

PRAYER AS RELATIONSHIP

Acquaintance

With people:

- Sharing information on a superficial level

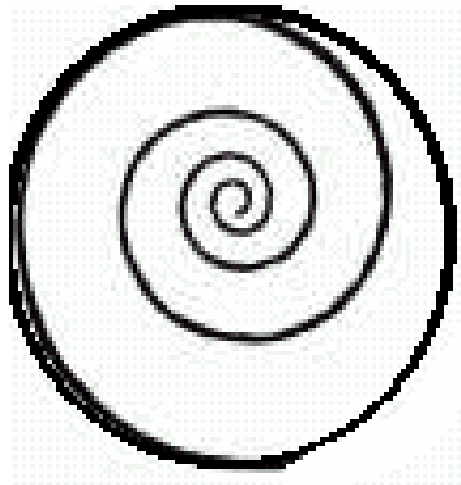
With God:

- Vocal and formula methods teach prayer
- Scripture is used to talk with Christ
- Spending time with Christ expands and deepens our relationship with Christ

Intimacy

With people:

- Loving another more than self,
- Knowing what the other will say before they say it



With God:

- Resting in God without thinking, feeling, or having to do anything
- Feelings of peace, quiet, joy
- Self-surrender, self-giving, active receptivity
- Puts all levels of prayer and relationship into new perspective
- Moving beyond “mirror, dimly” and closer to “face to face”

Friendship

With people:

- Commitment
- Trust
- Sharing of goals, hopes, dreams

With God:

- We are more at ease with God
- Commitment
- Trust & knowledge of God grows
- Self-disclosure: honesty of who we are, even our dark side
- Feeling loved by God and wanting to share that love

Relationships of all kinds are circular, in that they ebb and flow into one another, gaining and receding depending on time and circumstance. They are also spiral, however, as each experience leads us to new understanding.