

HUNGERING FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

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I. GOD'S ZEAL TO RELEASE THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

We cannot know God until He makes Himself known. Before He makes Himself known, He is altogether unknown, and unknowable. We cannot know the God of mercy, until He takes action and expresses mercy. His actions define who He is. How do we know that He is a God of humility? Because He became a man forever (John 1:14), then became sin for fallen man (2 Cor. 5:21), was cursed by God (Gal.3:13, Deut. 21:23), descended into hell (Eph. 4:9), has seated us with Him in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6), desires to rule and reign with us in the ages to come (Rev. 20:6, Rev. 5:10), has allowed His spirit to become one with our spirit (1 Cor. 6:17), and partners with us to birth His purposes in the earth by way of intercession (Amos 3:7, Isa. 53:12, Heb. 7:25), the foolishness of man. How do we know He is faithful? He has betrothed Himself to a harlot nation in righteousness forever (Hos. 2:19). We know Him and His zeal to make Himself known through His action and offensive expression of Himself in the earth.

A. All of divine expression draws us into the knowledge of God

1. **Nature-** Romans 1:20 *"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."*
2. **Man-** Genesis 1:26 *"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'"*
3. **The Word-** John 1:1, 18. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God." "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made Him known."*
4. **Jesus' whole ministry** was an expression of God unto a release of the knowledge of God. He said in John 14:7, *"If you had known me you would have known my Father also."*

B. Salvation is about God desiring to be known.

1. Ezekiel 36:22-24 *"It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes." The Lord offers salvation for His own name to be expressed rightly in the earth; for the knowledge of who He is to be released to the nations.*

2. It is all about the expression of the Lord in the earth and the Lord being exalted as who He is. He saves us so that we might know Him.
3. Romans 9:22-23 “*What if God, desiring to show His wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory...*”

He is zealous to express Himself and to make Himself known. It is what we are headed for in the ages to come. It is why we pray now. It is what intimacy with God is; knowing Him. He will not relent until He has all of you, so that He can release the knowledge of who He is to you and through you in greater measures until the day comes when you see Him face to face and know Him as you are known by Him (1 Cor. 13:12)!

II. WHY DO WE HUNGER FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD TO BE RELEASED IN THE EARTH?

- A. Our identity, every aspect of it, is altogether and completely contingent upon His identity. All that we can identify ourselves as, biblically, is relative to the identity or knowledge of who He is. I am a son, I am a Bride, I am a priest, because He is a Father, He is a Bridegroom, and He is God. So, without the reality of the knowledge of His identity, we will not know who we are. The first step to drawing into our identity is to really know His identity.
 1. Each part of who we are is a responsive role. That is to say, it cannot exist without its counterpart. I cannot be a son with no father. I cannot be a bride, with no bridegroom, I cannot be a priest with no God. So all that we exist as is responsive to who He is and completely defined by who He is. How am I to know my role as a son if I do not know my Father? How am I to know my role as a Bride, if I do not know my Bridegroom? How am I to know my role as a Priest, if I do not know my God? We hunger for the knowledge of God so that we might come into the reality of our identity.
- B. We will not pray rightly without the knowledge of God.

1. All our intercessions are based upon and birthed from the knowledge of God. We cry out for righteousness and justice because He is righteous and just and His throne is founded upon righteousness and justice. We do not primarily ask for justice because of injustice. We do not primarily ask for righteousness because of unrighteousness. We primarily labor for these things because when they come, He comes and a people that are in love with Jesus cannot live without Him near. ***It moves from intercession birthed out of and sustained by humanism to intercession birthed out of and sustained by lovesickness, which is birthed out of and sustained by the knowledge of God!*** (Psalm 89:14, Mat. 9:15) Abortion ending, doesn't connote justice coming. You can have no abortion and still have people agreeing with it in their hearts. His throne is founded on justice, not the lack of a physical manifestation of injustice.
 2. At the end of the age we will be partnering with Jesus to bring His judgment and wrath upon the earth by way of prayer and intercession. The Lord will release to His intercessors the word to "pray for the first seal to be opened" and we will pray it and He will do it (Amos 3:7). Only a people that know God will pray for the antichrist to rise to power. Only a people that know His heart as it relates to the Day of His Vengeance will partner with Him to bring it (Isa. 63:4). Only a people that know Him, and are lovesick for Him, in the fullness of **who He is and not just who we think He is**, will partner with Him to bring judgment upon the earth **without offense** in their heart at His expression of Himself in wrath through that judgment! All your judgments are righteous O Lord!
 3. The Word must come alive on the inside of us so that we can pray the language of God. He is calling us to pray according to His will (1 John 5:14-15). We are praying His will when we are praying scripture.
- C. All issues in this age are knowledge of God issues. (*A.W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy*)
1. If we are having trouble being merciful, it is because we do not know Him as merciful. If we are having trouble being a good husband, it is because we do not know Him as the Bridegroom. If we are having trouble fathering well, it is because we do not know the Father.

