

# Intimacy

**with**

# GOD

## **Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering**

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**Your level of intimacy with someone can always be measured by your level of relationship with that person.**

The closer your heart is to someone, the more intimate you know that person and the more secure you feel towards intimacy and sharing with that person.

**Whenever you share your inner/secret world with someone, it would be someone with whom you:**

- **Feel safe and secure.**
- Love being – **you want to be there.**
- Feel easy to give of yourself.
- **Are open to listen to** (that person).
- **Can easily receive** (that person's) **advice** and input in your life.
- **Have a growing passion to serve** (that person).

**What are your special times with God like?**  
(We aren't only talking about Bible reading and prayer = devotions)

- **Do you trust Him?**
- Are you happy to be alone with Him? **Do you WANT to be with Him?**

- Do you **talk easily**?
- Are you open to **listen to Him**?
- Do you **hear Him**?
- Do you **receive His advice**/input in your life?
- Do you have a **passion to serve Him**?  
And to minister to Him?

Often we come to Him as a **priest**, as a **prophet**, or **pastor**, or **intercessor**, or **evangelist**, or **servant** or **administrator**, but in order to experience **intimacy**, we cannot merely accomplish an office. Once again, we need to **re-discover our priestly ministry and priestly heart.**

**If you don't know Him as one of His sanctified priests, it would be impossible to intimately seek His face in any of the other offices.**

**Ex 19:5-6:** *"Now, therefore, if you will obey My voice in truth and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all peoples; for all the earth is Mine, and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation (consecrated, set apart to the worship of God). These are the words you shall speak to the Israelites."*

It is the same passion that Peter explained in

**1 Pet 2:9:**

*But **you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood**, a dedicated nation, (God's own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.)*

**This royal holy priesthood** has been made available to all of us by Christ Jesus.

**Made available – but** it must come to us by Holy Spirit **revelation!**

**Unto our God** – we shall be a holy priesthood – unto **Him** alone.

**Remember:**

- We have been bought at a price.
- All of us belong to Him, to Christ.
- Every portion of your being has been paid for.

**Therefore:**

**We need to be restored in our vision of being God's own priest.**

Without vision, we will perish ...

Even the word "priesthood" brings a reaction in us of, "This is of the Old Covenant type", as if it is calling us into something like Roman Catholicism.

**We feel easier seeing ourselves as anything and everything but a priest:**

- We see ourselves as God's children – a son or daughter of God.
- We see ourselves as believers, prophets, evangelists, preachers, teachers, intercessors ...
- Anything **but** a **priest**.

There is a misconception that the priesthood is of the Old Testament only. Because of this misconception we, in our spirit, reject being a priest, BUT ...

**Our glorious Messiah sits and reigns and rules as a Priest!**

**Zech. 6:11-15**

*Yes, take from them silver and gold, and make crowns and set one upon the head of Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and say to him, Thus says the Lord of hosts: You, Joshua behold (look at, keep in sight, watch) the Man (the Messiah) whose name is the Branch, for He shall grow up in His place and He shall build the true temple of the Lord.*

*Yes (you are building a temple of the Lord, but) it is He Who shall build the true temple of the Lord, and He shall bear the honour and glory (as of the only begotten of the Father) and shall sit and rule upon His throne. **And He shall be a Priest upon His throne and the counsel for peace shall be between the two offices – Priest and King.***

**Submission and authority!**

- Even **Paul** saw himself as a priest (Rom. 15:16).
- **David** saw himself as a priest – taking of the food in the temple only priests had the right to.
- **Jesus** was a Priest from the Order of Melchizedek (Heb. 6:19-20; 7:20-21).

**We are all called into this glorious office of priesthood – 1 Pet. 2:9.**

**What was the passion of God's priests (as seen in the O.T.)?**

- **The priests were only allowed two weeks per year into the inner court – to minister unto the Lord.**
- **Their whole year and life was centered around ministering to the Lord in those two weeks.**

**What took place in that kind of priestly service (Heb. 9)?**

- Only the **high priest** was allowed to go into the **Holy of Holies** once a year on Yom Kippur, i.e. during Sept/Oct.
- The Ark of the Covenant was in there – he alone could go into God's Holy Presence.
- **Only priests** were allowed to go into the **Inner/Holy Court**; they were exclusively male.
- **Outer court:** Only males of the **rest of the tribes**, and the **Levites still under 30 yrs of age**, were allowed there.
- **Court of the gentiles:** There the **women and children** could come.

