

JESUS: INTIMATE AND MILITANT

We already discussed briefly how Abraham and Moses were God's friends, even though they had their imperfections. The man Jesus Christ is the only perfect example of what it means to be God's friend. As we learned before, there are three aspects of being a close friend. Time, trust and secrets. Unlike all other persons in this world, Jesus was not born with A.I.D.S. (Adam Inherited Death Syndrome) - Romans 5:12, 17a. He was **born of the Holy Spirit** and thus he demonstrated the **character and nature of God** throughout his earthly life. He spent much **time alone with God** the Father as he walked this earth. Even as a boy and young man he likely spent much time walking and **praying** around the rolling hills of Galilee.

'And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.' - Luke 2:38

Even by the age of 12, Jesus recognized his purpose on earth as evidenced by these words to his parents. 'Did you not know that I must be about **my Father's business?**' From then, until he began his public ministry, he was learning more about the kingdom of God through the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures.

'And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.' - Luke 2:52

At the baptism of Jesus, the **Holy Spirit came upon Him**. The **Holy Spirit in us** is for **our benefit, that is the fruit of the Spirit**. The **Holy Spirit upon us** is for the **benefit of others, that is the supernatural gifts of the Spirit**. As Jesus launched his ministry, it was evident right from the beginning what the focus of his life and teaching would be about.....the kingdom of God. Unlike worldly kingdoms, God's would begin on the inside of mankind and then work His way out to the visible world. Jesus walked in the fullness of the Holy Spirit at all times and the benefits were obvious in His life and ministry.

'How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you.'
- Psalm 31:19

'A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord- and He will delight in the fear of the Lord, He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes or what He hears with His ears. but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. - Isaiah 11:1-4 (Jesus' life brought forth much fruit!)

Jesus walked in perfect wisdom, discernment and power, not used for himself but to serve God and others in the fear of the Lord.

Like a dove, the Spirit descended upon Jesus and **rested** on Him. To enhance this truth, watch:

You Tube: Bill Johnson / Hosting the Presence

You Tube: R. T. Kendall / The Sensitivity of the Holy Spirit

Jesus was intimate with God, the one who had sent Him to earth on a **dangerous** rescue mission. Jesus called Him **Abba**, an Aramaic term for Father which Jewish children used as an expression of trust, confidence, endearment, affection and intimacy (we use terms like Papa or Daddy). There is one recorded instance in Scripture where Jesus used the word **Abba**. It was in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus felt weak and vulnerable. He was about to face the cup of suffering of the wrath of God to be placed upon him for the sins of the whole world for all time. - Mark 14:36. Gethsemane means 'a place of pressing oil'. At this time of facing the ultimate pressure of being crucified, Jesus longed to feel close to **Abba**, as he sweat drops of blood due to the extreme stress he was under. In a short time, he would experience other types of pain, such as whipping, mocking, shame, abandonment by his disciples; but the worst of all was when he felt separation from God and cried out in agony on the cross.

'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

Jesus experienced hell on the cross.

* separation from God's presence

* the wrath of God for sin (not his but ours)

* extreme thirst (hell has no water)

* sense of hopelessness

* throbbing torment and pain

* darkness

Jesus bore all that and more so that we could have intimacy with God. When we are born of the Holy Spirit, we can also call God **Abba Father!** - Romans 8:15

Jesus was **militant** against sin, satanic plans and all sorts of evil throughout his life and even unto death. He had to conquer sin, death and the grave so that we could spend eternity in the presence and service of the royal family, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are the joy that Jesus thought about when he went to the cross....'for the **joy** set before him, he endured the cross'. - Hebrews 12:2. Jesus brought joy to the one who had sent him to earth.

'About the Son he (God) says, Your throne O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have **loved righteousness** and **hated wickedness**; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the **oil of joy**. - Hebrews 1:8-9

Jesus lived a life of **INTIMACY** for he knew the Father's **LOVE** and called Him **Abba**.

Jesus was **MILITANT** against evil because he knew of God's **HOLINESS** and just before facing the justice of God for our sin, he called God '**Righteous Father**' and '**Holy Father**'.
- John 17:11, 25.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have the privilege and honor of walking with God as He did.

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We are not alone, for he sent his Spirit to help us. There are many spirits in this world, but there is only one **HOLY SPIRIT**. It is only through his influence that we can become like Jesus, who loved what God loves and hated what he hates. It will happen for us when we fully walk in God's love and in the fear of the Lord.

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