



2021

SEMINAR TWO

FIVE ELEMENTS OF THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS - PART I

BY

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*"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein."* - Jeremiah 6:16.

**THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS**

*"Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you;"* - Isaiah 51:2

Let us look at the "fathers of our faith" as seen in our Canon: Enoch, Moses, David, Paul, etc. We must rediscover the foundation of our faith.

*"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee."* - Deuteronomy 32:7.

*"That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."* - Hebrews 6:12.

Isaac re-dug the wells Abraham (his father) dug (Genesis 26:15, 18-19). The well (spring) was a type or emblem of the graces and influences of the Spirit of God.

**1. SEEKING GOD**

Many of us in the church are in spiritual decline, and it is obvious that the great need of many Christians is for more of God, or a greater experience of God. There seems to be a lack of fulfilment in a lot of us. Pursuing the Lord is the secret to a fulfilled life.

*"Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the LORD."* - I Chronicles 22:19.

God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there is anyone who understands, who seeks after Him. - Psalm 53:2

Seeking God – possessing a heart after Him is the key that unlocks everything.

*"I sought the Lord and He delivered me..."* - Psalm 34:4.

## DEVELOPING INTIMACY WITH GOD

As with everything, we see clues in the Word. In the Old Testament, we see how Moses sought God and lived in fellowship with Him.

Exodus 33:7 - We must go out and break from routine.

God is eternal. If He is to expand us to receive the eternal, He must rescue us from the limitation of the temporal. This is one reason why Jesus said, "When you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray" (Matt. 6: 6). The Lord desires that we stop being intoxicated and inebriated by the world and our sensuality and learn to abide with Him in our hearts. This is where the Lord dwells. It is here that we engage in the highest of life's pursuits: to truly find God.

## WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING?

*"Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour."* - John 1:38-39.

The question the Lord is asking us today is "**What seekest thou?**" Healing, deliverance, prosperity? A great family? Ministry? Our Father wants us to ask for spiritual gifts and special blessings of health and financial prosperity. To desire these things is not wrong. However, it is just not enough.

Their response to him was "**Where dwellest thou?**" (John 1:38-39). What you seek determines your obsession. Make God your obsession. Your obsession is seen in your conversation and lifestyle.

Psalm 91:1, Psalms 84:1-4, Exodus 34:29

The goal of finding Him is to show others where He dwells. Our faith walk cannot be done exclusive of the people on our spheres of interaction - John 1:41.

## THE PRINCIPLES OF SEEKING THE LORD - II CHRONICLES 7:14

- **HUMBLING OURSELVES**

The divine pursuit begins with the humbling of 'self'. Until we embrace humility, our natural minds will display itself as a god sitting in the temple of our thought

life. We are ruled by the tyranny of fleshly desires, soulish fears, and human ambitions. To advance in God, we must retreat from 'self'.

*"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." - Isaiah 57:15.*

*"Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." - Isaiah 66:12.*

- **PRAYING**

Humility and repentance are not the final goals. Humility must be followed by prayer. The response of the truly humble heart is prayer. Prayer is the voice of dependency. Strong, independent people do not pray but dependent people, broken of self-will pray and look up to God. If we humble ourselves, stay in a constant state of repentance and pray, we will have an ever increasing access to God. While it is not wrong to seek God's hand, we must go beyond seeking His hand to seeking His face. He said: "Seek My face." If we ever become a people of prayer, God's work will become complete in us. True prayer is setting ourselves to seek the face of God

- **SETTING OURSELVES TO SEEK HIS FACE**

God's goal for asking us to seek Him is not for the sake of just seeking His face but it is for us to find Him. The consummate aim of seeking God is to literally see His face (Revelation 22:4).

Found: Matsa (meet, encounter; recognition by reason of encounter)

Solomon encountered the Lord as He sought Him. When Solomon encountered the Lord, he wasn't seeking things. He was just seeking God.

*"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." - Jeremiah 29:13.*

When we find Him, we find everything!

## 2. KNOWING GOD

God's purpose for making mankind - Genesis 1:26

- We are made to reflect Him
- We are made to represent Him

Represent: re-present; to present again.

