

## The Five Arts of Intimacy

October 21, 2012

### Intimacy

*Drawing near with perfect confidence*

1. Nearness; closeness; admission into the sacred, and otherwise prohibited, territory.
2. Affectionate friendship; the healing of all hurts; the removal of all impediment; the complete restoration of all trust. No barrier. No restriction. No wall of separation.
3. Sharing the inmost; revealing that which is inward; innermost.

### The Land of Havilah

The land of shimmering golden beauty

And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasses the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

**Genesis 2:10-12**

### The Gold Mine

It starts with a gift, a promise, and commission:

*My Son, Eric,*

*Herein lies the deed to the Havilah Gold Mine. It's yours. 100% yours.*

*This mine is guaranteed to yield. Though at times it may appear to have run dry, I promise you that there will always be a fresh vein of gold to*

*follow. You must look for it. Study it. Get to know it. And, never, and I mean never, will you go without. If you seek gold, you shall find gold. This mine will certainly reward you if you diligently seek it's riches.*

*You are penniless and unable to support the high calling you have received on your own earthly salary. I understand this, and therefore, have bequeathed you this mine as the means of financially supporting the gargantuan assignment I have given you. As your Father, I heartily exhort you, even command you, to not take this mine for granted, nor to forsake its great wealth. Mining is difficult work, and no doubt there will be times in which you desire to see if your own measly paycheck can sustain you. I assure you now, that it will not, and never will be able to. So, quit yourself like a man, Eric, and go to work. If you heed my directive and embrace this high calling, you will have riches to spare.*

*I'm eager to witness how you steward this grand gift I've entrusted you!*

*Your beloved Father,*

*Abba*

## The Five Arts of Gold Mining

Converting Glorious Possibilities into Heavenly Realities

1. Time Dedicated inside the Mine
2. Finding the Veins of Gold
3. Mining the Gold, gleaning the Riches from the Mine
4. Bringing the Beauty into the open air
5. Wielding its Power in the Marketplace

## Sacred Results

The outcome is real and tangible, not theoretical

## The Dangers of Picking and Choosing our Arts

If you throw out the inconvenient duties requisite for mining Havilah gold, then you end up only with glorious possibilities and never with heavenly realities

1. Time Dedicated inside the Mine
2. Finding the Veins of Gold
3. Mining the Gold, gleaning the Riches from the Mine
4. Bringing the Beauty into the open air
5. Wielding its Power in the Marketplace

## The Book that Was Never Written

### Warming at the Fire

When Intimacy is Dependent upon Something other than Jesus

### Yearning for the Sacred Sweetness

Two Ways to Pass the Siren Coastline

### Wanting Nearness Without the Cross

Desiring Sacred Results from Fleshly Actions

### The Five Arts of Intimacy

### The Wedding Edition

5 Tools that Make a Marriage Beautiful

1. The Art of Solitude and Stillness

**Time Dedicated.** Time given, time spent, time purposely directed is the principal attribute of a working, growing, and ever-maturing love story. This time doesn't have to be filled with noise, with action, or with activity.

This time doesn't need to be marked by some gain, some benefit, or some calculable benefit - it is time that is fully offered and made available without need of even the slightest compensation, that truly yields the greatest joy in intimacy.

## 2. The Art of Intentional Study

**Affectionate Observation.** Great love is a result of great observation. But there are two ways to observe. One way is to observe with a critical eye, seeking fault, weakness, and frailty. The God way, however, is to observe with an eye for all that is lovely and lovable. When a spouse studies their spouse with a desire to truly know them, understand them, appreciate them, and more effectively serve them, then that spouse will find that intimacy will find them. A spouse that feels known, understood, and appreciated is a spouse that is open to closeness and to receiving expressions of affection.

## 3. The Art of Loving Meditation

**Purposeful Remembrance.** Thoughtfulness is the spark plug of a great marriage. It is so easy to get distracted and forget the things that matter most, but when a spouse labors to remember all that is lovely and lovable about his/her spouse throughout the day, the stage is set for intimacy to thrive. A spouse that feels remembered, thought-about, and considered, is a deeply happy spouse.

## 4. The Art of Affectionate Expression

**Words of Adoration.** When a spouse studies the one they love to discern everything lovely and lovable about them, and then they meditate and daily remember these precious qualities, words of adoration come naturally. When one beholds beauty, strength, and grandeur, there is never

arm-twisting required in order to get them to say, “Wow!” A marriage that continually states, “Wow!” is a marriage that will always thrive.

## 5. The Art of Vulnerable Communication

**Trusting Openness.** It takes a great deal for true trust to be established. But a marriage built on the first four of these five arts is one in which true trust can flourish. And this “trust” is a soil in which the depths of honesty, openness, and vulnerability can grow. It is in this soil that the most precious communications can take place - heart to heart, deep unto deep, spirit to spirit. And this is intimacy . . . heavenly intimacy.

