



SCHOOL OF INTIMACY  
WITH CHRIST

*I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine*  
*Song of Solomon 6:3*

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the school of intimacy with Christ. In September 2019 I was crying out to the Lord after a season of real spiritual drought. My desire was to have a walk of deep intimacy with Him. I did all the things I knew to do - I prayed, read my Bible, and worshiped. But even with all of that I never fully reached the place of intimacy with the Lord that I believed to be available. So I asked the Lord to teach me how to walk in intimacy with Him. I became a student in the school of intimacy.

One of the first things I felt him prompting me to do was eliminate distractions. This involved unsubscribing from podcasts, deactivating Facebook, and limiting other social media. Intimacy cannot be cultivated in an environment filled with noise.

To conclude this introduction, I want to share the definition of intimacy along with a few scriptures.

Intimacy is a close familiar, affectionate or loving relationship with another person. Note the four aspects of this definition. Proximity, close association, emotional connectedness, persons relating to one another.

*Draw near to God and he will draw near to you- James 4:8*

*let us draw near with a true heart - Hebrews 10:22*

*for through him we both have access by one spirit to the father - Ephesians 2:18*

And finally, I want to share Ephesians 3:16-19, what I call the habitation prayer:

*That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

I pray that our lives would be a dwelling place of God.

## Day 1

*The song of songs, which is Solomon's - Song of Solomon 1:1*

1 Kings 4:32 tells us that Solomon wrote 1,005 songs. Of all those songs this is the one included in the Scriptures. It is not included as one among many, but as the one superior to all. It is the song of songs. By reason of its subject, it excels all others - intimacy with the Beloved. How the heart of God towards His creation is expressed in the inclusion of this book in the Scriptures! Oh what possibilities of fellowship with God are revealed through it! We might not dare to imagine these things had He not given us this book. But in it is the encouragement to believe that He delights in our nearness and that our desire for Him is met with a desire in Him for us. Maybe it is an introduction of sorts, an introduction to the heart of God as we had never known it to be. Perhaps it is our permission to love Him extravagantly and to believe that His love for us is more real and personal than we had ever dared to dream.

## Day 2

*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth. – Song of Solomon 1:2*

Recently I noticed for the first time how this book starts out with what I have long considered to be the most intimate act - the kiss. Face up against face, the up-close gaze. The yielding of the body always seemed less intimate, personal and invasive than the yielding of the mouth. The Shulamite's first expression of desire for her beloved is the most intense, intimate and personal request. Not wasting time with unnecessary preliminaries, she wants to be as close to Him as she can get. She isn't interested in being shallow or half-hearted with him.

Is that what you want? Is Jesus allowed to have total access to your life? Every part of it? True intimacy withholds nothing from the Beloved.

## Day 3

I woke up one morning and was immediately thinking of something that needed prayer. In that frantic mode of "I better hurry and pray for this before something bad happens in the situation", I began hurling requests at God. I was stopped in my tracks by this response from heaven, "will you not even greet Me first? "

Thinking back on the definition of intimacy, it is a personal relationship, a relationship between persons. Not a relationship between me and my personal genie. I would be so hurt if someone who insisted they loved me dealt with me in this same manner. I remember the days when my children were younger and as soon as I would come home from work, they would bombard me with questions about what was for dinner. Things like that can make you feel that you're only valued because of what you can do for a person. I desire more than that from the people I'm in relationship with. How odd that I should think the Lord of glory would desire anything less in His relationship with me than I desire in my relationships with others. How heartbreaking that I should be so careless as to treat Him with less consideration than another mere human.

## Day 4

I have at times observed people who write or talk about the Lord in very casual and almost flippant ways. It always feels a little cringy and inappropriate. Intimacy doesn't exclude reverence. The deeper the fellowship and the deeper my understanding of who He is becomes, the more reverent my relationship with Him will be.

Proverbs 28:14 says, "Happy is the man who is always reverent." This is the man who is always in awe of God.

