

On April 29, 2012

Stir Up!

Key Texts:

- **Deut. 30:6**
- **II Thess. 3:5**
- **I Jn. 4:16, 19**
- **Rom. 8:31-39**
- **Ps. 139**

Scriptural examples of God's love:

1. Is it possible for someone to experience the ecstasy of God's loving-kindness and still draw back? To have Him visit you and tell you of His loving-kindness in the morning and to hear Him sing over you in the night and still feel the need to shrink away from Him in times when He initiates intimacy with us? If so, Why?
2. Is it important to hear Him speak of His love for you? Why?
3. Work your way through Ps. 139 and listen to and pay attention to your soul's response to the words you read. Place yourself into the environment of everyday life and "see" your responses to His calls for intimacy in the hustle and business of everyday life. Often His call is when it is least convenient. It is the lesson of Mary (**Luke 10:37-42**).

By that I mean the following.....

- When in the difficulties of normal everyday (non-Sunday morning) life, you become aware of the fact that He knows you intimately - is there ever a time when your first impulse is to draw way?

****** THIS IS PIVOTAL ******

Please do not over romanticize the notion of God drawing near you and knowing you intimately. It is often as unsettling for us as it was for David when God draws near.

What I want you to do is pull yourself out of your sterile approach to your life in Christ **OR** your overly emotional and sappy romantic notions of the same - [That was the purpose for the handout I gave you last Sunday].

Most people live in either one of those "camps" (or an odd mixture of both). People are either remote and utilitarian in their approach to God (meaning how they actually live it - not the way they talk about it or feel it) - **OR** they delude themselves into an overly sappy, romantic notion of the Christian life. BOTH are dangerous because both are a delusion. The overly sappy however, I believe has more potential pitfalls than does

the other. Because it can deceive you into thinking you are close when you are not.

Music often has this effect, you can listen to Christian music all day long and "feel" close to God and verbally praise Him throughout the day and get happy or even tearful about how close you "feel" - then get testy when someone interrupts a song with talking or cuts you off on the highway or when your mate gripes at you when you get home. IF there was true intimacy going on, these distraction would have far less effect immediately following your time with Him. Feelings are deceptive. Someone who has actually had an encounter with Him - lives differently afterwards as a result. [Read Js. 1]