

## FROM THE PASTOR

My brothers and sisters,

As we continue through Advent and prepare for the coming of the Lord, we are reminded that the ONE THING NECESSARY – the most important part of our Faith, of our whole lives – is **relationship with God**. As I mentioned last weekend, God is *head-over-heels* in love with us, and we are called to return that love. So how do we enter deeper into this relationship of love?

**Friends become friends by spending time with each other.** What *every* relationship needs in order to grow is care-free timelessness. Whether it is your marriage, a friendship, or your relationship with God, if you want that relationship to grow deeper, it needs care-free timelessness: time spent without measuring how long you've been there, as you just enjoy each other's company.

God wants our prayer to become care-free timelessness – time spent enjoying His company, sharing intimacy with Him. The quick definition of intimacy is “into me, see.” Prayer is about letting God see into us – our hopes, our dreams, our fears, our ambitions, our desires, our shame, our struggles, our strengths and our weaknesses. So often in our relationships, even our relationship with God, we try to candy-coat our lives; make us look better than we really are. We are NOT fooling God, for He knows all! He desires, though, for us to *let* Him see our struggles, to invite Him into those trying areas of our lives.

Here's the challenge: to set aside alone-time with God – care-free timelessness – so that we aren't distracted by a million things going on around us, so we can focus on “God and me” letting Him see into us . . . and the amazing thing is that when we do this, **God wants to let us see into Him!** Last week I wrote about noise. This week, I challenge you to enter into silence, not with the God of authority and power, but with God the lover, God the friend, God the confidant. Share with Him your hopes, dreams, desires, fears, etc., and then ask Him what His hopes, dreams and desires are for you.