**BUT then the veil was torn – Heb. 9 made a way through the second veil ...**

Making for us a place into the Holy of Holies – through a veil of:

- 60 feet high.
- 60 feet wide.
- 5 feet thick!
- 30 000 pounds.

- No longer do you need to be **born of a priestly lineage**.
- No longer **exclusive to one portion** of God's people.
- Can move **from the outer court to the inner court**.
- No longer exclusive to the **male population only**, hallelujah!!

#### See God's heart beat for the inner court:

- In Ezek. 44:15-18 **He** mentions "Me and My" 10 times!!
- **God is possessive over His priesthood**.
- God loves it when **His** priests simply love to minister to HIM.
- That is the priestly passion - their **whole year** was to look forward and prepare their hearts to **that** time of inner court ministry, when they had to focus and minister to Him alone.

Is that your passion?  
Your greatest joy? OR  
Are you looking for a tingling sensation?  
An answer to big prayer?

**Coming** under the anointing is God's grace to us, but **staying** under the anointing is our intimate receiving and returning of His love and grace.

You could compare this to the reality of marriage: You don't always remain in the place of intimacy physically, but if your heart is united and you think like-mindedly, then you can stay in the atmosphere and security of ongoing intimacy of relationship always. That is the difference between "being married" or "having a marriage". (In Afrikaans: net "getroud wees" of 'n "huwelik hê". Someone said: "Hu-we-lik = Hier wil ek wees.")

**We have lost our priestly passion to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our strength. We have lost it, but God is restoring it – hallelujah!!**

#### In the Inner Court:

- **There they are clothed with linen garments (a sign of righteousness).**
- **No wool – otherwise they would sweat (a sign of the flesh).**

- He intended their most comfortable position should be ministering to the Lord (no self effort, but resting in His Presence).
- There you minister to God only.
- You are away from the people and their needs, their approval, public service.

In the Old Covenant – going out to where the people are, they would lay down their garments, as not to transfer holiness through their garments.

In the New Covenant – He says we are never to take off our garments – now God says, transmit My holiness. We cannot impart holiness, but transmit His Holy Presence by BEING in Him, we may impart the fear of the Lord!!!! To come back.

**There is a difference between Outer Court ministry and Inner Court ministry. God desires to restore Inner Court ministry.**

**Much of what goes on in the Body now is Outer Court ministry!!!**

The outer court is part of God's house – a needed and God-given part, BUT most often our passion and mission is born there where the needs of the people are instead of being led and revealed by the Lord.

There in the outer court, those serving the people get burnt out!! And the easiest way out is to go back to the Lord, away from the people!

**NB: Instead of ministering to the Lord, we minister to the people. When this happens, families fall apart, kids are rebellious, etc.**

Are you tired?

- Ask yourself – how is your time with the Lord?
- Once we lose this priestly passion, everything else gets useless, because we don't have God's anointing on it.

**We're DOING things rather than BECOMING like HIM!!!**

The beauty of the inner court is that we become more like Jesus.

What a vast difference **from DOING things for Him (outer court) to DOING things in Him (inner court).**

**The OUTER COURT is founded on doing = our emphasis today on doing things in ministry.**

**“What is your ministry?”** People want to know. What they really want to know is, what are you doing in the Outer Court where the people are?!

