



GO  
DEEPER

## **Going Deeper!**

*By Pastor Sabu Samuel*

To keep your relationship with the Lord fresh over the long haul is not automatic. It requires forethought, effort, and constant attention ( a desire to go deeper). It's easy to get comfortable in your Christian life. Many times, things just become routine or mundane. We usually are satisfied with checking off the list of doing things. Did my quiet time (check). Went to church (check). Gave money to missionaries (check). But the truth is we have drifted away from really experiencing God's presence.

When the apostle Paul wrote Philippians, he had been a Christian for about 25 years. He had many encounters with the risen Lord, including being caught up into the third heaven. But he was not satisfied with just those encounters, he wanted to go deeper and know Christ and the power of His resurrection. (Phil. 3:12-14):

“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”  
-Philippians 3:12-14

Since God is infinite, there is room to know Him more deeply.

“Speaking out your thoughts to each other in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” -Ephesians 6:19

When Jesus becomes the supreme object of your heart's love, your thought life and perspectives change. Have you noticed that? Is Jesus on your mind nearly all the time? Do you find yourself talking to Him and praising Him more freely and naturally?

When you have a deeper relationship with God, all areas of your life change. Your conversations tend to go along spiritual lines. Your ultimate goal is to glorify God in every circumstance. Going in deeper with God brings Christ centered life.

In conclusion, the deeper you go with God, you bear the likeness of Jesus and desire him above anything this world has to offer. Have you recognized there is a need for a deeper experience with God? Do you desire to have an open communication with him? Can you share your heart with him so he can speak into your heart? You can start today by placing your life in his hands so he can lead you into the depths of his presence.

## **Parenting with Purpose: Fostering Faith**

*By Joicey Mathew*

When we endure pain or suffering, we frequently become shocked that these circumstances ever enter our life and forget that God has promised us that we shall face difficulties. We must become closer to God if we are to develop spiritually and mature our faith. But how can one go deeper in their faith? There are three main ways to do this, through prayer, through meditating on the Word, and through experience. I am sure you are all aware of these things. We have heard countless testimonies and lessons from numerous men and women of God. So let us focus on this from another perspective, the perspective of a parent. Even if you are not a parent, perhaps you can use these tips to encourage each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

### **Teaching Children to Pray**

Teaching children to pray correctly is crucial for their spiritual foundation. We often pray during family gatherings, upon waking up, or before meals. However, to nurture a true prayer life, we need to deepen this practice. Prayer shouldn't be a rote recitation of memorized words said monotonously. Instead, integrate prayer into daily activities like tests, tryouts, road trips, or significant events. By modeling frequent and spontaneous prayer, parents show that God is always a companion and friend. These small changes can transform children's perspective on prayer and deepen their relationship with God.

### **Instilling the Word of God**

A strong foundation in the Word provides stability during tough times. While learning Bible stories and memorizing verses is good, making Bible reading a dynamic family activity can be more impactful. Parents should read the Bible together as a family, fostering an environment for deep and critical thinking. Address children's questions seriously, exploring answers together through prayer and meditation. Demonstrate how memory verses can be a source of strength in various situations, making the Bible a living guide. Teaching the relevance and application of these verses helps children understand that the Bible offers comfort, guidance, and encouragement throughout their lives.

### **Learning Through Experience**

Lastly, we should encourage our children to deepen their faith through life experiences. Our church hosts many events that demonstrate the love of God in action, extending beyond the four walls of the church. For years, many of us have had the privilege of participating in these moments, allowing our children to see firsthand how believers can spread God's love to those around us. To deepen their beliefs, we should involve them more actively in these activities, showing them how their faith can impact and transform the lives of others, thereby strengthening their own relationship with God. Additionally, we should encourage our children to be the light that reflects the love of God, guiding them to be compassionate, kind, and generous in their interactions with others. By embodying these values, they will not only inspire and uplift those around them but also reinforce and deepen their own faith as they witness the positive effects of living out God's love in the world.

T E K W Y U A Y Q S S J N D W  
 E W X R A C A N Z V J Q N D Z  
 F O P P C H H X B E F R Z R G  
 F R L O E H F P R E S E N C E  
 O D D U E R I N M D E L T C X  
 R B S E N X I L O B Z A N H P  
 T P F U E L H E D F B T B A F  
 V F G D H P Y B N R C I Y N P  
 N A O Z S G E Y T C E O T G R  
 K I X B Y A N R T F E N V E A  
 V T S D A C I S E A F S L B Y  
 A H I M S F Z C L W V H P E E  
 J V Q S B C Z V B B J I F C R  
 Q U L X G P P E Y P S P W L S  
 Q V H N G P R I O A R X D R B

Relationship

Experience

Presence

Faith

Deeper

Children

Change

Prayer

Effort

Word

### Weekly Meetings

| Date     | Time               | Location |
|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Monday   | 10:30 AM           | @ Church |
| Tuesday  | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM  | @ Zoom   |
| Friday   | 10:00 AM - 11:00AM | @ Zoom   |
| Saturday | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM  | @ Church |

### Mark Your Calendar

| Event | Date       | Location |
|-------|------------|----------|
| VBS   | July 18-20 | @Church  |

### Pray For Nations

| Country      | Capital   | Population est. |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Ireland      | Dublin    | 5,304,000       |
| Isle of Mann | Douglass  | 84,800          |
| Israel       | Jerusalem | 9,177,0001      |
| Italy        | Rome      | 58,653,000      |
| Jamaica      | Kingston  | 2,753,000       |