Intimacy that doesn't lead to a greater acknowledgment and regard for the holiness and glory of God is to be questioned as to its depth or genuineness. Communion with the Creator should never become common in the sense that we lose our awe over the privilege we've been granted.



## Day 5

*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth. - Song of Solomon 1:2*

She doesn't ask for the kiss of his lips, a peck on the cheek or merely the brush of his lips against hers. Her desire is for the kiss of his mouth. Something passionate, intimate and invasive. One passionate kiss can stir desire in the entire body.

What could the kisses of the mouth of Jesus be but His word, spoken to us so personally, going to the very heart. Sometimes correcting, sometimes encouraging, but always making us hungry for more. Oh the joy of a word from His mouth!

Let the word go deep and invade every hidden recess of the heart. Let nothing be hidden from the searching of that word.

Speak Lord Jesus, for your Shulamite is listening.

## Day 6

*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth. - Song of Solomon 1:2*

HIS mouth. I am thankful for the many ways the Lord speaks to me, but what I really want is the word from His mouth. I love the written word, but oh what joy when He speaks it and it becomes Rhema to me - a word in season, a word of life.

I believe that in the cultivation of stillness we would begin hearing the kisses of His mouth more clearly and more frequently. The lover's kiss is reserved for private times when it is just the two of them. Time spent waiting on the kisses of His mouth will not fail to yield a benefit.

I love to hear the revelations other people receive. I love even more when He gives revelations to me directly. He will speak to those who will turn aside into the silence to listen.

## Day 7

Intimacy doesn't start in the secret place. It is cultivated in every area of life. The spouse that is disrespected in the kitchen won't feel loving in the bedroom. There's nothing magical about closing the bedroom door. The intimacy that happens there is a result of the relationship that flourishes everywhere else. So can I expect the Lord to meet me in special ways when **I'm** ready to draw near if I've been neglecting Him throughout the day? My life with Him isn't limited to certain times and places. Christ is my life. In the morning when I wake up, at work, when I'm sick, always. He is to be treasured as much in the ordinary moments of life as when I set aside time for just Him.

Intimacy isn't cultivated only in the secret place, however, it is culminated in the secret place. So there must be a time when everyone else is shut out and I am shut in with only the Lord. A peck on the cheek is perfectly fine in public but the passionate kiss is only appropriate behind closed doors. And it is when we silence every other voice, put away all distractions and focus our attention fully upon Him that He will share his secrets with us, showering us with the kisses of His mouth.

## Day 8

*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth. - Song of Solomon 1:2*

This verse doesn't say who the Shulamite is talking to, but it obviously isn't the beloved because she refers to him in the third person. I would assume it's her companions, the daughters of Jerusalem. What a personal thing for her to say to them, but perhaps it is an indication of the strength of her desire for him.

Sometimes that desire will not be suppressed and may appear inappropriate, like the woman who anointed Jesus's feet with a pound of very costly oil of spikenard in John 12. The desire to express our love to our Beloved may look undignified at times. It may make us seem odd or emotional. But the Beloved hears every sigh of desire and delights in every expression of love for Him. Don't be ashamed to love Him boldly.

## Day 9

*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth. - Song of Solomon 1:2*

How miserable it is to know that the Lord is moving in a gathering and to feel nothing. Thank God that some are touched, that some are receiving His kisses. But I don't ever want to be a bystander, an observer. Touch ME Lord! He is a personal God and I need Him in my life in personal ways.

I believe that He responds to the seeking heart, the one longing for nearness with Him. Often, I find my desire is too quickly satisfied with other things. Good things. His things. But not Him....the person of the Lord Jesus. What woman spends hours poring over her lover's letters but never makes the effort to spend time with him? Don't stop short of intimacy with Him. Refuse to be satisfied with anything less.

