

What is an Intimate Relationship?

By: Amanda Winder

Have you ever heard the words intimate relationship and thought, “what on earth does that really mean?” I certainly have. For years I thought intimate meant a close sexual relationship between a man and a woman. Because of this, I really didn’t understand how to cultivate an intimate relationship with the Spirit of God. No one had ever explained it to me where I understood the fullness of it. Recently, I have come to understand an intimate relationship with the Spirit of God in a greater way. I realized having an intimate relationship with the Spirit is like the one I have with my very best friend. The more I trust him, the more he begins to trust me. My best friend knows me at my core. He does not judge me, but guides and directs me in life because he wants to see me live a truly great life.

An intimate relationship with the Spirit is established in trust. We establish an intimate relationship when we know each other at our core. My best friend knows a lot about me. Actually, as crazy as it sounds, he knows me better than I know myself. My best friend has taken the time to understand me at my core. He actually listens to me when I speak, and when I contradict myself; he doesn’t let me forget it. Comparable to the Spirit, my best friend has been brutally honest with me. Yes, the truth hurt at times, but, because of his honesty, I am a better person. Now, I know to expect nothing less than truth from him. Because of his honesty, I trust him more than I trust any other human being.

Honesty is a key component to an intimate relationship. The Spirit of God will never judge us; He is interested in speaking truth to us so we can become better individuals. My intimate relationship with my best friend is similar. From the time we started forming a friendship, he never judged me like others did. I feared his judgment, but I never received it. He was simply open and transparent, and he encouraged me to do the same. Understanding that my best friend would not judge me led me to understand he had my best interest at heart. Sure his honesty is usually not what I wanted to hear, but, so far, he hasn’t let me down. Like the Spirit, he has continued to go ahead of me in life, guiding me as he leads the way.

Guidance is an imperative role in an intimate relationship. The Spirit knows our destination. It is his duty in the relationship to guide and direct us into a life greater than we can comprehend. The intimate relationship I have with my best friend is similar because he knows my final destination. He has made it a goal in life to lead the way. Even when I doubt my best friend’s advice, he proves to be right. He’s ahead of me in life

because he has experienced more. He warns me because he is looking out for my well-being. It is almost his duty to cultivate me.

Unquestionably, an intimate relationship with the Spirit of God is extremely similar to the one I have with my best friend. When I choose to trust him, we only cultivate a stronger relationship. Having an intimate relationship with the Spirit is like me constantly trusting my best friend. It is the Spirit's duty to be honest and transparent. Yes, the truth isn't always easy, but without the truth, I would still be stuck in life, confused and motionless. The Spirit reveals truth through honesty because he knows our destination, and he desires to see we reach the end without any pain or heartache. The Spirit's goal is make sure we get from point A to point B safely.

Today, I challenge you to examine your own life. Do you know what an intimate relationship is? Do you have one with a best friend? Do you have one with the Spirit of God? If you do, how can you make it better? What can you contribute to the relationship? Are you constantly being open and honest in the relationship? If you do not, how can you cultivate one? Are you willing to cultivate a healthy lifestyle in spirit by sharing your innermost thoughts, feelings, expressions, and fears with the Spirit of God?