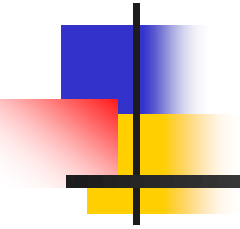


# Pressing In





# Urgency of Intimacy

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- Maybe we should just stop right now, because I love Francis Chan's passion about pursuing intimacy with God. So inspiring.
- Reminded me of something that happened Friday at the 6:30 Men's Prayer Group, when at one point I sensed the Holy Spirit saying "Press in, press in, press in to ME."
- This phrase has become part of the devotional lexicon for what you might call the pietist movements of the Church.



# Desire/Need for More of Him

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- This exact phrase is not used in scripture  
Implied in lots of places:
- Philippians 3:13 – I press on toward the upward call, James 4:8 – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you
- **12** Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. **13** You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. **14** I will be found by you,” declares the LORD (Jeremiah 29)



# Power of Pressing In Isaiah 6

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- In the year of King Uzziah's death **I saw the Lord** sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called out to another and said,
  - "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The <sup>[a]</sup>whole earth is full of His glory."



## Stage 2

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- <sup>4</sup> And the [b]foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the [c]temple was filling with smoke. <sup>5</sup> Then I said,
- **“Woe is me, for I am ruined!  
Because I am a man of unclean lips,  
And I live among a people of unclean  
lips; For my eyes have seen the King,  
the LORD of hosts.”**



## Stage 3

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- <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.
- <sup>7</sup> He touched my mouth *with it* and said, **“Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is [d]forgiven.”**



## Stage 4

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- **8** Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?”
- **Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!”**



# What Just Happened Here?

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- Stage 1 - Awareness of His Presence
- Stage 2 - Awareness of Your Condition
- Stage 3 - Awareness of His Love and Mercy
- Stage 4 - Awareness of His Lordship leads to Surrender/rededication/redirection to His life and work in you – here I am Lord ...
- Wash, Rinse Repeat!





# How To Get There From Here

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- Not a check box project for your “to do” list, 8 am to 8:15 am – Press In
- Psalm 46:10 – Be still and know I am God
- Psalm 42:1,2 – “As the deer [b]pants for the water brooks, So my soul [c]pants for You, O God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God” Your soul is hungry
- John 10:27 – My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me
- Psalm 16:11 – In Your Presence is fullness of joy!



# Pressing in “Hack”

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- Pressing in isn't based on having a system or a schedule, though this is helpful
- Pressing in flows out of a deep hunger to Know Him More
- Philippians 3: 8 “I count all things to be loss [c]in view of the surpassing value of [d]knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, [e]for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him”



## Last Word

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**Because you have made us  
for Yourself,  
and our hearts are restless  
till they find their rest in  
Thee.**

**Augustine, *Confessions*, 1.1.1.**



# Good News!, YOU Are

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY