

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

### **WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE EXHILARATED IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

Roman numeral I. We are called to live exhilarated in the knowledge of God. That is what I want to talk about. I want to talk about the beauty of God for the next number of months. This is just a foundational introduction to the subject of the knowledge of God.

Paragraph A. The Holy Spirit beckons us to enjoy intimacy with God by enabling us to experience the deep things of God's heart. Let's read the verses here in 1 Corinthians 2:9-12: "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. But God has revealed them to us through His Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."

Holy Spirit is described as searching the deep things of God's heart, and the purpose on the Holy Spirit's mind is to communicate the deep things of God to the human spirit. That does not just happen in this age. That is going to happen forever and forever. Go ahead and continue reading. It says that the spirit discerns the deep things of God's heart, His emotions, God's mind, and God's power. The reason the Holy Spirit receives these from the Father is to communicate them to us that we might experience them. Now it is the will of God that we would experience what is on God's heart and mind, so that we can understand His power. When we experience this, it deeply impacts our human spirit. That is what God wants us to do—to know these things.

### **THE ESSENCE OF ETERNAL LIFE IS COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

Paragraph B. The very essence of eternal life is coming to the knowledge of God. In John 17:3, Jesus prayed, "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." That is the whole point of being saved in this age and the age to come, so that we can experience and can come into knowledge of God and of His Son Christ Jesus whom He has sent. This is an interesting thing that Jesus describes: the whole point of eternal life is so that the human spirit can come into contact with the knowledge of God because it is not just information. It is information, but it is more than information. It is information that has power on it. It is information that has divine substance. It is like divine light enters into our mind, and it invigorates our spirit.

Again, it happens in this age and the age to come. The whole purpose of eternal life is for you and me to experience the knowledge of God—to know God. It is not like we just know Him once, and we are saved in that sense. In this age as well as the age to come, we will receive continual downloads of information from God's heart. There will be like fresh wind currents that are fresh impartations of God to the human spirit. A billion years from now, you will still be receiving fresh impartations of the knowledge of God. The light of God's face will shine on your spirit yet another time, and it will strengthen and invigorate your spirit with might. It will leave your mind with new information, but it will put strength in your spirit. Now, that is what is going to happen forever and forever. God's method of renewing and strengthening us in eternity is the same method He has for renewing and strengthening us even in this age. His desire is to reveal the knowledge of God to our spirits.

## **ETERNAL LIFE IS TO BE ENRAPTURED IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

That is the point that I want us to get tonight: the subject of the beauty of Jesus that we will develop over the weeks and months ahead by the will of God is the subject of the knowledge of God. This is most important in the Word of God. It is probably the most neglected subject in the Word of God—the subject of God Himself. In the Body of Christ, it is good that we are interested in ministry skills and relationship skills about how to build the Church in strategic outreach and all kinds of information because it is in the Bible; however, the most neglected subject in the Body of Christ today is the subject of God Himself. When we receive information from the Bible, I am just talking about plain Bible information about the knowledge of God, and the Holy Spirit breathes on it, it releases strength and might on the inside of us.

Now in Genesis 1, I have repeated this many times (so for those of you who are new here, you will hear this many times): God's methodology of releasing power is seen in Genesis 1:1-2 when the Holy Spirit is brooding over the face of the earth. He is hovering. One translation says brooding, and another says hovering. The Holy Spirit is on the surface of the earth hovering or brooding over it, and when Jesus spoke the Word of God, the Spirit released power. The Spirit did not release power until Jesus spoke the Word of God. So the Spirit is pictured in Genesis 1 as waiting, filled with power, and has all the authority of God to move. However, the Holy Spirit is waiting until the Word of God is in place and until the Word of God is spoken. That is one reason why Jesus is called the Word of God. There are a number of reasons, but He was the vehicle, under the Father's authority, who spoke the word that brought creation into being. There is a partnership in God that when God's word is declared, when God's heart is made known, then the Spirit moves in with power, and this manifests the knowledge of God. The Spirit was hovering for some time, but it was not until the word was spoken that the Spirit moved in power.

