

## Deeper Devotion

There is a call from the Lord for us to go deeper with Him at every level of our lives. As worshippers, it is our responsibility to soak ourselves in Jesus, in order that we would lead people into a fresh place in worship. Over the last few months, I believe that God has been pruning us as a worship team. As we see in John 15, Jesus is the true vine and the Father is the Vinedresser. It's wonderful to know that we are in the hands of the perfect Vinedresser. God knows our hearts and He knows the areas of our lives that need 'cutting back' so that we will grow faster in Him, our 'true vine'.

As God continues to prune us, I believe that He is calling us to seek Him more fully than ever before. Psalm 1:2-3 says, "But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and its leaf does not wither, and in whatever he does, he prospers.

We are all familiar with the concept of 'quiet times', but it's God's desire that we live a life-style of devotion. We are being drawn by the Holy Spirit into new places of intimacy so that we would be like a tree, firmly planted in God. Too often we're not aware of God's word into our lives and situations as we spend little time actually listening to Him in full surrender. To be like the firmly planted tree, we need to make deep roots in Jesus, who is the living water.

Psalm 46:10 encourages us to 'cease striving and know that I am God.' The other words in the text for 'cease striving' are 'relax/let go'. As we spend time meditating on the Lord and His word, we allow the Holy Spirit to envelop us in the presence of God so that we have deeper reservoirs in our hearts which will overflow into the church as we lead them in worshipping Jesus.

Jesus is the fountain of living water that we can continually soak in.

This method of prayer is described by Madame Guyon (a 13<sup>th</sup> Century Nun) in her book, 'A Short and Very Easy Method of Prayer' as 'a prayer of the heart.' She says, "Nothing can interrupt this prayer but disordered affections; and when once we have enjoyed God, and the sweetness of His love, we shall find it impossible to relish anything but Himself." She encourages the reader to spend time sitting in the presence of God, learning to soak His word into our very beings. An effective method of meditation is to read a verse of truth from the Bible and spend some time sitting before God, allowing Him to breath a fresh stream of life into our spirits as we meditate on the verse.

This will enable us to developing a more intimate relationship with Him, where we do not use many words but allow our 'roots' to soak into his 'water/canal' (which is the Holy Spirit) giving us firm foundations and a pure stream of life to flow into our lives and into the world.