

## **EXPERIENCING GOD**

### **ADJUSTING YOUR LIFE TO GOD**

#### **Adjustments are Necessary**

Many of us want God to speak to us and give us an assignment but we are not interested in making major adjustments in our lives. Biblically, that position is impossible. Every time God spoke to people in Scripture about something He wanted to do through them, major adjustments were required. They had to adjust their lives to God. Once the adjustments were made, God accomplished His purposes through those He called.

Adjusting your life to God is the second critical turning point in your knowing and doing the will of God. The first turning point was the crisis of belief.

If you choose to make the adjustment, you can move on to obedience. If you refuse to make the adjustment, you will miss what God has in store for your life.

Once you've come to believe God, you demonstrate your faith by what you do. Some response is required. This action is one of the major adjustments we will focus on in this unit.

#### **Adjustments to God**

When God speaks to you to reveal what He is about to do, that revelation is your invitation to adjust your life to Him. Your faith will be most clearly demonstrated by your actions. Actions you will take include the adjustments you must make to be in a position to obey the Lord. Once you've adjusted your life to Him, you act in obedience. Then God accomplishes through you what He has purposed to do. You cannot continue life as usual or stay where you are and go with God at the same time.

You may be thinking, "But God will not ask ME to make major adjustments to my life." Never forget that Scripture shows that God most certainly requires adjustments of His people. If you want to be a disciple of Jesus, you have no choice. You must leave where you are to follow Him.

Until you are ready to make any change necessary to follow and obey what God has said, you will be of little use to God. Your greatest single difficulty to following God may come at this point of full surrender.

When God invites you to join Him, the task will have God-sized dimensions and cause you to experience a crisis of belief. Your response will require faith. Faith will be demonstrated by action.

The order is...1) faith, 2) adjustments and 3) obedience.

#### **Kinds of Adjustments**

What kinds of adjustments are required to position your life to be used by God? Trying to answer that question is like trying to list all the things might ask you to do.

The major adjustments will come at the point of acting on your faith. When you face a crisis of belief, you must decide what you believe about God. The mental decision might be easy. The hard part is adjusting your life to God and taking action that demonstrates your faith.

Areas where adjustments might be required...

- Circumstances – job, home, finances
- Relationships – family, friends, co-workers
- Thinking – prejudices, methods, guilt, past
- Commitments – work, family, church
- Actions – pray, give, serve
- Beliefs – God, His purposes, His ways

Some people wonder if a major adjustment is always involved in joining God's work. Anytime you go from where you are to where God is working will require a major adjustment on your part.

The distance from where we are to where God is in any area requires a major shift. The adjustments may be gradual over time so they don't seem so major at once...but the end is always a huge adjustment.

### **Absolute Surrender**

God frequently requires adjustments in areas of your life that you have never considered or been open to in the past. You may have heard someone say something like, "Don't ever tell God what you don't want to do because that will be the very thing He will ask you to do." Understand that God is not looking for ways to make your life difficult but He will do what He needs in order to be Lord of your life. When you identify an area you refuse to allow Him to be Lord over, He will go to work.

He is seeking absolute surrender. God may or may not require you to do that thing you identified but He will keep working until you are willing for Him to be Lord of all. Always remember that because God loves you, His will is always best. Any adjustment God expects you to make is for your own good.

You cannot stay where you are and go with God in obedience to His will. Adjustments must come first. Then you can follow in obedience. Keep in mind that the God who calls you is also the One who will enable you to do His will.

### **Obedience Is Costly**

You cannot continue doing things your way and accomplish God's purposes. Your thinking cannot come close to thinking like God. For you to do the will of God, you must adjust your life to Him, His purposes and His ways.

Obedience is costly to you and even to those around you. You cannot know and to God's will without paying the price of adjustment and obedience. Many will not know and experience the fulfilling of God's purposes through them because they are not willing to pay the price of obedience.

We say Christ is Lord and He can interrupt our plans anytime He wants. We just don't expect Him to ever do it. When God invites us to join Him, we will have to make major adjustments. This type of response can be costly.

One of the most demanding adjustments to doing God's will is deciding to obey even when that obedience is costly. You must not overlook this element in know and doing the will of God. God will reveal His plans and purposes to you but your obedience will impact you and others around you.

### **How will you respond to God when He calls you to a sacrificial commitment?**

You might think that question is a little premature since we are barely halfway through this study...but not really. That is what lordship of Christ is really all about. You should be able to answer that question without knowing anything about what God may call you to do. Your whole life should be lived with the attitude of "Lord, whatever You ask of me today or in the future, my answer is yes!"

### **Total Dependence on God**

Another adjustment that is a part of know and doing God's will is your coming to a total dependence on Him to complete what He wants to do through you. You must remain in an intimate relationship with God in order for Him to complete His work through you. You must depend on God alone. This adjustment requires moving from doing work for God according to your abilities, gifts, likes, dislikes and goals to being totally dependent on Him, His working and His resources. This is a major adjustment and it's never easy to make.

Without God at work in you, you can do nothing productive for the Kingdom. When God purposes to do something...He guarantees it will come to pass. His is the One who will accomplish what He intends to do.

When God gives you specific guidance, He will do more through you in days and weeks than you could ever accomplish in years on your own. Depend on Him to guide you in His way and His timing to accomplish His purposes.

### **Adjustments in Prayer**

When God encounters you, you face a crisis of belief that may require major adjustments in your life. You need to learn how to pray. Becoming a person of prayer will require a major adjustment of your life to God.

Many churches have never learned how to pray. The greatest untapped resource is the prayer of God's people. Every church needs to be a praying church!