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Pathways to the King:
Living a Life of Spiritual Renewal and Power (Chapters 1-3)
 by Dr. Rob Reimer

In the text *Pathways to the King: Living a Life of Spiritual Renewal and Power* by Rob Reimer, the author presents a call to action; he believes that churches in America are in need of another Great Awakening; there needs to be a revival which will allow the people of God to draw nearer to Him and share in the riches of his Kingdom. The author states, “ We have fewer people attending church now (percentage-wise) than ever before in the history of the United States. We need revival”¹.

The author presents eight practices or as he refers to “pathways” that need to be internalized in order that we might be able to continuously live in a world of revival; a world that seeks God and hungers for his presence. The first three “pathways” that Reimer discusses are: *Personalizing our Identity in Christ, Pursuing God, and Purifying Ourselves*. Each of these practices is needed in order to live a life of spiritual renewal and power which is the very foundation of Reimer’s text.

The author states that in order to *Personalizing Our Identity in Christ*, it is vital that we meditate on Scripture. Reimer writes, “The purpose of meditation is to internalize something. You live with it. You take it deep into your soul”². This is an area that I need to seriously practice. Premier introduces an age-old practice of dive reading- the *lectio divina*, during this practice, you are, as Reimer puts it, “Let the passage wash over you”³. I have never been

¹ Rob Reimer. *Pathways to the King: Living a Life of Spiritual Renewal and Power* . Franklin, Tennessee: Carpenter’s Son Publishing, 2013, 7.

² Reimer, *Pathways to the King: Living a Life of Spiritual Renewal and Power*, 35.

³ Ibid, 35.

introduced to the practice of *lectio divina*, and I began to do some additional research to better understand what it is and how to do it. After discovering a website from Belmont Abbey College, I learned that *lectio divina*, is essentially done in four steps: 1. **Lectio**- An attentive, slow, and repetitious reading of a short passage of Scripture, 2. **Meditatio**- An effort to understand and think about the passage and how it applies to oneself, 3. **Oratio** - A simple and honest conversation with God about the passage, and 4. **Contemplatio**- A contemplative state in which one sits in silence with the word and with God.

As Reimer mentioned that in order for us to personalize our identity in Christ, we must meditate on Scripture. I have begun to practice *lectio divina* on Psalm 42: 1-3, “ *As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night. While they continually say to me, “Where is your God?”* I will continue to meditate on this passage and allow it to “wash over me”.

Reimer’s second Kingdom Pathway is to, “pursue God until revival comes in your heart, and you experience and extend God’s Kingdom”⁴. This Pathway is a call for the people of God to actively, passionately, and intentionally pursue the face of God in everything that we do. One interesting aspect of pursuing God that Reimer shares that he’s practicing and I found very intriguing is the way that he varies his approach to how he pursues God; sometimes he sacrifices time, money and sleep in order to pursue God. Sacrificing something for someone else is a demonstration of love; in the same way that God sacrificed his only son out of pure love for us, we are expected to sacrifice ourselves in pursuit of God. As I continued to read through this chapter of the text, I began to reflect on what pursuing God looks like in my life. During my reflection, I realized that I have not been pursuing God the way that I should be in order to draw

⁴ Ibid, 78.

nearer to him. I began slowly but surely giving up time watching television to sit and spend time with God- without distractions.

The third Pathway that Reimer addresses is purifying ourselves. In order to do this, Reimer mentions “rendering” our hearts. He states, “God wants no competing affections for our souls. He wants us to rip ourselves away from our other lovers. He wants to be our one true love; only Him”⁵. This rendering will cause great pain but it is necessary if we are to grow closer to God. As I continued to read this chapter, I had a challenging time fully grasping this action of rendering our hearts. Although Reimer provided the biblical context from the Old Testament for it, I still need to read more about it to fully understand what rendering my heart would look like.

As I worked through the first three chapters of *Pathways to the King: Living a Life of Spiritual Renewal and Power* by Rob Reimer, I learned the importance of actively seeking the face of God. Falling in love with God over and over again in order to get closer to him. These three pathways are the beginning steps in a process that will lead to revival. It is vital that the internal work happens before anything else. *Personalizing our Identity in Christ, Pursuing God, and Purifying Ourselves* are the initial and foundational steps in the process leading us to the Pathway to the King.

⁵ Ibid, 70.