**Their perception of ministry is founded on terms of Outer Court thinking:**

- What are you doing in terms of Christian service?
- That's where we are measured and weighed.
- NB: There is usually very little anointing on it – they might be doing an awful lot of good, but the greatest enemy of **God's maximum** is always something that **looks very good.**

**Oswald Chambers says God's concept of service is never on what you are doing, but on what you are becoming!!!**

There are so many people doing things ... There is nothing wrong with doing things, **but we've lost intimacy!**

**Intimacy is a place IN Him where you BECOME who you already are in Him.**

**Once the priesthood is really restored and we come back into the full passion as God's priest, then God does the doing through us! And there is a great difference when we do things, and when God does it through us.**

**Acts 1:8**  
***And you shall receive My power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you shall BE (not DO) My witnesses.***

**Jesus didn't put as first priority doing, but BEING!!!**

The only thing that exceeds right doing is **right being!!!**

**We're caught up in doing ... BUT**

Often God would have us do nothing but read and pray and draw closer to Him! That, then, is doing everything! And out of that place is then birthed **God's destiny** for us.

The whole kingdom is completely priestly and God is restoring His priests unto Himself - you are one of His priests!!!

**God commands His blessing upon His priests.**

**Biblically the most significant representation of oil is priesthood:**

- **They needed to mix oil with everything they did.**
- **It was the anointing oil of Ps 133.**
- **The oil is poured on God's priest.**
- **It is there that the blessing comes.**

**The more we get unified with Christ, the more the blessing comes! We often look for the "blessing," while all the time it is in Father's hands!**

In the parable of the **ten virgins** the thing that is most significantly represented **is the oil**:

- It speaks about **God's priesthood**.
- **Every virgin** that has been blood-washed has an opportunity to begin to exercise that priesthood.
- Our salvation in Jesus is the entrance to begin to enter into God's royal covenant.

**We need to work out that glorious salvation that God has worked in.**

**Phil. 2:12** – Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

**Micah 6:8**

*What He expects from us is **to walk humbly with God!**, to fear Him and to revere Him, to do justice and love kindness and mercy **and to walk humbly with thy God.***

**It is so vital that we understand this.**

**Five wise virgins**

- **Five of the virgins were so prudent.**
- **They were exercised in their priesthood.**
- **They moved from the simple multitude that followed Jesus into becoming disciplined and radical lovers of Him.**

There is a great separation between the **multitude** that follow Jesus and His **disciples**.

There are all kinds of virgins in the multitude that follow Jesus:

- People who sincerely love the Lord, **but their lives are not disciplined**, WHILE ...

- **His disciples are the ones He constantly gathers to Himself and whom He speaks to, because they have an ear to hear.**

**The more we are disciplined in the things of the Spirit, the more we begin to clothe ourselves in priestly garments. We begin to see the joy there is in the priestly inheritance.**

All popular teachings in the Body today **is** priestly, e.g.:

- Intercession and prayer is the burning of incense.
- Personal worship to the Lord.
- Praise and worship.
- Carrying the Ark of God's Presence.

All that we receive today is priestly, **but we do not have the priestly revelation!** Instead, we get so carried away with **one portion** of the priesthood. God wants us to have a **revelation of the whole** picture:

- About personal ministry unto the Lord.
- About standing in the gap for the lost, even for the church.
- It is coming to a place of identity – just as Jesus did.
- It means entering into praise and worship.

- Of giving yourself to love God in that dimension.
- It means carrying the Covenant of His Presence everywhere.
- And the sensitivity of not grieving His Holy Spirit, etc.

### **Five foolish virgins**

- Five of the virgins **were foolish.**
- They **didn't have enough** oil.
- And it is interesting that the prudent virgins said to them, **"we can't give it to you ... you need to go back to the dealer ..."**

**Beloved, not I or anybody else can give you the priesthood – it is God's own possession ... you need to go back to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – for that is where it comes from ... HE is the Dealer.**

**NO human can give you the priesthood** – it is God's own treasured possession!

**NOTE:** Some will miss out on the Wedding Feast of the Lamb in this millennium, even though they will not miss out on salvation.

