

EXPERIENCING GOD
LOVE AND GOD'S INVITATION

Know God

Our study continues to focus on your love relationship with God. If you want to know God's will, you must respond to His invitation to love Him wholeheartedly. God works through those He loves in order to carry out His purposes in this world.

You will never be satisfied merely knowing about God. Knowing God comes only through experience as He reveals Himself to you. In the Bible, God took the initiative to reveal Himself to people by experience.

Do you see that you've come to know God through experience?

You come to know God when He reveals Himself to you. You come to know Him as you experience Him. You come to know God more intimately as He reveals Himself to you through your experiences with Him.

Worship God

To worship is to reverence and honor God...to acknowledge Him as worthy of your praise.

Psalm 7:17 "I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High."

Psalm 8:1 "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name I all the earth."

Psalm 105:3 "Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice."

Ways to Worship God

Bless His name	Seek His name
Glory in His name	Fear His name
Rejoice in His name	Lift up hands in His name
Call on His name	Sing praise to His name
Hope in His name	Give thanks to His name
Remember His name	Love His name
Declare His name	Trust His name
Know His name	

Love God

God takes the initiative to pursue a love relationship with you. This love relationship is not a one-sided affair. He wants you to know Him, worship Him and love Him.

If you love Him, you will obey Him!

Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." When you obey Jesus, you demonstrate that you love Him and trust Him. Obedience is the outward expression of your love for God.

Again...if you love Him, you will obey Him!

A love relationship with God requires that you demonstrate your love by obedience. This is not just following the letter of the law but following the spirit of the command as well. If you have an obedience problem, you have a love problem.

God's nature is love. Never in your life will God express His will toward you except as an expression of His perfect love. And because God's nature is love, the way He expresses Himself to you is always best. Your total trust in God's love is crucial.

Your relationship with God right now reveals what you believe about Him. It is spiritually impossible for you to truly believe one way and practice another. If you really believe God is love, you will also accept the fact that His will is always best.

How many options does God have to give you for you to have the right one? One...God always gets it right the first time!

Whenever God gives you a directive, it is always right. God's will is always best. You never have to question whether His will is best or right. It always is. Because He loves you perfectly, you can completely trust Him and obey Him. Never forget that when He asks you to do something, He will enable you to do it.

When your life is in the middle of God's activity, He will rearrange your thinking. God's ways and thoughts are so different from ours they will often sound impossible. You need a readiness to believe God and trust Him completely. You MUST believe that what He is doing is best for you. Don't try to second-guess Him. Let Him be God.

God's commands are expressions of His love nature. When you come to know God by experience, you will be convinced of His love. When you are assured of His love, you can believe Him and trust Him. When you trust Him, you will obey Him.

Because He loves you, He has given you guidelines for living so you will not miss the full dimensions of your love relationship with Him. God doesn't want to see you miss His best and He doesn't want your life destroyed by foolish choices.

He wants you to receive life and have it abundantly. When the Lord gives you a command, He is trying to protect and preserve the best He has for you. When God gives a command, He is not restricting you...He is freeing you.

God has given His commands so you can prosper and live life to its fullest measure. His commands are designed to guide you to life's best. You won't obey Him if you don't believe and trust Him. You won't believe and trust Him if you don't love Him. You can't love Him if you don't know Him.

Know Him



Love Him



Believe Him



Trust Him



Obey Him

God Works Through People

The Bible is the record of God's activity in the world. He reveals Himself, His purposes, His plans and His ways. Remember that God is always at work around you and God always invites you to join Him.

God has never been absent from the world or from what is taking place in history. As we read the Bible, we are reading God's redemptive activity in our world. We see that He takes the initiative and involves His people with Him. He chooses to work through them to accomplish His purposes.

When you see the Father at work around you, that is your invitation to adjust your life and join Him in that work.

You may ask, "How does God invite me to be involved with Him?"

To answer...let's look at Jesus' example from John 5.

- The Father has been working right up until now.
- Now the Father has Me working.
- I do nothing on my own initiative.
- I watch to see what the Father is doing.
- I do what I see the Father doing.
- The Father loves Me.
- He shows Me everything He is doing.

As God's child, you are in a love relationship with Him and because He loves you He will try to involve you in His work. He always extends the invitation.

Our job is to make sure we are at a point in our relationship with Him that we can see the invitation.

There are two important factors for you to be able to recognize God's activity around you...

1. You MUST live in an intimate love relationship with God.
2. God MUST take the initiative to open your spiritual eyes so you can see what He is doing.

God's revelation is your invitation to join Him.

Things Only God Can Do

Scripture tells us that no one can ever come to Him unless He extends an invitation.

John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them..."

No one seeks or pursues God. It is God that seeks and pursues us. When you become a Christian, you enter a love relationship with God Himself. At this point the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your life. He is always there to teach you. Here is a list of things that only God can do...

- Draw people to Himself
- Cause people to seek Him
- Reveal spiritual truth
- Convict people of their sin

When you see things like this happening, you know God is at work.

Watching for God's Activity

Only He knows what He has purposed and He knows the best way to accomplish His will. Our job is to pray and watch to see what God does next. Make the connection between your prayer and what follows. Once we find out what God is already doing, then we can make adjustments and join Him in His work.

When God Speaks

We need to be aware of two things regarding God's invitation...

1. God speaks when He is about to accomplish His purposes.
2. What God initiates, He always completes.

When God speaks, He guarantees it will happen. This holds enormous implications for all of us.

Do you really believe that what God initiates, He always completes?