



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Radical Obedience and Continual Prayer

1. Let's begin this time by examining a quote from Pastor and Author John Ortberg. "My main job is to remain connected to God. When my primary focus is being present with Him, everything else has a way of falling into place. When my primary focus becomes anything else, I become a lesser version of myself."

What stands out to you from this quote? Do you agree with the sentiment, or would you like to push back against it?

Jesus, I believe, said something similar. **John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**

I think this verse and this quote remind us of the importance of staying connected to God. I believe people can choose to live connected to God or disconnected from God. We can live connected to His peace, guidance, power, and correction. Do you agree?

Tell the story of a time you were living connected to God or of a time you were sadly disconnected from God.

2. There are two core values that provide the path to living connected to God. Continual Prayer is the first core value that helps us stay connected to God.

The command to pray continually is found in 1 Thessalonians. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

Continual Prayer consistently connects us to God. This is the type of prayer that invites God continually into our lives. By practicing Continual Prayer, we carry on a conversation with God through our day, asking for His guidance and peace as we encounter any obstacles and joys that make up everyday life.

Have you ever attempted to stay connected to God through Continual Prayer as you go through your day? If so how did that affect your life and what did you learn?

3. The second core value that provides the path to living connected to God is Radical Obedience. As you think about the importance of obedience, read this scripture. **1 John 2:3-6 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4 Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.**

Take a moment to discuss the Scripture with your group.

4. Radical Obedience calls us to gladly and enthusiastically submit to God's rule over our lives. This submission invites God to connect with us and empowers us to do His will. Radical Obedience directly affects how we think, what we say, and what we do.

Consider this verse and how it teaches us to think: **2 Corinthians 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**

What would you say it means to "**take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ**"? If you have any experience with taking thoughts captive, share that with your group.

Consider this verse as well: **James 1:19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.**

Discuss your thoughts on James 1:19 as it relates to Radical Obedience.

As you end this study consider this verse: **1 Samuel 15:22 But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams."**

God desires our enthusiastic obedience. Do you struggle with Radical Obedience? Identify one area of your life where you would like to obey God, more consistently and enthusiastically.