

OPEN

Of the four options described in the message, which one do you find being your biggest inclination: life UNDER God, life OVER God, life FROM God, or life FOR God?

STUDY

This week's message was called "Getting Spiritually Aligned for Growth." The main premise was that seeking to be WITH God should be our primary pursuit in life. How does this quote from Martin Lloyd Jones communicate the importance of seeking to be WITH God? *"The one thing we have to avoid above everything else in our Christian lives is this fatal tendency to live the Christian life apart from a direct, living and true relationship to God."*

Read Luke 15:11-32. Both brothers had a problem in how they related to their father. What was the younger brother's issue? How about the older brother? Which one do you identify with more? What did the father desire from the sons? How is this parable meant to make us think about our relationship with God?

How might Matthew 6:33 serve as an encouragement to properly prioritize our lives for spiritual growth and healthy relationship with God?

How does the Psalm writer express his desire to be with God in Psalm 84:10? Does your heart resonate with his sentiment?

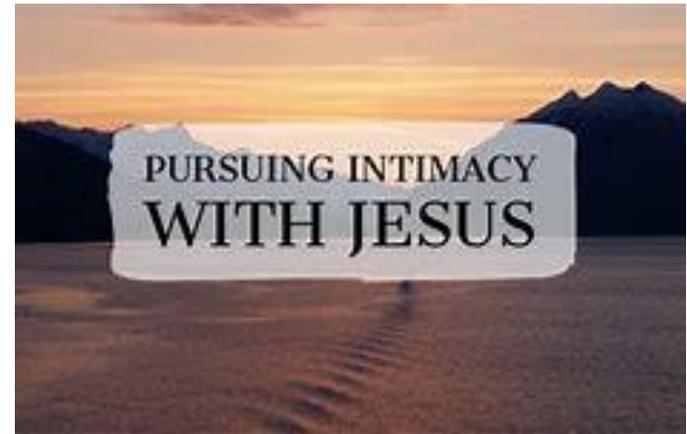
APPLY

- Who or what has shaped your vision of who God is? Is your understanding of God primarily positive or negative? Are you drawn to Jesus, or do you keep Him at arm's length?

- John Piper said, “The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God.” When you were presented the Gospel, was it based more in fear, or in a positive desire for God?

- Look at Matthew 13:44-46. What do “the treasure” and “the pearl” in these parables represent? What is your treasure? What is the passion and pursuit of your life?

- Salvation is a free gift from God which we can only receive by faith. But spiritual growth, although fully facilitated by God, demands some effort on our part. How much effort do you apply to fortifying your relationship with Jesus?



MESSAGE GUIDE

January 12th, 2020
Pastor Kurt Staeuble