2. If the knowledge of God as the Creator, that values life, and knits us together in our mothers wombs were released to America as REALITY and not just concept or idea how many abortion clinics would close down? We must hunger for the knowledge of God, and seek that knowledge so as to be formed into vessels and vehicles by which God does release His name to the nations! We are being formed into living representations of His name as we sit before Him and seek the knowledge of who He is. Not only are we coming into our identity, but we are coming into revelation of His identity. It is His identity that will be released through vessels that have surrendered fully their ambitions, their plans, their impure self love, and have given themselves to being formed by the potter into mighty messengers of His name! There is power on the words and authority on the messenger when the words being spoken and the message going forth is REALITY in the heart of that messenger! This will only happen as we seek the knowledge of God.

III. THE NECESSARY TRANSCENDENCE OF CONCEPT TO REALITY

- A. When the storms come, it will not be concept that sustains you, concept is sand. Much of even my own Christianity is only concept. I may agree with a truth in my mind, but it does not mean that I believe it. A person will not always live as they profess or live according to what they agree with, but a person will always live what he believes. A sure sign of what you believe is how you live! Concept Christianity has plagued the church in the West.
 1. Eternity is not as real as it should be in our minds so we do not live with eternal mindsets. (Proverbs 29:18)
 2. The truth that He is coming is mostly just concept in our hearts. This is dangerous because not only is a pre-tribulation rapture leaving the church lethargic and unwatchful (Luke 21:36), but a concept Christianity is as well.
 3. The truth about the power, necessity, and calling to pray is not real to our hearts. This is evident by the lack of prayer in the church. The prayer meetings are empty. **“By our attitude toward prayer we are telling God that what He began in the Spirit, we can finish in the flesh!”** –*Leonard Ravenhill*
 4. The Truth about who He is (the knowledge of God) remains a concept in the majority of those claiming to know Him.
- B. There is a necessary transition that must take place in the minds and hearts of the Body of Christ from concept to reality. We are partnering with Jesus to labor for reality. We must have reality. Believing is not simply agreeing with a truth, it must become a literal reality in the heart, solidified as a reality unto becoming an expression by which you walk out that truth as reality.

- C. If we only know Him as an idea we mentally ascend to we do not know Him! The reason most people hate prayer and are having trouble being sustained in it is because they do not know God, or what they do know of Him has not become reality in their heart yet. The revelation of Jesus is not sustaining them in the place of prayer because it is only concept! Are our hearts moved by Truth? In its fullness? All aspects of it? Are we lovers of truth? Or do we desire a knowledge of God that fits into our paradigm of who He is? It's a lot easier to live without offense when He lives inside a manmade paradigm. How does His wrath fit into our paradigm? How does God raising up the antichrist fit into our paradigm (2 Thess. 2, Rev. 6)? How does 2/3 of Israel killed at the hand of God for the glory of God at the end of the age fit into our paradigm (Zech. 13:8)? Are we lovers of truth (2 Thess. 2:10) or are we lovers of our paradigm?
- D. When concept becomes reality:
1. No longer are truths cliché. Billy Humphrey says that if something is cliché in our hearts it is a sure sign that we have no idea what it means.
 2. We will not be enthralled with this age and temporal things. Why are we so in love with the world? Because our view of God is concept and cliché. We would no longer choose the temporal over God if when we heard truth our hearts were moved and ravished.
 3. We live with the ages to come in mind. An eternal perspective will change the way you live in this age dramatically. If eternity becomes reality in our lives we will be delivered from the Spirit of the age. Why? Because we are secure that our citizenship is in another age. With that as reality we will restrain ourselves (Prov. 29:18) from fleeting pleasures and temporal lusts of the flesh (even of good things) because we are looking forward to the city whose designer and builder is God (Heb. 11:10) and the truth of the coming kingdom is unwavering and solidified in our hearts as REALITY.
 4. We will have intimacy with God. He is no longer an idea, but a living reality with a real hunger to draw into relationship with mankind. When that truth hits our hearts we will truly have a reality of intimacy with the Lord. He aches to make Himself known!
- E. How does concept transcend to reality?
1. **Prayer-** discussing Truth with the spirit of Truth. He rewards those that diligently seek Him with revelation of Himself.
 2. **Fasting-** voluntary weakness inviting the Lord to encounter with revelation.