# The Jesus Edition

## 5 Tools that Keep the Spiritual Fires Burning

### 1. The Art of Solitude and Stillness (*The Art of Solitude and Stillness*)

**Time Dedicated.** Time given, time spent, time purposely directed is the principal attribute of a working, growing, and ever-maturing relationship with the King. This time doesn’t have to be filled with noise, with action, or with activity. This time doesn’t need to be marked by some gain, some benefit, or some calculable benefit - it is time that is fully offered and made available without need of even the slightest compensation, that truly yields the greatest joy in intimacy.

### 2. The Art of Biblical Study (*The Art of Intentional Study*)

**Affectionate Observation and Pursuit.** Great love for Christ is a result of great observation and pursuit of Jesus Christ in His Revealed Word. But there are two ways to observe His Word. One way is to observe with a critical eye, seeking fault, weakness, and frailty. The God way, however,

is to observe with an eye for all that is lovely and lovable. When a Christian studies the King of Kings with a desire to truly know Him, understand Him, appreciate Him, and more effectively serve Him, then the Christian will find that intimacy with Christ will find them. As it says in Jeremiah 29:13, “And ye shall seek (Him), and find (Him), when you shall search for (Him) with all your heart.”

### 3. The Art of Biblical Meditation (*The Art of Loving Meditation*)

**Purposeful Remembrance.** Thoughtfulness is the spark plug of a great Christian life. It is so easy to get distracted and forget the things that matter most, but when a Christian labors to remember all that is lovely and lovable about Jesus Christ throughout the day, the stage is set for spiritual intimacy to thrive. When a Christian thinks on the Word of God throughout the day, then the Person of Jesus Christ will be paramount in their life. Things that are lovely, noble, pure, and of good report will be the substance of their thoughts, and closeness to Christ will be a natural by-product.

### 4. The Art of Heartfelt Worship (*The Art of Affectionate Expression*)

**Words of Adoration.** When a Christian studies Jesus Christ and meditates daily upon His preciousness, words of adoration and praise come naturally. When a Christian beholds Christ’s beauty, strength, and grandeur, there is never arm-twisting required in order to get them to shout, “Wow!” A Christianity that continually proclaims, “Wow!” is a Christianity that will always thrive.

### 5. The Art of Prayer (*The Art of Vulnerable Communication*)

**Trusting Openness.** Faith and unshakable confidence is the bulwark of a working relationship with God. A Christianity built on the first four of these five arts is one in which true faith can flourish. And this “faith” is a soil in which the depths of honesty, openness, and vulnerability can grow. It is in this soil that the most precious communications can take place, the

most precious prayer-life can prosper - heart to heart, deep unto deep,  
spirit to spirit. And this is intimacy . . . heavenly intimacy.

## Mining for Havilah Gold

1. Time Dedicated inside the Mine / *The Art of Solitude and Stillness* / The Art of Solitude and Stillness
2. Finding the Veins of Gold / *The Art of Intentional Study* / The Art of Biblical Study
3. Mining the Gold, gleaning the Riches from the Mine / *The Art of Loving Meditation* / The Art of Biblical Meditation
4. Bringing the Beauty into the open air / *The Art of Affectionate Expression* / The Art of Heartfelt Worship
5. Wielding its Power in the Marketplace / *The Art of Vulnerable Communication* / The Art of Prayer

## The Marriage Pop-Quiz

11 Attributes of the Heavenly Spouse

1. The Advocate (The Defender)
2. The Fan (the biased)
3. The Boaster (the talker-upper)
4. The Partner (the Helper)
5. The Student (the expert, the Phd.)
6. The Friend (the loyal-no-matter-what)
7. The Counselor (the bringer of Truth and perspective)
8. The Encourager (the one who always sees the silver lining)
9. The Thoughtful (the considerate, the gift-giver)

10. The Affectionate/ The Intimate (the lover)

11. The Empathizer (the Sharer of Sufferings)

## The Heavenly Husband

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

**Ephesians 5:25**

Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth . . . and be thou ravished always with her love.

**Proverbs 5:18-19**

## The Impossible Commission

And the one that every single Christian husband ought to carry out in the Grace of the Almighty

1. **The Advocate** (The Defender) - My wife needs to know that I will stand for her, protect her - physically, spiritually, and emotionally. I will be the first-sufferer. As Jesus stood in the gap for me, it is my great privilege to give up my life for my beloved. Nothing touches my Bride!
2. **The Fan** (the biased) - I am incurably biased in favor of my wife. She is the most precious, most beautiful, most talented, most virtuous, most everything-else-that-matters woman that ever existed. I am her biggest fan! And I can't help but brag about her marvelousness! You go girl!
3. **The Boaster** (the talker-upper) - I am blind to my wife's weaknesses. As far as I'm concerned, she doesn't have weaknesses. In fact, I can only see that which ought to be praised. I'm her self-appointed bragger. I'm her built-in P/R department. Have you seen my wife? She's simply amazing!