## Day 10

*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth, for your love is better than wine. -  
Song of Solomon 1:2*

In the first part of this verse she's expressing her desire for her beloved. She is talking about him. But in the second part of this verse the pronouns change and she is no longer talking about him, but to him. Desire brought presence.

I had a recent experience of this at a church service. I had been seeking Him the best I could, desiring to draw near yet frustrated because it seemed I was getting nowhere. But as I was worshiping on this Sunday morning and crying out to the Lord, just pouring out my desire for Him, I felt his weighty presence and my whole body began to tremble. He was there. I felt filled with overwhelming joy, completeness, and fullness. It was an amazing encounter and I was joyful for days in remembrance of it.

His presence made my heart glad, better than wine.

## Day 11

*For your love is better than wine. - Song of Solomon 1:2*

The word love is plural and is best understood as love tokens, a gift that is symbolic of a love relationship. There are many times I've received love tokens from Him, but in context of the first part of this verse, it is related to the beloved's mouth, His word. And so, this love token from the Lord is contrasted with wine and declared to be better.

Wine begins with the pure thing provided by God, the grape. But then man begins to process it and change it. He crushes it to collect all the sweetness and the end product is something easy and pleasant to ingest, but most of the profitable nutrients are contained in the seed and skin, which are filtered out. So much was available for benefit in the pure thing from God, but the handling and processing of man extracted and discarded what was most beneficial because it was regarded as something that would have been unpleasant in the finished product.

The pure word from the mouth of God (which cannot be so easily purchased in a bottle at the corner store but must be harvested from the vine) will provide such nourishment to the soul. The skin may be difficult to chew but it is bringing growth and strength and life.

## Day 12

*For your love is better than wine. - Song of Solomon 1:2*

The Bible has a few things to say about what wine is used for:

*Give strong drink to him who is perishing, and wine to those who are bitter of heart. Proverbs 31:6*

*Wine that makes glad the heart of man. - Psalm 104:15*

Indeed, these and many other reasons are why people turn to wine or other substances. They are trying to heal what ails them, suppress what troubles them, or looking for a little help being happy for a while. Although I do not seek to judge or bring condemnation to anyone, it seems that even in the church of the living God it is common that people turn quickly to a pill for help. And while relief may indeed be gained momentarily through whatever substance is chosen, there is a cost. It will always be temporary, requiring another dose, another drink. The need is not met, it is only covered for a short time. This is the best the world can offer.

But the love, love tokens, of Jesus, they bring healing and strength. Our need isn't covered, it is taken away, dealt with entirely in the presence of the Beloved as He pours out His love upon us. In that presence, nothing else matters. The world offers a Band-Aid. The Beloved brings a cure. His love is better.



## Day 13

My heart has been greatly moved recently by this passage in Jeremiah chapter 2:2 *"thus says the Lord, I remember you, the kindness of your youth, the love of your betrothal, when you went after me in the wilderness in a land not sown."*

While I have frequently looked back on times in my life when I was walking in greater intimacy with the Lord with great longing to return, I had no idea that He does too. I've never thought of it affecting Him at all. I was just one of a large number who are drawing near, so if my love cooled off there were still plenty of others seeking Him. I wouldn't be missed. He lacks nothing by my absence from the secret place. He probably isn't even aware that I'm gone.

This passage in Jeremiah confronts that thought and exposes it as a lie. He loves me and He wants me near. It matters to Him. I matter to Him, and He notices my absence. Oh, it makes me want to run back to the secret place!

## Day 14

Several times at work I have walked into the building and the lobby was filled with the smell of freshly cooked hamburgers from the restaurant next-door. I breathed in deeply trying to take in as much of the smell as possible, but it wasn't ultimately satisfying. It made me want a hamburger.

*Because of the fragrance of your good ointment, your name is ointment for forth. - Song of Solomon 1:3*

The good ointments, anointing oil, of Christ is the Holy Spirit. And when I speak that name of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is poured forth, changing the very atmosphere, filling the place with the glory of God and the fragrance of Christ. I breathe in and I am satisfied with Him.