The same principle is true in our individual lives. The Spirit of God is hovering or brooding over the Body of Christ. Now the Spirit lives in us as well; but the Spirit, and I am just using this analogy of Genesis 1, is active, ready, and even fully willing to move in power. He is not going to release His power until the Word of God is spoken, and until the Word of God is in place. In this instance, it is when the Word of God enters into the human heart, and then the Spirit who is moving over us moves in power. As long as we do not put the Word in our heart, there is a significant amount of the Spirit's power that will be withheld. This will restrain His power.

One of the main principles that you find in the Old and New Testament is that the Spirit releases power when the Word is in its right place. Now in Genesis 1, it is when Jesus speaks the word; but in our situation today, it is when the knowledge of God enters our mind and when we study it. It is when we take the Word of God, and we search it out. I do not just mean the knowledge of what God did, but the knowledge of His own character, what He is thinking, and what His heart is like. When that information enters our mind, we have a devotional heart, we have a heart of love, and a heart of obedience toward the Lord—that is the context in which the Spirit moves on the inside and releases power and might inside of us.

Now the reason it is important to know that is because many of God's people want more power on the inside. They want the release of the power of God, and they are wondering why it is not happening? One of the reasons why it is not happening is because God releases power where His Word is spoken. That is the rule of His kingdom. So you and I, what we want to do is understand that God wants to reveal the deep things of His heart. He wants to reveal these things to us. He wants us to experience them and to know them. To know in the Bible means to experience. As we fill ourselves with the Word of God, that is the vehicle God uses to release strength

on the inside of us. It is not just the Word of God; it is the revelation of what God is like—specifically, the knowledge of God Himself.

Now that is the whole point of eternal life: the Word of God will touch our spirit, and then the Spirit of God will move and give us a new impartation of strength and power a million times. This will keep happening, even in the resurrection. We will be renewed, even in our resurrection body, by the knowledge of God. It is not just something that is limited to this age. It is the way that God will run His kingdom forever and forever. He is not going to start running His kingdom after the second coming that way; He is running His kingdom that way right now. It is an eternal principle. So the question that needs to be asked is, “Why do God’s people not fill their heart with the Word of God because that is the way in which the Spirit, who is brooding and hovering, releases power and might inside the human spirit?”

### **OUR DESTINY IN CHRIST IS TO EXPERIENCE THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD**

Paragraph C. Our inheritance and destiny in Christ is to go far beyond, superficial, Christian religion. Obviously, we know that, but it is not enough to know it on a piece of paper. This needs to become a living part of our life vision. My life vision before God is that I want to experience the deep things of God’s heart. The Spirit has searched the deep things of God. The Spirit has been given permission to release things to any of us, if we get a vision to go after them.

I do not just want to have a growing ministry, even just an anointed ministry, though those are things that we all believe for. In all of our lives, we want to keep growing in anointing and impact, but I want more than that. I want to experience my inheritance in this age, not just in the age to come. I want to experience the knowledge of God inside of me—the deep things of God—because that is within my grasp in this age. The knowledge of God is the vehicle that God has chosen to release power on the inside of me and in the inside of you.

You can go to prayer lines, and I recommend people get prayer because there is a little bit of impartation; however, there is a little bit of renewing that happens when people pray for people, but there is nothing that can substitute the Word entering into your heart. There is nothing that can replace reading the Word, and the Spirit moving on the Word on the inside of you, which will release power. Nothing is more important than the Word of God relating to you specifically to the knowledge of God Himself. It is not just Bible facts, the book of Acts, and how the apostles did this or that. It is more than just the general knowledge of the Word; it is the knowledge of God’s personhood—what God is thinking and what God’s emotions and heart are like.

It is that information that the Spirit moves on and uses to change us on the inside—the very thing that the Body of Christ mostly neglects. It is our greatest inheritance, and it is the way that we will relate to God now, but it is the same way that we will relate to God a million years from now. It is not going to change. It is our inheritance now and then.

### **INTIMACY WITH GOD’S HEART ENERGIZES OUR HEART WITH GOD’S POWER**

Let’s read Ephesians 3:16-19: “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Here is what Paul prays; Paul prays along these lines that God would “grant you to be

strengthened with divine might.” What an amazing statement. Paul says, “I am asking God to strengthen you with might through His Spirit that would touch your inner man.”

