

ENCOUNTERING GOD

A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION

STUDY / CHAPTER 5

1. How does the discipline of study help us to replace old destructive habits of thought with new life-giving habits.
2. What is the difference between the study of Scripture and the devotional reading of Scripture?
3. What helps you to benefit from your time of studying the word of God?
4. Do you have an approach to the study of the word that you would recommend?
5. Why does study aid the transformation of the individual?
6. Outside of the Bible, which book has had the most profound impact upon your life?
7. Why does the discipline of study produce joy?

MEDITATION / CHAPTER 2

1. What does meditation mean to you?
2. What are some of your first reactions to the idea of meditation?
3. Do you have any examples or verses in the word that encourage you to meditate?
4. What do you think the purpose of meditation is?
5. What are some misconceptions that some have about meditation?
6. In preparing to meditate, have you found a particular posture to be helpful?
7. What things make your life crowded?
8. What would help you to make meditation a way of life?

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SIMPLICITY / CHAPTER 6

1. What is the discipline of simplicity?
2. Contrast simplicity and duplicity.
3. Why does simplicity bring freedom?
4. Of the three inward attitudes of simplicity; to receive what we have as a gift from God, to know that it is God's business and not ours to care for what we have, and to have our goods available to others, which do you find the most difficult for you personally?
5. Why do we have an insane attachment to things?
6. Why is it easy to ignore the many words of Jesus on simplicity?
7. What helps you to de-accumulate?
8. Why is it difficult for you to live in simplicity?

SOLITUDE / CHAPTER 7

1. What is the discipline of solitude?
2. How did Jesus exemplify the discipline of solitude?
3. Why do we need the stillness of solitude, if we want to be with others meaningfully?
4. How can a day filled with noise and voices be as a day of silence for us?
5. What does the dark night of the soul involve?
6. What is the purpose of the dark night of the soul?
7. Why do we need both solitude and community in order to function with spiritual success?
8. What keeps you from solitude?

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CONFESSION / CHAPTER 10

1. What do the final words of Jesus on the cross, “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” and “It is finished” mean to you?
2. In what way is salvation both an event and a process?
3. Compare and contrast confession as a private grace and a corporate discipline.
4. In what way is sorrow necessary to a good confession?
5. Why is it important that confession begins in sorrow, but ends in joy?
6. How can we prepare ourselves to receive the confession of another?
7. What keeps us from confessing our sins?
8. What are the benefits of the discipline of confession?

GUIDANCE / CHAPTER 12

1. Is the idea of guidance as a corporate discipline new or strange to you?
2. Give examples from the Scriptures of occasions in which God guides groups of people or instructed individuals through the group experience.
3. Why do you think that the church has tended to emphasize private guidance and not corporate guidance?
4. What are some of the dangers of corporate guidance?
5. How should the idea of guidance influence the ways we carry on business in our church?
6. Have you ever seen the idea of corporate guidance used in destructive ways? What lessons were you able to learn from that experience?
7. If living in guidance comes about mainly through entering into friendship with God, what should you drop from your life and what should you add to your life in order to deepen your intimacy with Christ?