

Intimacy with Christ

John was known as the “disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23). Why do you think that was? Did Jesus really love John more than the others? Does He ever love any of us more than others? No, because His love is perfect and complete—but there is no question that our relationship with Him can differ. Some, like John, are intimates, part of the inner circle.

The amazing thing is that kind of close, personal intimacy is available to all of us. In 1 John the apostle encourages us to have that same close relationship (1 John 1:3), and he makes it clear that we can because we have the Holy Spirit in us. John writes, “...he has put his own Holy Spirit into our hearts as a proof to us that we are living with him and he with us.” (1 John 4:13, TLB) And, “Anyone who believes and says that Jesus is the Son of God has God living in him, and he is living with God.” (1 John 4:15, TLB)

But that doesn’t mean that we instantly know Him, or that we immediately experience the reality of the abiding love relationship Jesus wants with us (John 15:10). It does mean that He’s available to us, He’s willing—but He waits within us, for us to reach for Him through prayer and personal Bible study.