

July 5

TODAY'S BIBLE STUDY & MEDITATION

KEY IDEAS: Do I recognize that the Lord desires to have a close relationship with me? Do I spend time just to be with Him? Do I see myself as God sees me, as one whom He has made a part of Himself? Am I seeking to strengthen my relationship to other believers and the Lord by ministering in the body?

1 **God isn't an impersonal deity, He desires to be near His people** — *Zechariah 8:8* *And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.*

In what ways and when have I experienced being close to the Lord?

What examples of God's fellowship and friendship can I praise Him for?

2 **I am a part of Christ's body** — *Ephesians 5:30* *For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*

Why is it impossible to remain distant from God if I am connected to Him?

Why does the devil want me to remain isolated from God?

3 **I am to exercise my gift in the body while pursuing virtue: faith, sincerity, diligence and cheerfulness** — *Romans 12:6* *Having then gifts...let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

How close can I be to God if I do not seek connection with other believers?

In what ways does my life demonstrate my relationship to God and others?

Holy Spirit, how do you want to apply these verses in my life today?

OPTIONAL BIBLE READINGS

Morning: Acts 13:26-52

Evening: Job 30, 31