Here is the point: “that the Spirit would touch your inner man that you would be able to comprehend or experience the width, the length, the depth, the height, to experience the affections of God.” Now it takes the Spirit to know these things supernaturally. Meaning, we can fill our minds with these things, and we have to do our part. We have to fill our mind with the revelation of God’s affections, God’s love. What Paul understood is that it is more than our just putting it in our mind because he said that these are things that even pass human understanding. Without the aid of the Holy Spirit, if we only put it in our mind, and we do not have the Holy Spirit, then it would not be translated into strength on the inside. The information itself is not enough; however, the Spirit will not release power, if we do not put the information in our mind. So there is a divine cooperation going on here. The Holy Spirit will do His part. The Spirit will release might on the inside, and this might comes so that we can experience and know the affections of Jesus.

### **THERE IS NOTHING MORE POWERFUL THAN FEELING LOVED BY GOD**

Look at Ephesians 3:19: “to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Beloved, the greatest need we have in this room, all of us, is for us to know the love of Christ—not just to know it intellectually, but to feel it, to experience it, to be overcome, to have a wave of God’s glory touch our inner man with strength and might that we feel loved. There is nothing more powerful than feeling loved in the presence of God.

When we feel loved, when we experience His love, when we comprehend this affection, it makes our spirit mighty. It makes our spirit courageous, and without feeling this love, our spirit wilts before the pressures of the enemy. We cave in, and we just yield. It is like a flower wilting under a scorching sun. The human spirit does not have power in itself to withstand very much pressure. When we feel loved, it creates might in our spirit, and this is what God wants to do. He wants to give us might in our spirit related to the subject of what God’s heart is like, the subject of God’s love, the subject of God’s affection, but God will not do this if we do not fill our mind with it. If we fill our mind with it, we still need the Spirit to move in power on us.

There are plenty of scholars in Christian work, but they are not all Christians. Some of the big seminaries across the world have great scholars, and they know the Bible, but they do not have relationship with the Holy Spirit. Information by itself does not strengthen their spirit. It does not give them might. There are people who really want the power of God. They really love God, but they do not fill their mind with the knowledge of God. Therefore, the might is not in their experience. It takes the combination of the two. We have to fill our mind with the Word of God because it is when the Word of God is in its proper place, in this case it is in the human heart, as I am applying it in an individual way right now, that is when the Spirit can then move in power.

### **THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD BRING STRENGTH TO OUR INNER MAN**

Again, hopefully this is not that important to you. This point here is the danger that comes when one is a student of the Scripture but without a heart of devotion toward the Lord. Hopefully, that does not apply to anyone here. Knowledge by itself is not enough because it takes the Holy Spirit moving on it. It is the two of them coming in combination, and the result of it is that it brings strength and might in our inner man. Beloved, we need strength to stand before discouraging experiences, when people attack us, when people accuse us, when we face temptations, sin, and setbacks. We need our spirit to have might in it. The way that we get that might is by the knowledge of God, and the knowledge of God in combination with the Spirit of God breathing upon us. Again,

the Word of God comes in us. The Word of God is described as the light of God's countenance. The Spirit of God is like the light of God's countenance. He shines His light, and it is a fresh impartation of light that touches our spirit in strength. And the Lord wants to do this over and over in this age and the age to come.

We will be renewed a million times a million times when the knowledge of God hits our heart, when there is an "I love You" mixed with that knowledge, and then the Spirit moves in power. That is the combination that the Word of God describes is necessary for us to operate in power on the inside.

The Body of Christ in the Western world is so devoid of inward power. There are more big churches, big Bible schools, more Christian books, but there is less power than anytime in history right now in the internal life of the Body of Christ. It is not just Christian information; it is the subject of God Himself. Is it not interesting that the most powerful force in the earth is when God the Spirit joins together with the knowledge of God in the human heart? That is the place of power: when God the Spirit is joined together in the human heart where the knowledge of God fills the mind and the understanding. So what are we going to do? We are going to fill our heart with the knowledge of God.

### **GOD REVEALS GOD TO THE HUMAN SPIRIT TO AWAKEN LOVE IN US**

Paragraph D. Jesus prayed, in John 17:26, before He went to the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father, I will declare it"—now the "it" was the Father's name and character—it is as if Jesus said, "I am going to tell them what You are like so that the love with which You have love me may be awakened in them, or imparted to them." This is a very specific, strategic and important piece of information in the Bible. Jesus is saying, "Father, I am going to tell them what You are like, and when I tell them what You are like, love inside of them is going to be supernaturally awakened."

