



## Kingly Intimacy before Kingdom Activity

*"I pray, and I obey!"* These were words that marked me as a young leader and have stayed with me ever since. Dr. Cho, Pastor of the then largest church in the history of the world, had been asked what the key to his success was, and uttered this simple but dynamic statement. Put it simply, he was articulating a foundational principle of Christian life and leadership: that our Activity in God must flow out from our Intimacy with God. Like Cho, and every fruitful leader before or since, we too are called by the Holy Spirit to draw close to the Father; prioritising His Presence, before effectively fulfilling His Purpose. This was clearly the pattern that Jesus, established in His earthly ministry, and that His forefather, King David, the man after God's heart, had modelled 100's of years earlier. David's radical pursuit of the Presence of God is evident throughout his life, and in Psalm 63 we see something of a progression in his encountering God.

First, he expresses His DESIRE for the Lord: *"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water"* (Ps. 63:1-2). In a similar but even greater way, the Lord is drawing His New covenant people by the Holy Spirit to a greater place of Intimacy with Himself.

Then David moves from Desire into DISCIPLINE: *"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands"* (Ps. 63:3-4). The word "will" appears 3 times,

emphasising that like the psalmist, we have to make a key *choice* to obey the call to intimacy. This requires us to find the *Time*, the *Place* and the *Way* to Pray. In the busyness of ministry it is so easy for our own devotions to get squeezed out, but we must be radical in ordering our days. If we look closely at Jesus he often spent protracted times seeking His Father, in set aside "lonely" places (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12). We too must follow His example, and not only find a daily routine, but look for extra set aside times where we can seek the Lord, on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis. In so doing, we will discover that the promise is true: those who seek Him wholeheartedly will find Him! (Deuteronomy 4:29). We will go deeper in the wonder of a dynamic dialogue with the Creator of the Universe, who is also our Father!

Then, like David, we will move from Discipline to DELIGHT: *"My soul will be satisfied with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you"* (Ps. 63:5). Our lives will be enriched and our ministries empowered as we encounter His presence, hear His voice, and obey His instructions.

As we move from Desire to Discipline and into Delight, we will find ourselves "praying and obeying"! Not simply asking the Lord to bless us in our plans, but seeking Him for His wisdom from headquarters, and experiencing His anointing and fruitfulness in all that we do! Kingdom Activity will truly flow out of Kingly Intimacy!

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Salvation Army Conference  
Nottingham

**March 25 – 26th**  
Methodist Conference  
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**March 28th**  
Multi -Track Training Day  
Southampton

**April 25th**  
Multi -Track Training Day  
Liverpool

**May 5-7th**  
Making Cell Groups Work  
Hertfordshire

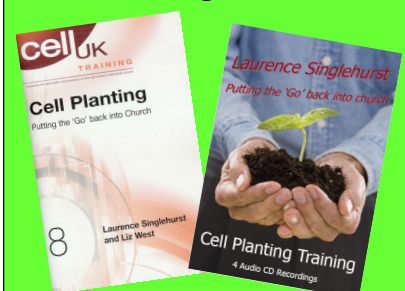
**October 3rd**  
Multi -Track Training Day  
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Info and booking forms...

[www.celluk.org.uk](http://www.celluk.org.uk)

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