- What are some of the storms in your own life you are going through? What are some practical ways to start walking in spiritual authority over the storms of life (i.e. Jesus sleeping through the storm)?

2. Doing His Will

- *"I can't afford to live in reaction to darkness. If I do, darkness has had a role in setting the agenda for my life. The devil is not worthy of such influence, even in the negative. Jesus lived in response to the Father. I must learn to do the same."*
- — Bill Johnson, *Hosting the Presence: Unveiling Heaven's Agenda*

- Jesus wasn't always seeking to be fair, but to be faithful. How can you begin to come to the realization that every need is not your battle? Ask the Lord for his eyes and heart to see the needs he is calling you to attend to.

3. Sacrifice and Struggle

- *"Prayer, fasting, testing, and temptation are essential for deepening intimacy, and expanding intimacy is necessary for developing authority."* - Rob Reimer
- Is prayer, fasting, 'retreats with the Lord', etc part of your spiritual disciplines of your life? If not, how can adjust to allow them to be?
- What are some of the lessons God could be teaching you when breakthrough does not come or happen the way you want?

4. Drawing from the Father's Strength

- Read John 17:20-21
- How can you individually and corporately as a group start to grow more in unity with God and others?
- It takes willing persistence to spend time with the Holy Spirit. Is it enough just to be with Jesus in your quiet times? Do you seek his face more than his hands in your times of prayer?
- Pray for each other to be filled afresh with the Spirit and that God would give each one discipline to make friendship with God the number one priority in their lives.

Resources for further study:

- *Hosting the Presence* (Bill Johnson)
- *Spiritual Authority* (Rob Reimer)