How is love awakened in the human spirit? Love is awakened in your heart and is imparted when God reveals God to your human spirit. Jesus reveals God to us right now because He knew He was going to go to the cross and be raised from the dead. It is as if Jesus says, "In the future, after I go to the cross, I am going to continue to declare Your name to their spirit, and when I declare Your name to their spirit, the love that You have for Me, Father, the love that You feel for Me is going to be awakened inside of them. They are going to love Me like You love Me."

Now, beloved, can you imagine the implications of you and me loving Jesus in the way that the Father loves Jesus? That is beyond our imagination—the fullness of what that means—and that is not my point to talk about how big and vast this subject is. My point is to say that the methodology that God uses to awaken this quality of love in the human spirit is by revealing Himself. Jesus reveals the Father, the knowledge of God, to awaken supernatural power and love in our human spirit. Now how is Jesus going to declare to you and me what the Father is like? He is going to do it in several ways.

### **STUDYING THE WORD**

Number one is in your personal study time. When you are studying the knowledge of God through the Word of God, you are under the grace of Jesus—the grace of God, which is salvation. Jesus through the Word is revealing God the Father in that way. The Holy Spirit will move through that, but you have to condition yourself to receive this. In other words, you have to be in a place where you are feeding your spirit on the knowledge of God and not just Christian books. I like Christian books. I read them all the time, but it is more than Christian books. It is more than just ministry skills. It is more than just promises of how to get more money, more

anointing, more this, or more that. It is the subject about God Himself. It is filling our hearts with what the Bible calls the knowledge of God—His very heart, mind, what He is like, and what His emotions are.

### **READING AND LISTENING TO TEACHING ABOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

Now, another way that Jesus reveals and declares the Father’s heart to us is through preaching, hearing others, singing, or reading books about the knowledge of God. Here is the point that I want to make: when God wants to awaken love in the human spirit, the way that He has chosen to do it is by releasing the character, the knowledge of God, and the revelation of it to our spirit. So what is it that we want to study? We want to fill our mind with this subject of all the subjects in the Word of God. I have studied many of them over the years, and I love to study the books of the Bible. I love to study the Old Testament books and the New Testament books. I have studied many of them over the years, but there is no subject more important in my thinking than the subject of God Himself.

### **IT TAKES GOD’S POWER TO LOVE GOD**

I know that when I fill myself with the knowledge of God, and when I study the character of the knowledge of God, Jesus has promised to breathe on my spirit by the Holy Spirit and awaken love in me back to Him. So a person says, “Well, I want to grow in passion for Jesus. I want to grow in deep love. I want to feel God. I want power in my inner man. What do it do?”

One of the things—there are several things that I would tell them—but the most important thing is the thing that is most neglected. Even most of you in this room who are normal, radical Christians have not spent much time studying the subject of the heart of God itself in a specific way. Jesus said that if we did this, He would declare it, and begin to speak to our heart. This is the very agency and the very methodology that He would use to awaken love within us. This is what He would use (Ephesians 3) to release might in our spirit.

Paragraph E. It takes God’s power to love God. We are not going to love Jesus in the way that the Father loves Jesus by just gritting our teeth. It is going to take God’s power, but God wants to give us that power. He is only going to give it in the fullness of what He has ordained as we fill our mind and heart with the knowledge of God.

### **MOSES CRIED OUT TO SEE GOD’S GLORY**

Paragraph F. Moses cried out to see God’s glory. He wanted to see the deep things of God’s heart. We read in Exodus 33:18-19: “Moses said: ‘Please, show me Your glory.’ Then He said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you.’” Moses is basically saying, “God, I want to see the deep things of Your heart. I want to see Your glory.” It is a very common prayer.

But the Lord answered Moses in Exodus 33:19. In essence, He said, “OK, Moses, I am going to let you see My glory. I am going to make all My goodness pass before you, and here is what I am going to do. I am going to proclaim the name of the Lord to you.” Moses said, “Give me Your glory,” and Moses was probably surprised by God’s answer.

