

## Abiding in God's Presence

“And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them”, Luke 24:28-29.

In the mid 1800's, an Anglican minister, Henry F Lyte, whilst laying in bed suffering from tuberculosis, composed the words and music of a hymn based on the words of the Scripture above. The first two lines are very much a prayer of a believer approaching, and passing through the veil of death,

‘Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide’.

Henry Lyte passed away just three weeks later.

1. Our physical dependance on God is dependant on the way we pray, and how we pray,
2. Our spiritual dependance on God is dependant on the way we read His Word, and heed His instructions.

Thus, if we get 1 and 2 above right, the first two lines of Henry Lyte's hymn will be the banner we carry into the world's chaotic state; and will allow us to carve up Satan's two well practised tools of character assassination, accusing believers before God, and persistently parading temptation before believers.

We need, therefore, to build a strong and resolute daily routine of 'God dependancy' as proposed by Peter in his second epistle, “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world

through lust”, 2 Peter 1:4.

Humans, generally are creatures of habit, and another word for ‘habit’ is ‘routine’.

Thus, for this family, our routine over the past thirty years has been to gather around the dining table with a cup of tea every morning, and have a serious Bible reading involving one or two chapters from the Old Testament, a reading from the Psalms or Proverbs, and one or two chapters from the New Testament.

We close with each person saying a prayer as led by the Lord.

If you have a really strong desire to spend eternity with you Heavenly Father and His Son, I can assure you that it will require a huge input by each person.

Consider the following verses of encouragement.

“**STRIVE** to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able”, Luke 13:24.

“**LET US** therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another”, Romans 14:19.

“**ENDEAVOURING** to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”, Ephesians 4:3.

“And beside this, **GIVING ALL DILIGENCE**, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge”, 2 Peter 1:5.

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, **GIVE DILIGENCE** to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”, 2 Peter 1:10.

Friends, to become a Christian we had to invite the Father and the Son into our lives, we also had to change the way we live.

The question I have for many is, “Did you only invite your Heavenly Father in for a nights board and lodging, or did you invite Him in for as long as He wishes to stay?”