Look in the Scriptures at the parable of the Wedding Feast ... What is the reason that some **missed out on the Feast?**

**Matt. 22:11-13 – the thing that disqualified them were their *clothes*!**

***By His wondrous grace, God is going to transform those who have been walking uprightly – He is going to transform their priestly garment, into the robe of the Bride, those who are priestly vessels, those with a restored priestly passion.***

- God loves His Son so much.
- He is going to make sure His Bride is worthy of Him.
- **This Bride is going to love God like Jesus!**
- This Bride will have such a passion to minister to Father, to talk to Father, to intercede, to carry the Ark of His Presence everywhere.
- And because **she loves Him so she will be the Bride that is worthy** to marry His Son!

**God wants us to be wise in true priestly service.**

- The **restoration of our service** as a holy priesthood is most **essential for the hour** we are in.

- These are **end-times** and most people are working out how they can survive or better themselves in many areas of their lives, but **few people are radically busy with that which really concerns God**, namely a **priestly service** which is well **pleasing unto Him**, so that we will **be part of that bride worthy** of His Son!!

**STOP** and **BE HONEST** now:

- Where do you stand in your **whereabouts, moves, motives and doings?**
- **Is He working His will and His way out through you?**
- **Or are you working out according to your will and your understanding what His will for your life is?**
- Are you honestly using your skills and strengths to **minister unto Him?**
- Or are you calling on your **own strengths** to see you through?

**NB:**

- **The sooner we become honest with ourselves, the sooner we can go and fill our lamps with oil** – only in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – while there is still time to seek Him and find Him.
- Soon the hour will come when many will say: “Lord, Lord, have we not ...” And He will say: “Go away, I never knew you” or He might say: “close the door, for the wedding feast of the Lamb is about to start”

Is your heart at a place in God where He can change your woolen garment into a priestly linen garment? And as we **walk in uprightness and righteousness, He will exchange that garment into a wedding robe** – fit for the wedding feast of the Lamb, our Glorious Bridegroom.

**John 12:23-26**

If anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him.

**BUT ... Some things MUST DIE before we can serve the Lord.**

**Luke 10:38-42 (Martha and Mary) - Verse 42**  
“Only ONE thing is necessary to serve Me – **Mary chose that**”; **to sit close to Him and HEAR HIS voice.**

This so beautifully shows the state of the Church – those who are so closely IN Him and those working FOR Him.

**Martha (verse 38)**

- She **welcomed Jesus into her home.**
- She **was very so busy serving Jesus and the needs of the people.**
- Her name symbolizes her character and her function. **Martha means “mistress.”**

**A mistress = has a lot of intimacy with the Master, but never has the Bridal position ...**

**Mary (verse 39)**

- The description of **Mary is “she is listening”!**
- She has an ear to hear; exercised/disciplined in hearing Him.
- She **wants** to hear the Lord – **all** the time she is listening.
- She is waiting/expectant/disciplined to do **in** Him what He desires.

**In our physical body:**

- **Only one bone** remains exactly the same from birth to death = the inner ear/eardrum.
- The very **last sense to leave the body** is the hearing.
- It is also the very **first one that is alive** in a baby – babies inside their mothers hear ...

Repeatedly the Bible says, **he who has an ear to hear, let him hear!**

- Jesus said be careful how you listen.
- It is important that we have an ear to hear, because God has a lot to say to us!
- **So has men!** Be careful who influences your hearing.
- The enemy also has a lot to say! He can destroy you through your hearing.
- "As a man thinks, so he is."

**John 10:27**

*My sheep that are My own **hear and are listening** to My voice; and I know them and they follow Me.*

**1 Kings 3:9** – Solomon was crying out for a hearing heart that he could know how to discern and judge this great and terrible people of the Lord.

**Isa. 50:4-5**

[Concerning Jesus] *He awakens My ear so that I may know what to say to the weary. He opened My ear and I have not been rebellious or turned backward.*

Jesus knew that **He** always needed to hear the Father.

Jesus spend a whole night in prayer from time to time – afterwards He chose His disciples – waiting to choose 12 good listeners?

**Once you hear the Lord, then you have something to say.**

- Mary was hearing both His blessings and His reproves, because **every word** of Jesus was personal.
- She was intimate with Jesus' Word.
- She was seated in a place of rest.
- Her total comfort was to sit at His feet – without worries or agendas, turmoil, other mind capturing thoughts.
- She was in a place of total contentment – satisfied – just sitting listening to the words of Jesus.