3. **Meditation on the Word-** repetition solidifies. Periods given to mulling over a certain passage will open it up in fuller measure.
4. **Being a lover of Truth-** being teachable.
 - a. The Lord is looking for those that will marry prayer and fasting with study because the knowledge of God is not merely facts about who He is. Man can obtain facts as a mental ascent by himself by reading the Bible. The knowledge of God is released when we partner prayer with study and get before Him and confess that the knowledge of God is unobtainable. It must be given, it must be revealed. Prayer says we are needy. Prayer says that we cannot manufacture a burning heart but that we need the Lord to produce and nurture one inside of us by speaking His name to our hearts and gracing us with encounter. Encounter comes through prayer.

IV. GRACE IS RELEASED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS OUR GRACE.

- A. 1 Peter 1:13, “*set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*”
 1. The knowledge of God, unlocked in our hearts as REALITY will be the grace that sustains us in ALL things.
 2. Revelation of Jesus is our grace to pray and supplicate (Zech. 12:10). It is our grace to fast (Mat. 6:17). It is our grace to stay watchful (Luke 21:36, 1 Pet. 5:8, Rev. 3:2, Col. 4:2).
 3. He produces a lovesickness in the heart of those that obtain reality. If we are having trouble being lovesick perhaps our knowledge of who He is remains just a concept in our minds. I believe He is bringing us to a place where we are sustained in lovesickness even when we don't feel lovesick; a place where we are sustained in hunger even when we don't feel hungry. There is an undercurrent that begins to flow underneath the surface of our souls when the knowledge of God becomes reality. All of a sudden you are not relying on fleeting feeling and emotion to give yourself to prayer and a lifestyle of consecration. Instead you are relying upon the REALITY that He has reckoned and nurtured and imparted to your spirit as it relates to who He is.
 4. GRACE COMES AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS!

V. OUR CALL TO HUNGER FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD: LABORING FOR REALITY

- A. The Lord is calling us to be a people that will hunger to know Him. When He releases the knowledge of God we will pray and not lose heart (Luke 18).
- B. 2 Corinthians 2:14, ***“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.”*** He is forming us into vessels that will exude the knowledge of God everywhere we go. Vehicles that He can use to express Himself in the earth with power. As the knowledge of God goes forth from sincere hearts rooted and grounded in the reality of His identity and therefore their identity, hungry for eternity to come, loving the day of His appearing, hastening that day with their intercessions, crying out for righteousness and justice and mercy and compassion and love and hunger and thirst for the knowledge of the living God to be released in the earth, moved by Truth, moved on the inside by who He is and who He says they are, broken in humility, consumed with mourning, understanding their depravity, humbled by His humility to partner with them in birthing change, and hungering for the knowledge of God, THEN change is released in the atmosphere, words go forth and pierce the hearts of men, Truth goes forth as a consuming fire to ruin all that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and His government and kingdom realities are birthed into the temporal realm even in this age, Israel is moved to jealousy and brought into radical salvation and abandonment of all that hindered love in their hearts for the man Christ Jesus, the King Yeshua that will reign from Jerusalem over a people lovesick and longing and aching and desiring in lovesickness Jesus! THEN we are no longer living compromised in the church and embracing all sorts of mixture in our devotion because we are fascinated by JESUS and have true revelation of that which we are moving towards even right now. THEN the alarm goes forth to the lost nations of His coming with power and whole nations are converted by the prayers of the saints and the power of the Spirit to draw into conviction and produce a fervent urgency in the hearts. **GOD IS REAL! HE IS COMING! HE CAME IN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNTS OF MERCY THE FIRST TIME AND IS COMING IN GREAT JUDGMENT THIS TIME!** Our words will have conviction on them when He is real in our hearts. Therefore we must hunger for the knowledge of God.
- C. It is us eating the scroll. (Ezek. 3:1-3). Us sitting in the prayer room day after day drawing into intimacy with the Lord and partnering with Him with our weak intercessions to bring His kingdom is a sign of us eating the scroll. We are sitting before the Lord eating of Him and drinking of Him. Ministry to the Lord must precede ministry to man:
- a. How can we minister about a God we do not know?
 - b. Human zeal will not sustain us. Lovesickness will be our grace and lovesickness comes when we sit at His feet and allow Him to impart the knowledge of who He is to our spirits.
 - c. We will minister with pure intentions when we KNOW Him. Instead of humanism driving us it will be the worthiness of the Lamb driving us. The Lamb that was slain deserves the reward of His sufferings!
- D. We will be an inadequate alarm to the nations concerning His coming if we do not have reality.