**Most misrepresentation of God find their root in the lack of knowledge of God.** The real goal of Christianity is not to create a religion about God but it is that we would actually know Him; experiencing first-hand wonders and power of His incomparable life and majesty. Ministry should be the result of intimacy. A lot of ministries come from a place of performance, not a place of intimacy.

### KNOWING HIS HEART

We must recognize this about the Lord: God loves people – all people, especially those who the society ignores (John 3:16). We must know exactly how far He would travel for men which is the same distance He would journey again through us. Indeed, we must know His thoughts concerning illness, poverty, and human suffering. As His servant, I am useless to Him unless I know these things. If I am to actually do His will, I must truly know His heart. Therefore, in all my study and times of prayer, I am seeking for more than just knowledge. I am searching for the heart of God - Exod. 33:13, Phil. 3:10, Eph. 1:17, Eph. 3:18-19, John 17:3, Col. 1:10, II Peter 1:3, Romans 1:19-20, Judges 2:10, I Sam. 2:12, Deut. 11:1, Jer. 5:4, Micah 4:12, Dan. 11:32, Jer. 9:24, Jer. 24:7.

### FELLOWSHIP: THE KEY TO KNOWING THE LORD

The word translated fellowship in the New Testament is the Greek word "koinonia". It means;

- Friendly association
- Partnership: Participation, working together
- Intimacy: Close association with deep and detailed knowledge and understanding

Spending time with people reveal people to us. What they are really like; their likes, dislikes, hobbies, character, ability, capacity and qualities. Spending quality time with God will unveil Him to us.

Fellowship with the Holy Spirit - II Cor. 13:14, John 16:7, Phil. 3:7-10, John 16:14 (Amp), I Cor. 2:11, I Cor. 1:9.

Moses knew God and His ways because he spent time with Him. Certain things can only be birthed on earth by people who truly know the LORD. There is a dimension

of knowledge that is only open to lovers; people who spend time (intimacy with the Father).

*"You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand..."* - Deut. 3:24.

After almost 40 years of walking with and working for God, Moses said to the Lord: *"You have just now begun..."* No matter how much we attain, no matter what revelations of God's glory we have, we have only begun to see His glory.

Someone once defined intimacy as "into-me-see". Intimacy with God allows us to see into God. Fellowship with God gives us supernatural eyesight.

*"And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come"* - Revelations 4:8.

*"Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, because the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him."* - I Samuel 3:7.

We get to know the Lord by spending time with Him; spending time in His Word.

### **THREE LEVELS OF KNOWING GOD - PSALM 103:7**

1. By His acts
2. By His ways
3. By the life of God in us.

### **THE ROOT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

Proverbs 1:7a says that the fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge. The fear of the Lord is the root of the knowledge of God. Knowledge and the fear of the Lord are both activities of the Spirit of God (Isaiah 11:2).

### **THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE:**

The Spirit of knowledge provides us the supernatural ability to know and perceive things that we cannot naturally know. It is the ability to know God. Knowing the Lord comes naturally to us in the new covenant by the indwelling of the Spirit of Knowledge. We must enter into the experience of knowing the Lord.

### **THE SPIRIT OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD:**

The Spirit of the fear of the Lord is the activity of the Spirit of God in our lives that creates holy fear in the heart of the believer. It causes the believer to prize the Lord's presence above every other thing. The fear of the Lord is a Spirit and it is by this fear of God that we depart from iniquity (Proverbs 16:6). It is not something we conjure for ourselves, but it is a Spirit that comes upon us.

*“And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.” - Isaiah 33:6.*

Isaiah calls the fear of the Lord the treasure of the one who trusts in God.

*“He will be a sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; The fear of The Lord is the key to this treasure” - Isaiah 33:6 (NIV).*

#### **DISCERNMENT: AN OUTCOME OF KNOWING GOD**

*“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” - Hebrews 5:14.*

*“You will never be able to eat solid spiritual food and understand the deeper things of God’s Word until you become better Christians and learn right from wrong by practicing doing right.” - Hebrews 5:14 (TLB).*

#### **NOTE:**

- Full age (*Teleios*) - mature, perfect.
- Discernment: The ability to distinguish between things - Isaiah 7:15, II Samuel 14, 14:18-20.

**The more you know God, the more you will know what God is not in!**