**Is this your comfortable place of rest? The place where He can work through you?**

**In contrast:** verse 40 – picture of Martha:

- We get a description of Martha's inner turmoil.
- She was distracted with all of **her** preparations.
- She was getting pulled away with **her** duties; with **her** work; with **her** schedule; with **her** ministry.

**NB: Whenever it is OUR or MY ministry, there will be some inner turmoil!!!**

Ask yourself daily: **Whose ministry am I busy with?**

**Martha was doing a lot of things FOR the Lord, instead of doing it IN Him ... big difference!**

She was probably doing a good work, needed work, an upright ministry ... **someone has to be doing something ...?!**

**Interesting:** Bethany means "house of poverty".

- Jesus is attracted to poverty in houses.
- If you and I are poor in spirit – Jesus is attracted to that.

- If we do not think we are something special – except for that of Jesus that is in us – then He is drawn to us.
- Martha is **feeling distant** from what is going on inside ... while she is so very busy outside ...
- Martha has been **alienated**, she's **alone** ...
- She is very much **alive to her ministry - not to the need of her inner heart**

**"... unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies ... it remains alone ..."**

**We need to be dead to our ministry – then God is alive.**

- And **death to self** comes in the inner court ...
- ... when we are **sitting at Jesus' feet**.
- Death to self comes **when we become like Him** ...
- ... for **then He increases** and we decrease.

**Do you sometimes feel like Martha?**

**Now note her attitude** (and ours when we drift off on our own mission):

- She is trying to get some attention – Jesus' or anybody's.
- Remember, she is serving the Lord while these people are doing nothing. "I'm the only one **doing** something ... everybody else is **doing nothing** ..."
- Now the volcano erupts because ... **from within the jealousy, scorn, bitterness, frustration** and **emptiness** comes up ... most of the time **towards our sisters and our brothers** ...
- **And the top blows off ...**

When I do things in my own strength I get very little recognition. The Master is not looking at me – there is no anointing and no Divine visitation. It is just "happy" ME, blessing MY own ministry; no deep sense of accomplishment. It is dead, because it is works!

**When you react from this place of alienation and self effort, you don't care what anybody thinks ...**

**NB: She then said:** "*Lord, do you not care ...?*"

**Have you ever asked that?**

- Lord, don't You care?
- Don't You see what I am going through?
- Don't You see how hard it is at this time?
- Don't You see me, Jesus?

**NB:**

- Whenever we start asking questions like that, there is something in our lives that is **outer court ministry** ...
- There is something in our lives that is being consumed with **service FOR the Lord ... rather than IN Him.**
- It means we have not had a revelation of the priesthood of God, for **a priest realizes that GOD ALWAYS CARES ...**  
ALWAYS ALWAYS ALWAYS ALWAYS  
ALWAYS ALWAYS ALWAYS ALWAYS

The priest of God knows that **no matter what**, God always cares ...

Martha was using the word **Adoni** in asking "**Lord do You not care?**" It is a reverent form of addressing someone. It's like saying "excuse me, Sir"

Martha has no revelation of Adonai. Adoni = reverence to a man; Adonai = worship to the Master. Because this was Martha's **own** ministry, **her needs** were more important than anyone else's.

Her first priority was **me** and **my** ministry! If this is how you feel, you have no thought for anyone else's needs! You don't care about anybody else's needs until **yours** have been met!

**This is not the heart of God's priesthood ...**

- God's priesthood rejoices in seeing other people's needs being met – even when theirs are not.
- They rejoice with someone when they see God abundantly blessing that person and they see none in their own life.

**Because:**

- It was her **own** ministry, she was alienated.
- It was all her **own strength**, she was frustrated.

**Remember:**

What we **do** in our own strength, we have to **keep** in our own strength.

**BUT**

What we do in God's strength, **He keeps**.

