

Exhilarated by the Knowledge of God: Five Conditions (Prov. 2:1-5)

I. WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE EXHILARATED IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- A. The Holy Spirit beckons us to enjoy intimacy with God by enabling us to experience the deep things of God. The Spirit discerns the deep things of God's heart (His emotions), mind (His plans) and power (His works in creation, redemption, New Jerusalem, etc) that we might know or "experience" them. God opens His heart so we can experience active intimacy with Him
- ⁹ Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches (discerns) all things, yes, the DEEP THINGS OF GOD...12 Now we have received...the Spirit who is from God, that we might know (experience) the things that have been freely given to us by God. (1 Cor. 2:9-12)*
- B. The essence of eternal life is coming to the knowledge of God. The main point of eternal life is that people would be enraptured in the knowledge of God.
- ³ This is eternal life, that they may know (experience) You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3)*
- C. Our inheritance and destiny in Christ is to go far beyond 'superficial Christian religion' to experience intimacy with God's heart that energizes our heart with God's power (Eph. 3:16-19).
- ¹⁶ That He would grant you...to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17...that you...18 may be able to comprehend (experience)...the width, length, depth and height-- 19 to know (experience) the love (affections) of Christ which passes knowledge (if unaided by the Spirit); that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:16-19)*
- D. God reveals God to the human spirit to awaken love in us.
- ²⁶ I will declare it (Father's name), that the love with which You loved Me may be in them. (Jn. 17:26)*
- E. It takes God's power to love God. There is nothing more pleasurable or exhilarating than loving God by the power of God. The Father's love is supernaturally poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). ***Our desire for God is God's gift to us.*** Our desire for God is an expression of His desire for us. The knowledge of God empowers the first commandment. The character of God systematically unfolded awakens love in God's people.
- F. Moses cried out to see God's glory or the deep things of God's heart (emotions).
- ¹⁸ Moses said, "Please, show me Your glory." 19 He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the Name of the LORD before you. (Ex. 33:18-19).*
- ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...." (Ex. 34:6-7)*

II. THE BIG PICTURE

¹¹ He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints...for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God (intimacy), to a perfect man (maturity), to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Eph. 4:11-13)

- A. Apostles and prophets, etc. will equip the Church “until” three things occur in the Church: unity, intimacy (knowledge of God) and maturity.
- B. The knowledge of the Son of God does not refer to the introductory knowledge of Jesus that we receive at salvation, but rather the deeper knowledge which refers to intimacy with God. This is the ultimate place that God is bringing His Church. True apostolic ministry will bring people into a depth of understanding of the splendor and the majesty of Christ Jesus.

- C. Paul was anointed to preach on the riches or the beauty of the knowledge of Jesus.

⁸ This grace was given, that I should preach...the unsearchable riches of Christ... (Eph. 3:8)

- D. We need 10,000 messengers with this “Ephesians 3:8 anointing” to unfold the riches of the splendor of Jesus. They will be tenaciously focused on the knowledge of Jesus.

- E. The central issue of spiritual warfare is around the knowledge of God. The Church is powerful when we grow in the knowledge of God. Satan assaults the knowledge of God by blinding people’s eyes to it (2Cor. 4:4). The lack of the knowledge of God is what constitutes strongholds.

⁴ Whose minds the god of this age (Satan) has blinded...lest the light of the glory of Christ...should shine on them. 5 We do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus...6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face (person) of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 4:4-6)

¹⁸ Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Pet. 3:18)

² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God.... 3 as His divine power has given to us all things...through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory... (2 Pet. 1:2-3)

- F. Many do not have a vision that the knowledge of God is within their reach. This was one of Paul’s primary prayers for the Church.

¹⁷ That the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling (our destiny), what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (who we are to God), 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power... (Eph. 1:17-19)

III. MY JOURNEY INTO THE KNOWING OF GOD: PROVERBS 2

My youth leaders told me I could not be a mature Christian without growing in the knowledge of God. They told me to read *The Knowledge of the Holy* (by A.W. Tozer). I preached on Tozer's book at my college Bible study. By the fall of 1974, I was in anguish over my inability to understand how to grow in the knowledge of God. While at a college ministry ski trip in Colorado on Jan. 2, 1975, a young believer asked me to teach him how to have a quiet time (Bill Gothard said to read all 31 Proverbs monthly).

