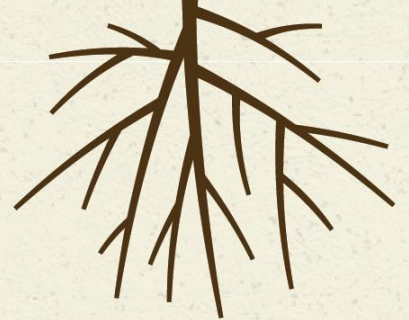


SOUTH  
SHORE  
community church

GROWTH

*nourished in intimacy*





## Going Deeper:

- Haddon – 15 themes
- Depth with God is a choice we have to make, and a price we have to pay. (John 15)
- We must pursue God. (encounters like rain – downpours; soft soaking) (shift – pursuing for fruit, pursuing for intimacy. Mansions – 4)



## Going Deeper:

- I have observed that people of true depth of soul, and intimacy with God have these 4 things in common:
- **Solitude** – They spend time alone with God. It is a priority, a non-negotiable. Mark 1:35, “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house & went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”  
(human intimacy – time)



## Going Deeper:

- **Solitude** – People of spiritual depth spend consistent time alone with God.
- Solitude isn't just about being alone. It is about being alone with God. Mother Teresa, "You'll never know that Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you have."  
(1<sup>st</sup> class in Seminary – person in ministry)



## Going Deeper:

- **Solitude** –
- Solitude stills the soul. Solitude prepares the heart to hear from God. Solitude unmask the sinner. It takes away all of our props, and allows us to stand spiritually naked before God. It brings us to self-awareness, and God-awareness. Nouwen, “Solitude is the furnace of transformation.” (St. Anthony)



## Going Deeper:

- **Silence** – People of depth make time to get into God’s presence; to be still. To listen. Psalm 46:10, “Be still & know that I am God.” (v. 1, God is our refuge & strength, an ever present help in time of trouble) (trouble speeds things up)
- Silence guards the heat of the inner heart of religious affections. Silence keeps the fire of God stoked with in us. (Henri Nouwen – Steam bath when the door is left open...)



## Going Deeper:

- **Silence** – Ps 46:10
- Silence cultivates sensitivity to God's voice. In our silence we give room for God to speak. (John 10:27) (mind racing)
- Silence helps cultivate a longing for God's presence. Silence builds faith & anticipation in our spirits. Silence helps us to surrender, and to let go of our need to control.



## Going Deeper:

- **Suffering** – People of depth choose how to suffer. We don't get to choose if we suffer, we only get to choose how we suffer. If we are going to go deep with God, and become people of substance, we must learn to suffer redemptively. (Rom 8; Ja 1) (sitting with grief in God's presence) (Asian student in Redding – intimacy block)





## Going Deeper:

- **Sacrifice** – People of depth sacrifice for God out of a heart full of love. (Romans 12:1, “In view of God’s mercy, offer yourselves to God as a living sacrifice.”) (Luke 11:13 in context) There is a price to intimacy. God honors sacrifice. He is a God who sacrificed His Son for us, and He honors those who sacrifice for love of Him. (e.g., fasting; watching; retreats) (Rob D)



## Going Deeper:

- Do you want to go deep with God? Are you willing to pay the price? Are there any changes you need to make to get to the next level of your spiritual journey?