**Like Martha, the fruit of doing things in our own strength is:**

- We get tired of **keeping** it in our own strength!
- We start to blame our sister/brother **for not assisting us** in helping what we need.
- And out comes the sin of presumption = **"Lord, then tell her to come and help me"**.
- **She** is ordering **HIM** now!

**Operating in our own strength, we often presume that God is with us ...**

In Martha's mind she was totally presuming that:

- God was blessing and anointing her; that He was on her side; that He was with her, **and**
- from that presumption she dictated a command to the Most High God!

**We are NEVER EVER TO DICTATE A COMMAND TO GOD.**

- We need to always address Him in the attitude of a child.
- We can remind Him of what He has said and of what He has written, but never ever do we tell Him to do this or that.
- We need to simply **ask** like a child.

**Even more shocking is our handling of the “Marthas” around us in comparison to our Messiah’s way of doing:**

- When someone commits something against us or says something to us, we have a choice of three reactions:

1. We can **reject** them.
2. We can **react** to them.
3. We can **respond** to them.

- We always do one of those three things ...
- E.g. if someone would slap me on one cheek, I can offer the other one or ...

In the word, **responsibility**, is built the **ability to respond**. **That is what Jesus has given us!**

We have **THE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPOND!**

**Jesus never rebukes service for Him – we do!!!** But He will look to encourage us with:

- **There is a better thing, there is a deeper way.**
- God loves service and He will never ever rebuke us for putting out coffee cups or doing all these trivial and necessary tasks, for He loved even the thing Martha was doing in there.
- The issue was that Martha didn’t have the **revelation** of the greater part – **it was the condition of her heart that lacked revelation.**
- She didn’t have the **revelation of the inner court.**
- **Her whole ministry was outer court.**

**Her whole concept of salvation was in** what she did for the people, because in doing it for the people she perceived it was like doing it for the Lord!

- That is the wrong way round.
- We first need to **become** and then God Almighty **does it through us!**
- In a situation like Martha’s, God directs **all of his attention to her** saying, “Martha, Martha ...”
- That would be quite radical in Church life as we know it!!!

- We would like to rather not see “Marthas” in self-pity and frustration exploding in our church body.
- **But** Jesus always focuses His attention on where the need is greatest.
- **But** we like spending time with people that love Jesus and have the glow of a passion for Jesus on them; they are exciting to be with.
- **But** Jesus focuses His attention on the one who hurts most ... Jesus goes to the most destitute!

**See and hear and adapt to His way of doing:**

1. He calls her and when He has her **attention**, He calls her again, this time to catch her **spirit** so that she can catch the revelation of hearing Him!

**When He catches my spirit and Spirit calls to spirit there is life change – deep calls unto deep ...**

2. She melted before Him – she became like clay in His hands.
3. Then He says: “You are worried and anxious about many things, but there is need of only one thing and Mary has chosen that.”

**What we and others around us often need most, is just to get back to a place of complete acceptance and complete love. Jesus wants to meet us not where we should be or ought to have been, but right where we are now. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we would be so transformed and become so sensitive in our time spent in the inner court, that we would be able to meet every person just like that?**

**Mark 3:31- 35 Often the Lord's 'family' is outside – calling Him!**

Often part of the Body is outside, calling ...

- And He says to **those who are sitting at His feet, those hearing Him and doing what He will** through them, they are His brothers and His sisters, **they are His family.**

**The Word of God always challenges us –**

- **If that is not** so, then we are **outside, calling ...**
- **“Now** is the time”, says the Lord. He wants to restore again our relationship to **the inner court.**

- We **can go on** for long periods, knowing what is right but not doing it ... **that is sin** - sin through what we are **not becoming** in His Presence.
- If you and I do not **sit with Him daily, under His anointing and conviction**, then we **will become alienated (outsiders)** and then we are doing works in **self-effort**.
- Tomorrow **we will have the same busy schedule** that blocked us from Him today.
- I need a **heart of repentance to turn away** from **my** schedule and **fix my heart onto GOD'S** schedule.

*There is no shortcut to true and meaningful relationship. There is no substitute for Him. A covenant relationship takes time and will always cost us our lives.*