IV. FIVE CONDITIONS FOR CULTIVATING THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

¹ *If you receive My words, and treasure My commands within you, 2 so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; 3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. (Prov. 2:1-5)*

V. CONDITION #1: A COMMITMENT TO SEEK 100-FOLD OBEDIENCE

¹ *If you will receive My words... (Prov. 2:1a)*

- A. The Holy Spirit is the only One who can reveal Jesus to us. If He is quenched and grieved (Eph. 4:30; 1 Thes. 5:19), we will not receive His revelation of His dear friend Jesus. We can't offend the Spirit and still expect Him to make Jesus known to our heart in a deep way. ***Prayer is no substitute for the intention to obey God.***
- B. Our spiritual immaturity is very different from purposely resisting the Holy Spirit and refusing to obey Him. Charles Finney, (anointed evangelist in the 1800s) preached a sermon titled: One sin persisted in is fatal to the soul. Are there areas of deliberate disobedience in your life? Deliberate sin blocks spiritual progress and hinders your walk with the Lord. Make a consistent resolution to confess and resist sinful areas. Realize that God looks more at the sincerity of your motives to obey than at your actual attainment of spiritual maturity.

VI. CONDITION #2: A LIFE OF MEDITATION ON THE WORD OF GOD

¹ *If you will...treasure My commands (Word) within you... (Prov. 2:1b)*

- A. God's commands speak of God's Word. We treasure God's commandments as we fill our minds with His Word. We dialogue with Jesus as a Person or we have conversation with Him (prayer) as we meditate much on the Scriptures. It is impossible to grow in intimacy with Jesus without regular meditation on the Scripture.
- B. We use our time to fill our mind with the Word of God so that our emotions would be affected. Without this part of God's grace, we will ***never*** grow substantially. My use of time is one of the most serious issues in my life. When people ask me to do something during the time I've scheduled for prayer and meditation on the Word, I usually say, "No, I have an appointment." I view my time with God as a real appointment. I don't want to neglect Him nor keep Him waiting.

VII. CONDITION #3: A TEACHABLE SPIRIT (OPEN HEART TO BE CORRECTED)

² *If you...incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding... (Prov. 2:2)*

² *On this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit... (Isa. 66:2)*

An inclined ear that applies our heart to learn instead of resisting wisdom speaks of a teachable and humble spirit. A teachable spirit in our approach to life is essential. We cannot have a stubborn spirit that is not teachable before God or man. The Lord can bring the humble into any truth that we lack. Many people who are zealous for God lack a teachable humble spirit. We easily pick up biases from those we grew up with. It's far better to remain pliable and teachable. We can become rigid and hard-hearted defending our pet doctrines.

VIII. CONDITION #4: PERSEVERING PRAYER FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

³ *Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding... (Prov. 2:3)*

⁷ *Ask, and it will be given...seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds...to him who knocks it will be opened. (Mt. 7:7-8)*

We must actually pray for revelation of God. One of Paul's primary prayers is for the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God (Eph. 1:17).

IX. CONDITION #5: EXTRAVAGANT SEARCHING FOR DIVINE TREASURES

⁴ *If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures... (Prov. 2:4)*

² *It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter. (Prov. 25:2)*

A kingly spirit refuses to be denied. Extravagant searching for God includes a commitment to regular fasting. Fasting does not earn God's favor, rather it enlarges our capacity to freely receive from God as it leads to the tenderizing of our heart. We must pay any price in our quest to search for God as for hidden treasure. If we can live without more of God, then we will go without more of God. We must spend long hours in our quest to search after God. We search for Him like a covetous man searches after wealth. Many attended higher education for 8-10 years laboring for wisdom to excel in their occupation. Perseverance is considered normal to any who seek to excel.

X. THE 2 FOLD DIVINE PROMISE

⁵ *Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. (Prov. 2:5)*

The knowledge of God is the ultimate reality that the human spirit can experience in this age and in the age-to-come. The End-Time Church will have a vision to go deep in the knowledge of God (Eph. 4:13) and will intercede for the release of revelation (Eph 1:17) until receiving the anointing to make known the riches of Jesus known to others (Eph. 3:8).