It is as if God answers, “I will. I will show you My glory. I am going to preach My name to you. I am going to tell you about the knowledge of God, Moses.”

Moses responds, “No, give me Your glory.”

God answers, “Yes, I am going to preach, I am going to proclaim My name to your heart.” If you want to see God’s glory, I can guarantee you what He will say: He is going to speak about His character to your heart, and I do not just mean just that God is for righteousness and against sin. I do not mean just in that sense, but the whole gamut, the whole array of the beauty of Jesus, His emotions, what is in His mind, etc. It is that subject that God is going to speak to our human spirit about to reveal His glory to us. Again, this is the very subject that is most neglected in the Body of Christ today.

Look at the next passage. It is just a couple verses later when God actually fulfills what He told Moses. In Exodus 33:18-19, Moses said, “Show me Your glory,” and God responds, “OK, I will. I will preach My name to you. I will proclaim My name to you. I will proclaim the knowledge of God to you.”

Then, a couple verses later, in Exodus 34:6, it says that the Lord passed before Moses, and He preached His name to him. God is preaching His own name to him, and He reveals His emotional makeup to Moses. The significant part about this verse is that when God wants to reveal His glory to you, He is going to preach His name and reveal His emotions to you. And that is actually going to be the vehicle, the conduit, through which His glory is going to touch your inner man.

### **THE PLEASURE OF EXPERIENCING THE GLORY OF GOD**

So when I want to experience the glory of God, I want to hear Jesus preach Jesus to me, or Jesus is preach about the Father. I know that when Jesus is going to declare the Father to my heart, He is going to tell me what the heart of the Father is like, and it is going to awaken me in love. Now this information is not neutral. When this information hits you, and you have a heart of obedience, beloved, it is going to release power on the inside of you. Now you will notice here in Exodus 34:6: “The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy to thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.’”

The Lord passed before Moses and proclaimed His own name. It is God preaching God to Moses. This is the very idea that Jesus quoted. We just looked at it a minute ago in John 17:26, Jesus said, “I am going to declare God to you and awaken love in you,” He was quoting the very experience that Moses had. When God reveals God to the human spirit, it releases power on the inside of us.

So what do you need in your life? What do I need? We need the power of God on the inside. What did God say about releasing power? It is as if Jesus said, “When the knowledge of God touches your spirit, the Spirit of God will brood and hover and release power wherever the Word of God about God is in the human spirit.” So why would we not fill our life with this information? Why is it that we are too busy to fill our life with this? This is the very thing that God said would be the vehicle through which we would release His power inside of us.

### **THE BIG PICTURE**

Roman numeral II. Ephesians 4:11-13: “He”—that is Jesus—“gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and some teachers, for the equipping of the saints . . . for the edifying of the body of Christ, will we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of His Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” And the reason Jesus gave this five-fold ministry—it is often referred to as the five-fold ministry because there are five ministries here—the reason Jesus gave these to the Church was to “equip the saints and to edify the Body of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-12). OK, we all understand that.

Now, He is going to do this until something happens. He is going to release the five-fold ministry to equip us and build up the Church until the whole Body of Christ comes, number one, into the unity of the faith; number two, to the knowledge of the Son of God; number three, to maturity, which is what the last phrase means.

### **APOSTLES AND PROPHETS WILL EQUIP THE CHURCH**

Paragraph A. Apostles and prophets are going to equip the Church until three things happen in the Church. As long as these three things have not happened in fullness, apostles and prophets are still going to be functioning.

Somebody asked, “Are apostles and prophets still in the Church today?”

I said, “Absolutely, yes. They are pretty weak. They are not very powerful right now. However, their callings are here.”

They asked, “How do we know?”

I answered, “Well, in many ways, apostles and prophets are going to function until the whole Body of Christ is brought to unity. Is the whole Body of Christ brought to unity? No. Then apostles and prophets are still functioning until that time. The unity of the whole Body of Christ will happen at the second coming, by the way.”

My point is not that. My point is not the fact apostles and prophets are still functioning. That is just a little sub-point. My point is this: when the apostolic and prophetic anointing is at its highest level, it is going to bring the Church to unity. That is a great point, but I am not going to develop that. It is going to bring the Church to the knowledge of the Son of God. This is an interesting thing.

