



Sunday August 11, 2019
Knowing Him Intimately

To know God intimately...

...is **to know who He is** - His character, His nature.

...is **to know His heart** - what pleases Him, what does not.

...is **to know His ways** - how He works, His love, His justice.

...is **to know His power** - how great He is, how powerful He is.

Knowing God intimately is a journey of discovery. It happens over time. The Holy Spirit reveals the Him to us more and more.

Today we wish to address the WHY and the HOW in growing in intimacy with God.

WHY SHOULD WE KNOW HIM INTIMATELY?

#1) STRENGTH COMES THROUGH KNOWING HIM INTIMATELY

Daniel 11:32

...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

The reason many of the faith-heroes did what they did, is because they knew their God and so trusted in Him.

David faced and killed Goliath, because He knew His God. He knew God was bigger than the giant.

Daniel was unafraid of the threat to be cast into a den of lions, because He knew His God.

We need to know our God and operate based on faith in Him.

#2) FRUITFULNESS COMES THROUGH KNOWING HIM INTIMATELY

John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Sometimes we mistakenly think that fruitfulness is a result of our hard work.

Yes, we must work hard. We must work intelligently.

But ultimately, fruitfulness is birthed out of our place of knowing Him intimately



TO KNOW HIM, WE MUST PURSUE HIM

to know who He is, pursue Him!
to know His heart, pursue Him!
to know His ways, pursue Him!
to know His power, pursue Him!

Jeremiah 29:12-13

12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

We pursue Him by reading and meditating His Word.
We pursue Him by being with Him in prayer, praise, worship, in quietness listening to Him.
We pursue Him by living in obedience to Him.

Here is HOW to pursue Him:

#1) TO KNOW HIM INTIMATELY, PURSUE HIM PASSIONATELY

Psalm 63:1-3

1 O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.
2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.
3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.

Pursue Him with zeal, with enthusiasm.

Think about kids who go out to play (say soccer). They are so excited, so passionate. Playing soccer is not a boring thing for them.

#2) TO KNOW HIM INTIMATELY, PURSUE HIM WHOLEHEARTEDLY

Mark 12:29-30

29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.
30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

We engage in pursuit with our entire being - spirit, soul and body.
We choose to bring our mind, thoughts and emotions to be on Him.



#3) TO KNOW HIM INTIMATELY, PURSUE HIM INTENTLY

Psalm 27:4,8

4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

8 When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

We pursue Him with focus. We turn off all distractions.

We say no to all things that make a demand on our thoughts and affections.

#4) TO KNOW HIM INTIMATELY, PURSUE HIM EARNESTLY

John 4:23-24

23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

We must be sincere and genuine in our pursuit of Him.

We are not doing this out of obligation, to fulfill a requirement, or out of fear to pacify His 'wrath', etc.

We are not doing this to impress anyone else, or to look good in people's eyes.

#5) TO KNOW HIM INTIMATELY, PURSUE HIM SACRIFICIALLY

Matthew 14:22-23

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

There are times we intentionally say 'no' to other things, so we can have that time to pursue the Lord.

#6) TO KNOW HIM INTIMATELY, PURSUE HIM EXPECTANTLY

Hosea 6:3

Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.



We expect to encounter Him and His presence.

pursue Him passionately, wholeheartedly, intently, earnestly, sacrificially and expectantly

GOD WILL EMPOWER US TO PURSUE HIM!

Let God by His Spirit inspire this in us, to pursue Him passionately, wholeheartedly, intently, earnestly, sacrificially and expectantly. Let a fire, a zeal be kindled in us to pursue Him.

Let God empower us by His grace to pursue Him passionately, wholeheartedly, intently, earnestly, sacrificially and expectantly.

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL

WT will sing the Song: The more I seek you, the more I find you (Kari Jobe)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI_1YliutzA



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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Knowing Him Intimately

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Daniel 11:32; John 15:5; Jeremiah 29:12-13; Psalm 63:1-3*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, What do we mean when we say we need to know God intimately or grow in our intimacy with God?

2, Why is it important to know God intimately?

3, We addressed several aspects of pursuing God: passionately, wholeheartedly, intently, earnestly, sacrificially and expectantly. Discuss one or two of these, aspects where you feel you would like to grow in, so you can pursue Him even more.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.



FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.