

# *Fresh Fire #5*

## *“Unio Mystica”*

May 23, 2009

Review: Did you **memorize** Jeremiah 29.11-13 – can you say it?  
 What role does prayer play in your relationship with God? This unique method of communication between you and God is very personal, private, and transformational!

Simple steps for developing a life of prayer

1. **Choose to believe** God’s truth claims – don’t rely on your senses for truth.
2. By God’s grace **choose to commit** to:
  - a. A certain time of day for prayer
  - b. A certain amount of time for prayer
  - c. Praying for a hunger for God (Matt 5.6; Ps 42.1-2)
3. **Journal** to God (hand out tablets)
  - a. Be honest about your soul struggles
  - b. Keep track of Scriptures that help you
  - c. Try to discover what helps you most
  - d. Look for God’s footprints throughout your day
4. **Support** one another through prayer (Eph 6.18)

**What helped? What hindered? Make adjustments as needed!**

**A – C – T – S and don’t forget to focus on praise!**

- A. God’s promise to memorize: **1 John 5.11-13...**
- B. Stages toward a Deeper Prayer Life...
  1. Curiosity – sporadic: usually not much meaning – duty, mechanical – definitely not natural response of the heart – playing at prayer – does it work for me? (first date)
  2. Committed – discipline: desire, but still work – pray more often than stage one, but still not natural (dating)
  3. Connection – breaking through: enjoyment (going steady)
  4. Communion – addiction: can’t do without – toward a moment-by-moment relationship (marriage)
  5. Intercession – sharing the power, privilege, and connection (this is the work of a heart that wants what God wants)
- C. **Unio Mystica** – the mysterious union of God and man  
 Our purpose in life: we are born to know God (John 17.3)  
 Genesis 1.27; 2.3...created for fellowship with God  
 Exodus 34.14...God is jealous of our relationship with Him  
 John 3.3,8...you must be born again – we need the Holy Spirit  
 John 14.16-20...divine intimacy with man

John 15.5...illustration of vine and branches  
 John 17.20-26...complete unity – even with God  
 2 Corinthians 5.17...a new creation  
 Colossians 1.27...Christ in you  
 Galatians 2.20...Christ lives in me  
 The greatest need of every person is God Himself  
 God has invited us into His family: amazing grace!



- D. What keeps us from deep fellowship, oneness, unity with God?
  1. Humanity was created with a hunger for significance – a hunger that would lead them to come to God continuously (Gen 2.2-3)  
 Genesis 3.5...searching for significance – outside of God leads to sin
  2. Where should we get our significance?  
 Our significance according to God’s plan...  
 Proof of God’s love – God sent Jesus (John 3.16)  
     - Jesus’ death (Romans 5.8)  
     - Gift of the Spirit (Romans 5.5)  
 Proof of God’s acceptance – Jesus’ resurrection AND the Holy Spirit – God’s down payment (proof) (John 14.17; Acts 2.32-33; 2 Corinthians 1.22; 5.5; Ephesians 1.13-14; 4.30)  
 We receive the promise of the Holy Spirit by faith...  
 Acts 2.38-39...repent, baptism, receive  
 Galatians 3.2, 14...by faith we receive the Spirit  
 Galatians 3.22...POW’s – Satan uses God’s law to show we are condemned to death – and rightly so – except for Jesus!  
 Children of God through faith in Christ...  
 Galatians 3.26-4.7...all are one in Christ – sons of God by faith  
 Romans 8.9-17...Christ/Spirit in you – sons of God by faith  
 1 John 3.1-3...children now
- E. Pray and Ponder in your journal: Jeremiah 31.3...When have you felt God drawing you most powerfully?
- F. Homework Inquiry (think this through on your own and journal your responses to God)  
 Where am I in the stages of prayer (see # B above)  
 What can I do – or stop doing – to create more time with God?