

A Mighty Longing

Week 2

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind.—Matthew 22:37*



It's summertime! Warm sunshine sparkles off the pool, inviting you to jump in. You spread your towel on one of the chaise lounges and decide to let the sun warm you a bit before you relax in the pool.

Suddenly there is the sound of laughter as some of your friends enter the pool area. Towels are tossed aside as they jump in. A couple of guys run over to the diving board and arc into the deep end of the pool, shaking their heads to clear their eyes as they emerge. Their arms stroke smoothly as they head for the rest of the gang, who are already splashing and kidding around with each other. One of the men recognizes you, calling, "Hey, come on in! The water's great!" They want you to join them, but will you?

Let the swimming pool scene be a picture of your walk with Jesus. Where are you in that scene? Okay, let's assume that by joining CLC and committing to two years of leadership training you are at the poolside. You are committed to deepening and strengthening your relationship with Jesus. With that established, your relationship with Jesus could be at one of three stages, three pictures of activity in that pool:

Delighting in the Lord — Splashing, laughing, jumping, and playing in the shallow water You are having fun, having released yourself to the enjoyment of the moment. This could be a picture of a joyous, fun relationship with God. You feel the release and contentment of Matthew

22:37 as you learn to *love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*

Disciplining in the Lord—Swimming laps You have become serious about your relationship with Jesus. You've come to the conclusion that if you don't discipline yourself and swim those laps instead of just splashing around, your relationship will not gain strength. You accept what the apostle Paul told the young pastor Timothy: *Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come* — 1 Timothy 4:7b-8.

Diving deeper into the Lord — Gone are the days when you merely swam and splashed in the shallow end—you don't mind anymore if your feet don't touch bottom. Similarly, you have absorbed the basics of the Christian life, and you are ready to go deeper with Jesus. Your heart responds with anticipation as you consider the apostle Paul's challenge in Colossians 2:6-7:

So then, as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Ideally, all of these processes should be happening on an ongoing basis in your relationship with Jesus.

Thanking God for inviting you into the "pool"

Confessing where you sense you are falling short

Sharing your heart's desire

Asking for help

Day 4 – Prayer for Each Brother

You're more than halfway through this second week. It's a great time to turn from your needs to those of your band of brothers.

Pray that each man in your CLC group will love God with all his heart.

Pray that as you stand together you will encourage each other in your walk with Jesus.

Group Challenge! When you signed up for CLC, you committed to do the assigned work. Let's agree, as a group, to keep one another encouraged and accountable to do the things needed in order to have an awesome experience. As the apostle Paul put it in Philippians 2:4, each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. That's an attitude of love and commitment toward our

brothers. Together, let's come up with a strategy to get everyone across the finish line in this module. We can do it!

Day 5 – Pursuit of God

The *Pursuit of God* is about us hungering for a deeper relationship with our Father. Read the Introduction and Chapter 1 and answer the following questions.

1. Ask God to give you a desire to pursue Him.
2. Ask God to use *The Pursuit of God* to greatly enhance your love for Jesus.
3. Highlight thoughts or key words from Chapter 1 that challenge you to go deeper with Jesus. Be ready to share your thoughts when you come to class. Why did you pick those particular words or phrases?

4. Why are relationships with God on a personal level so important to Him?

5. How have activities or programs been a substitute for your relationship with God?

6. Have they left you feeling hollow? If so, what words would you use to describe that feeling?

7. How is simplicity essential to a deep walk with God?

Prayer Ideas, Requests, & Needs

CLC is not an intercessory prayer gathering for those outside the group. It is a forum to pray for the burdens of our band of brothers and ourselves—whether they're related to spouse, children, work, health, or other struggles. Being willing to take a risk by sharing real issues in our lives will have a positive effect on the group. Praising God when prayers are answered will bless us, as well.

Record this week's prayer requests and praises below.

Taking It to the Street

- During the week, keep everything shared in the group confidential. Tell no one outside the group, not even your wife or closest friend.
- Do share biblical truths from the discussions with those close to you.
- Do read Tozer's book, alone or with your wife if that is appropriate. Use this module and others to step up and be the spiritual leader.
- Pray with those close to you about the truths you are learning.

"Prayer is simply a two-way conversation between you and God."
—Billy Graham



"Come on in. The water's fine!"—Delmar, being baptized in the river, from the film Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?