

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service: Bible Study

Topic: Knowing God 2
Text: Ephesians 1:15-17

Wednesday, June 16, 2021
Teacher: John Ohakim

Introduction

Last week we attempted to identify a few things that result from a pursuit of the knowledge of God.

Today we will conclude by examining a few practical ways that God has set forth in scriptures to come into a deeper knowledge of Him. Let us trust God to speak to us and propel us into all that He has planned us to be, as we pursue to know Him better. Amen!

What practical ways can we get into a deeper knowledge of God?

The Local Church (Ephesians 2:19-22; 3:17-19; 4:7-16; 1 Timothy 3:14-15; 2 Timothy 2:22; Hebrews 3:12-13)

What is the local church to you? How does God define the local church?

The christian journey was not intended to be taken in isolation. God, in His wisdom, provides us with a community to help us as we pursue to know the LORD. While the scriptures have examples of people who knew God for themselves individually and on a personal level, entering into the fullness of God can only be done in the context of community. No individual, no matter how great people may perceive them to be, has the monopoly or exclusive rights on the knowledge of God. The local church provides the platform to know the love of Christ that passes knowledge. We must, therefore, pursue to know the LORD, not in isolation but, within the context of a community of fellow believers.

Meditation on the Word (Psalms 1:1-6; Luke 2:18-19; Joshua 1:8-9; 2 Timothy 2:7)

What is meditation? What role does meditation play in gaining a deeper knowledge of God?

Here meditation *does not* refer to *mindfulness* as it is practiced widely today in eastern and western cultures. It is not an attempt to “*achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state*” as is the case with meditation in the world. Rather, meditation as presented in scripture generally means to “mutter or speak quietly”. In scripture it appears in three forms: 1) *hāgā* (a Hebrew word which means by implication to “ponder”, 2) *śūah* (a Hebrew word for muse, commune, speak, complain), and 3) *meletaō* (a Greek word for to take care of, i.e. (by implication) revolve in the mind, imagine). Meditation is another medium that God has provided for us to seek and find Him. As we turn our minds away from things around us and focus our thoughts on the scriptures, God reveals Himself to us. No one can meditate for you; it is something that you must do by yourself. This is personal communion with the LORD.

A Yearning for God (1 Peter 2:1-3; Psalm 81:10; Matthew 5:6; Psalms 19:10; Jeremiah 29:12-14; Psalms 84:2)

Are there any negative impacts of force-feeding a child? If yes, can you identify some? How are we to desire God's word?

Any believer hoping to grow in their knowledge of God must have a desire for the word. To be passive about the word is to deny oneself of growth; growth into the man or woman that God intends for you to be. Our desire for God cannot be of the passive kind. It must be intense and, therefore, engaging. It is the kind that consumes, not portions of the heart but, the whole heart. We need this kind of desire to dig deep and explore the treasures hidden in the Word of God. God does not practice force-feeding; you must have the correct appetite and desire for the word.

Prayer (Ephesians 1:15-19; 3:14-20; Proverbs 2:1-5; Acts 12:5,13-17)

The role of prayer in the life of a believer cannot be over-emphasized. One of the important mediums that God has provided for us to know Him is prayer. As we stated earlier, the knowledge of God cannot be grasped by simply exercising one's intellect; that is a futile effort. Access to the knowledge of God comes by revelation which is given in response to prayer. God wants to reveal Himself to us and deepen what we know of Him. But He is waiting for us to ask, to seek and to knock.

Prayer here refers both to personal and corporate prayer. God reveals Himself to us during times of corporate prayer; truths transition from our heads to our hearts during times of prayer.

The Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2: 9-14; John 16:12-15)

What role does the Holy Spirit play in gaining a deeper knowledge of God?

The knowledge of God is impossible to attain without the Spirit of God. No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. God has not left us as orphans; we are not stranded. It is for this very reason that He has given us the Holy Spirit that we may gain access to His thoughts and know Him better. The knowledge of God cannot be grasped by simply exercising our intellect. This is why individuals of great intellect can still be plunged deep in ignorance of who Christ is and what He has done. The knowledge of God must be spiritually discerned. It is the Holy Spirit that takes the knowledge of God and makes it known to us.