## Day 15

*Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, your name is ointment poured forth, therefore the virgins love you, draw me away! - Song of Solomon 1:3-4.*

Everything about Jesus is good and lovely. Anyone who has given a fair reading to the gospel cannot come away without, at the very least, an admiration of Jesus. But the virgins love Him. However, love can change in the level of intensity. Just the ordinary affairs of life have a way of dampening the flame of fiery love for Jesus. The cry of the Shulamite is "draw me away!"

The word "draw" means to allure, entice and woo. It is like the young man who is intent upon winning the heart of a young woman, so he showers her with gifts, with attention, with tokens of his love. The Shulamite doesn't want to merely be one of a number that possess some degree of love for Him. She wants to see and know all of his love for her and to let it overwhelm her heart and draw her away from a life of waxing and waning love for Him.

Draw me away from distraction, from cares that cloud my vision of You. But don't just draw me away from those things, draw me **to** Yourself. Entice me with greater glimpses into Your goodness. I don't care what level of love and devotion others choose to be satisfied with. Draw me away into a deeper walk with You.

The more we see Him and the more we know Him, the more we love Him. And the closer we long to be to Him.

## Day 16

This is where the ugly needs to come. When I see ugly things in me, I want to run away from the secret place. I feel sure that there is no room for the ugly things there. That is a place for the beautiful things. The holy things. The things worthy of the Beloved's attention.

But this is where the ugly things must come. This is the only place that they are thoroughly dealt with. The secret place is a place of brutal honesty and transparent vulnerability. You cannot hide any parts of you from the One you desire to be intimate with. Not even the ugly parts.

## Day 17

*Draw me away – Song of Solomon 1:4*

There are times that I have done everything I know to do in order to draw near to the Lord. I have read the word, prayed, worshiped, and felt no significant sense of His presence. When I have done all, then I wait for Him to come for me.

I have discovered that there are times that He absolutely will not let me come to this place of intimacy by my own efforts. I find my energy expended in the search for Him only to be swept away into His presence in an unsuspecting moment. He catches me by surprise and whisks me away.

## Day 18

*We will remember your love more than wine - Song of Solomon 1:4*

I cannot forget the times when I was dwelling in a greater intimacy with Him. I cannot forget the seasons when His voice was so clear and His presence the most tangible. I cannot forget the almost uncontainable joy of the love tokens He would scatter throughout my day.

It is painful to remember the intimacy that I used to have with Him, but I cannot forget.

## Day 19

*I am dark but lovely – Song of Solomon 1:5*

As hard as it is to believe it sometimes, I am faithfully loved in the midst of my unfaithfulness. Often, I find myself wanting to hide away from Him, “do not look upon me because I am dark”. I assume that because all I can see is my sin that that’s all He sees also. But He sees me through perfect blood and that has made me lovely.

## Day 20

*Tell me O you whom I love, where you feed your flock, where you make it rest at noon. For why should I be as one who veils herself by the flocks of your companions? - Song of Solomon 1:7*

There is a place of rest and nourishment in Jesus that we rarely just stumble upon. It is a place that must be hungered for and sought. Many are content to gather around His friends and find their strength there. But there are those who will not be satisfied with any other than the One whom their soul loves. They appreciate His friends and they do enjoy being with them, but often there is a sense that they must be veiled, that they cannot truly reveal who they are in the depths of their hunger. That is reserved for the Beloved alone.



## Day 21

*Tell me, you whom I love - Song of Solomon 1:7*

It is a noisy world. There are many voices, many opinions, many clamoring to be heard. But there is One I long to hear above all others. It is the voice of my Shepherd. I know His voice. He says things that resonate in deep places in my soul. No other speaks like Him. His words transcend human wisdom. He doesn't speak just to say words. He speaks to establish things.

That is the voice I crave.

## Day 22

*For why should I be as one who veils herself by the flocks of your companions? -  
Song of Solomon 1:7*

I am thankful for the under shepherds that the Lord has provided to the body of Christ. But I want more than to know the burden of the pastor. I want to know the burden of the Lord.

I love being around the people of God, but it is the Shepherd that I crave. When His presence is absent, I am like one in mourning. Sorrowful. Lonely. I could go to 100 meetings hoping for a good word or some sweet fellowship, but as wonderful as those things are, they aren't enough. I'll leave empty. Unsatisfied. The hunger even more gnawing because there was some expectation it might be eased.

It never eases until He comes. But when He does come, the fullness lingers for days

## Day 23

*Follow in the footsteps of the flock - Song of Solomon 1:8*

The Beloved puts me on the path that leads to Him, follow in the footsteps of the flock. But here is a treasure-- the word "footsteps" actually means heel prints. It made me think of this verse.

*Genesis 3:15 and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed, he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*

The heel prints are from those who have weathered the attack of the enemy and come through victoriously. Their heel may have been bruised but they have crushed the serpent's head with it.

The path to intimacy with the Beloved is lined with attacking serpents, whose heads have been crushed in. No one walks this path uncontested, but those who want the face of the Beloved more than anything else walk this path undefeated. Not because they haven't lost any battles, but because they refuse to give up.

## Day 24

*I have compared you, my love, to my filly among pharaoh's chariots - Song of Solomon 1:9*

Pharaoh had many fine horses trained for war, leading the chariots into the fiercest battles and the grandest parades. They were expendable. If one was injured in battle, there was another to take its place. They were strong and swift, horses for war. The beloved's filly is certainly no match for them. But it is **his** filly.

The King of glory deserves the best, the strongest and the wisest. But He, on purpose, chooses the weak and foolish. He knew before He saved us that we would fail, that we would disobey, that we sometimes just wouldn't get it. But He chose us to be His anyway.

The word "compared" doesn't just mean to judge one thing related to another. It also carries the meanings "to think" or "to imagine". So, He isn't just comparing us and loving us as He observes how inferior we are, but He is imagining us as a warring, worshiping bride. He sees us as the finished work that He has created us to be. He doesn't look upon me in frustration as a loser that can't seem to get it right. He looks at me through the perfection of His work.

Oh Shulamite! You perhaps are not always strong and are often found lingering behind where you should be. But you are His, and He loves you. You are the fairest among women. You are His love.

## Day 25

*Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, your neck with chains of gold - Song of Solomon 1:10*

There is a desire to be beautiful for Him and a recognition that in my natural state I don't possess an adequate beauty.

I'm reminded of a dream I had many years ago. I was sitting inside a mall and I had a small mirror and was touching up my makeup. A lady was walking towards me and even though she was very homely in appearance there was a glow about her that made her very attractive. She walked up to me and said, "if you want to beautify yourself, put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

He makes us beautiful.

## Day 26

*We will make you ornaments of gold with studs of silver - Song of Solomon 1:11*

The beloved has noticed her ornaments and he was pleased with them, and so her companions offered to make more of them for her. They want to help adorn the bride and make her beautiful for the beloved.

Beautifying the bride is the work of the Holy Spirit but He often does it through us. A word of encouragement, some well-timed ministry, the sowing of the word and prayer into a life. Many in the body of Christ live defeated lives, stuck in patterns of carnal behavior, unable to move past life traumas, and harassed by the powers of darkness. The bride was meant to walk in freedom and glory. The enemy would have her covered with gloom and despair.

Those who have learned to walk with the Beloved in freedom must now help those who cannot. As we put on Christ, and help others do the same, we become the beautiful bride, adorned with ornaments of grace.

## Day 27

*While the king is at his table my spikenard sends forth its fragrance - Song of Solomon 1:12*

When the king is at his table he is not alone. He is surrounded by those who are serving his food and by those who are sharing it with him. This isn't an intimate occasion, but her love isn't reserved for privacy. Regardless of who is around, she cannot help but adore Him.

