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# AN AFTERNOON WITH THE AUTHOR – 18-OCT-23

**W**elcome to the cowboy church's Afternoon of Reflection and Prayer. This time is designed as a place for you to have some quiet and intimate conversation with God, the Creator, and the One who loves you beyond your ability to fully grasp.

## 2023-24 CAPTIVATED BY THE AUTHOR

As we continue to journey into this new ministry year (Sept. '23-May '24) we continue to search the Word for the LORD's presence and His voice. We want Him to capture our entire life. It's not enough to find cool things in Scripture to think about or instructions to follow. It needs to be about God walking our life with us and us becoming more and more aware of His presence. With that in mind, I hope this afternoon of reflection and prayer will encourage you in your encounters with the Lord and deepen your relationship with Him. May you find both challenge, and encouragement this afternoon, as you spend some quiet time chatting with the LORD.

## REFLECTION

The theme for this month's reflection builds on our theme from last month (if you missed it, it is still available on the website or from Pastor Orban). Last month we spent time with the LORD, "seeking to experience His deep and endless love for you, even though your life has many places of failings and shortcomings." **This month we want to focus on our longing to be known and loved by God and, on seeking spiritual freedom; to find what may be hindering our relationship with Him.** Like last month, there will be two different passages to sit in and reflect on, along with some questions to consider. As you sit with God in these passages, I would encourage you to read the passage a few times and look for any particular words or phrases that seem to "leap off the page". Ask the Lord what the importance of those words and/or phrases

are. What is the Lord trying to “chat with you” about. Then feel free to respond with the questions, comments etc. that the words and/or phrases bring. You may want to make notes on this paper or in a journal you use. **Remember, this time is about growing deeper in intimacy and freedom with the Lord Jesus, and not about making yourself feel guilty!** 🙏

### Opening Prayer Suggestions

*Something to pray as you begin this time: ask God to give you these gifts: (1) personal growth into deeper and richer spiritual freedom in Jesus, and (2) an increasing awareness of attachments and distractions that get in the way of loving God, others, or myself.*

#### **Psalm 130:1-6**

- Ask yourself, “How much do I ‘yearn’ for the Lord?”
- “Am I content with that, or would I like to have even more of Him in my life and be aware of His presence with even more than I am now?”

#### **Philippians 3:7-16**

- Currently, how do I praise, love, and serve the Lord Jesus? What activities, people or things help me to do this?
- Ask the Lord for His help in identifying ways that you and He can build on these.
- Ask the Lord to open your eyes to things in your life that are coming between you and Him.
- What are you willing to give up so that you can come to know, and experience Jesus even more in your daily life?

## PRAYER TIME

- You may want to start this prayer time with David's prayer in Psalm 139:23-24.
- What is the response that God is asking of me? Is He wanting...
  - ...An attitude correction or a realignment of my priorities?
  - ...Me to give up something that is coming between us and hindering our closeness; something I'm holding onto that He would like me to let go?
  - ...Me to simply rest in Him more; to trust His loving grace and presence in my life?
  - ...Or something else?...
- Spend some time in simple adoration of God, for all that He is, how He loves you, and how He is calling you into a deeper intimacy with Him.
- At this point in time feel free to bring to God all those things that "are bugging you" or are "on your heart". In a response to His love and care, bring to Him those things that are weighing you down. Don't forget to give God an opportunity to respond. Remember, this is a conversation with God.

I pray that you experience the Lord Jesus in closeness today and that you come to *know* Him in an even deeper and more personal way. May you find comfort and delight in His persistent calling of you into (1) greater intimacy with Him and (2) and a less encumbered freedom in Him.

Thanks for praying with us.

Pastor Orban