4. **The Partner** (the helper) - If my wife needs a hand, look no further than my own. In fact, take my hand, my other hand, my right and left legs, my back, and my two shoulders, too. Put your burdens on me, dear wife. I'm built strong so that I can serve you. If a baby is crying let me go help them. If a room needs to be picked up, you stay seated and let me get it cleaned up. If a dish needs to be scrubbed, I'm on it. We are in this thing together.
5. **The Student** (the expert, the Phd.) - If there is something to know about my wife, then I'm going to make sure I know it. I desire to be Earth's resident expert on my wife. I must know her longings, her dreams, her fears, and her insecurities. And I don't just know my wife for the sake of gaining random trivial data, but for the sake of serving her better as a husband.
6. **The Friend** (the loyal no matter what) - If hard times come, I will still be here. If accusations come against you, I know the truth. If you lose your health, I'll remain by your side. If you lose your physical beauty, my devotion to you will not wane in the least. I am here, always and forever, and I consider it a great privilege to call you my dearest friend.
7. **The Counselor** (the bringer of Truth and perspective) - When my wife is struggling to see straight, it is my privilege to be one ready to supply God's Word. When shadow sweeps across our living room, it is my opportunity to turn on the light of Scripture. When anxiety knocks, I must hit it in the teeth. When foreboding baits, I must strike hard and fast with the sword of Truth. When false accusation, mockery, and lies fill the airwaves, it is my privilege to trump them with the power of a Heavenly Perspective.
8. **The Encourager** (the one who always sees the silver lining) - No matter what, I have words of life for my wife. I must never be the source of anxiety or depression, but rather the source of life. Even in the darkest hour, I must see the victory of Jesus. And I must labor to fill her mind with thoughts that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, virtuous, praiseworthy, and of good report.
9. **The Thoughtful** (the considerate, the gift-giver) - I must labor to keep my wife always in my mind's eye. I must think about how she can be strengthened, encouraged, blessed, and built-stronger. I must think of special, meaningful ways to express my adoration, my respect, and my love. And I mustn't skimp on these expressions.

10. **The Affectionate / The Intimate** (the lover) - I must be the sort of husband that is trustworthy with my wife's innermost feelings, thoughts, and concerns. I must be trustworthy up-close - to handle her heart with the utmost care, to handle her inmost person with heavenly delicacy and softness. I must be the man she wants to love and be near, not the man she is just supposed to love and be near.
11. **The Empathizer** (the Sharer of Sufferings) - When my wife is hit with any difficulty, tribulation, or trial - I will carry it with her, and if at all possible, for her. I feel her pain, because her pain is my pain. Her heartache is my heartache. Her concerns are my concerns. And her sufferings are my sufferings.

## The Impossibility of Intimacy

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

**Psalm 24:3-4**

## The Passion for Intimacy

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

**Luke 15:20**

## The Provision for Intimacy

For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw near unto God.

**Hebrews 7:19**

# Intimacy

*Drawing near with perfect confidence*

1. Nearness; closeness; admission into the sacred, and otherwise prohibited, territory.
2. Affectionate friendship; the healing of all hurts; the removal of all impediment; the complete restoration of all trust. No barrier. No restriction. No wall of separation.
3. Sharing the inmost; revealing that which is inward; innermost.

## Celebrating the Work of the Cross

For it has brought us near unto our God

1. **Nearness**; closeness; admission into the sacred, and otherwise prohibited, territory.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 4:16**

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised.)

**Hebrews 10:19-23**

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

**Ephesians 2:18**

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

**Ephesians 3:12**

2. **Affectionate friendship**; the healing of all hurts; the removal of all impediment; the complete restoration of all trust. No barrier. No restriction. No wall of separation.

For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.

**Ephesians 2:14**

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

**Colossians 2:11-14**

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knows not what his lord does: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

**John 15:15**

3. **Sharing the inmost**; revealing that which is inward; innermost

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and **gave up His Spirit**.

**John 19:30**

**Paradidōmi - Para-did-oh-may**

to give into the hands (of another); to give over into (one's) power or use; to deliver to one something to keep, use, take care of, manage

But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

**John 19:34**

The Secret to Intimacy with God: *Jesus*

The Method by which He offered Intimacy: *The Cross*

The Secret to Intimacy with your Spouse: *Jesus*

The Method by which He offered Intimacy: *The Cross*

But it is good for me to draw near to God:

**Psalm 73:28**

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

**James 4:8**

And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

**Luke 24:15**