The fragrance of worship is diffused through the Shulamite's life. He has come to the table, the feast, and many will lay before Him this good work or that. He receives them all graciously, but there is something that He yearns for, a delicacy that He is served far too infrequently. But as the Shulamite enters the room He smells a precious fragrance of the one thing that satisfies Him like no other... worship.

## Day 28

*A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me that lays all night between my breasts -  
Song of Solomon 1:13*

Myrrh was used for its fragrance. It was an ingredient of the incense used in the temple and of the holy anointing oil. It was the scent of the holy. She kept the myrrh near her heart and its positioning allowed her to breathe in its fragrance all night. Even if she slept and her consciousness was unaware, she was breathing in its fragrance.

I have a Beloved who is that near to me always and even when I am not aware, I am being affected by Him. O what a thought! Even when my heart feels distant, because He is upon my heart, I am affected by Him. By faith, can I believe this? That truly He never leaves me nor forsakes me, not even for a moment? That He surrounds me continually and every breath I draw in is the rarefied air of His presence? Oh, how this changes everything and makes every moment sacred and every place holy.



## Day 29

*A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me that lays all night between my breasts -  
Song of Solomon 1:13*

This is what He is to me, this ever present, very present, God. My physical senses may testify otherwise at times, yet He **IS** this to me. Although others may not accept or walk in this reality, yet He is this **to me**.

Let the days forever be gone when I walk in the shadow of another man's experience with God that hinders me from believing for, and having, moment by moment encounters with Him. Mountain tops and valleys may be the reality of life circumstances, but I can commune with Jesus on them both.

I reject the often put forth idea that there must be times when I feel separated from Him. That may be someone else's experience, but it doesn't have to be mine.

## Day 30

*My beloved is to meet a cluster of henna blooms and the Vineyards of Engedi -  
Song of Solomon 1:14*

In a vineyard one expects to find grapes. But there is an unexpected surprise, henna, which was used to dye hair and skin. Here in the Vineyard in Engedi, (which is in the tribe of Judah, which means praise), she found something growing that could make her beautiful. She didn't plant it or tend it. She merely found it because she was in that place.

The place of praise is a place of beauty for the believer. We go there to exalt the One we love, and we find our lives beautified through it. We find ourselves lifted up in spirit as we lift up our Beloved in praise. Our life is marked by His presence as we draw near to Him. A grateful heart, a worshiping heart, bears the mark of intimacy. There is a beauty, a glory, waiting for the believer in the place of praise.

## THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

This beautiful intimacy you've been reading about is only possible for those who belong to the Beloved. If you have never trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior I want to encourage you to do that now. This is the beginning of the journey to know the love of Jesus. I'm including a little prayer that might be helpful to you. There is nothing magical about these words, but if you find that they are echoed by the desire of your heart, then let them guide you in a prayer of repentance.

"Father, I acknowledge that I am a sinner and that my life has been lived to satisfy my own desires without any regard for You. I never realized that it was wrong to follow my heart, but now I understand that I need to follow Your ways. I believe that Jesus Christ is the sinless Son of God and that He was born into this world to save sinners. When He died on the cross, He paid the penalty for my sin so that I could be holy and blameless in Your sight. So I ask that You would forgive me for my life of sin, wash me in the blood of Jesus, fill me with Your Holy Spirit, and transform my life into what You want it to be. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Additional resources (including this and other devotionals in ebook format) can be found at:

[www.heismydelight.com](http://www.heismydelight.com)

Contact Danielle Carter at: [danielovesjesus@gmail.com](mailto:danielovesjesus@gmail.com)

This devotional is also in audio format as a podcast listed on most podcasting platforms as "School of Intimacy with Christ".

In addition, Danielle also has a podcast of mini Bible teachings called "Power Snacks"