### **KNOWLEDGE OF GOD LEADS TO INTIMACY WITH GOD**

Paragraph B. The knowledge of the Son of God is what these apostles and prophets are going to impart to the Church. This is not talking about the introductory knowledge of Jesus that we receive at salvation. You and I have the knowledge of Jesus when we are born-again. The church of Ephesus was already born-again. Paul was not saying that apostles and prophets are going to function until the Church is born-again. He is saying that apostles and prophets are going to function until the Church is overwhelmed and completely inundated with the knowledge of God, until the knowledge of God enters into the heart and mind of His people to where they are filled with intimacy with God. That is what Paul is talking about.

If you are called to have a prophetic ministry or an apostolic ministry, and I have no doubt that there are some in this room who are called to that or both of those, or an evangelist, pastor, or teacher—the other ones as well. Here is the point I want to make: the main job assignment you have in the Bible is to bring the Church to unity, that is one thing; but secondly, to bring the Church to the knowledge of the Son of God.

So the end-time apostles, one of their primary jobs is to reveal the knowledge of God to the Church. It is not just that the Church will be born-again. They are already born-again, which is why they are the Church. The end-time prophets are not just going to talk to the Church about foretelling the future. They will do some of that. The end-time prophets will not just reveal what the angels are like. They might do a little of that here and there, but the end-time prophets’ main mandate is to bring the Church to the knowledge of God.

**WE HAVE TO KNOW GOD BEFORE WE CAN BRING THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD TO OTHERS**

So, if you are called to ministry in one of these five-fold offices: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher, then I can assure you what the Holy Spirit wants to feed you on what you will feed others on. God is going to use you to feed others on the subject of the knowledge of God. If He is going to use you to bring the knowledge of God to others, guess what He needs to feed you on ahead of time? How can you and I bring the knowledge of God to others except we experience it in our private lives?

Some folks have this idea, and it could be true, that they have an apostolic-prophetic ministry, and I have heard this for many years. People say, “I am called to the prophetic. I am called to the apostolic, or I am called to any of the other ministries.” I appreciate that. So my question then is, “What are you doing about it?”

They ask, “Well, what do you mean?”

I answer, “If you are called to be an apostle, what are you doing now?”

They might answer, “I do not know, just kind of hanging in there waiting for an angel to come and visit me so that I can start being an apostle, I guess. I do not know.”

**TRUE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY WILL BRING PEOPLE TO THE BEAUTY OF JESUS**

Beloved, if you are called to be an apostle in the generation that the Lord returns, I can assure you what your job assignment is. It is to bring the end-time Church to an intimate knowledge of Jesus because that is the function of the apostles, and they will function that way until the Church enters into that great experience, not experience because it is more than an experience, it is a great reality of the knowledge of God. This reality of the knowledge of God is what you need to be focused in your personal life because this is what God is going to anoint you to bring to others, but He is not going to anoint you to bring to others that which you do not have yourself.

Here in Ephesians 4, this describes the Church as it relates to the second coming of Christ. Let’s go back to the Ephesians 4:11-13 passage. Look at this for a minute. It says these ministries are going to function “till” (Eph. 4:13). Look at the word till until all: all the whole Body of Christ is unified. Beloved, that is going to be a radical reality. There are thousands of divisions in the Body of Christ worldwide. There are thousands of schisms. I am not worried about it because before it is over, by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the great end-time revival, the crisis of the Great Tribulation, plus the falling away, unity will come.

There is going to be a great falling away of people who will deny their faith. There will be millions and millions who do this under pressure. Now, millions and millions will not, but millions will. Between the outpouring of revival, the Great Tribulation crisis, the falling away, and the great ingathering of radical believers in the harvest, before it is over, these apostles and prophets are going to bring the entire Body of Christ in the whole earth to unity. Now, that does not seem practical. It does not seem like reality, but it is going to be true because of the coming influx of power and the coming trouble. Things are going to change so radically that all the whole Body of Christ will be unified. So you know something radical is around the corner. Again, my point is not that we will all be unified, as glorious as it is, that is not my point tonight. The whole Body of Christ is going to have the knowledge of God in their mind, and in their spirit. It is not even just that. The whole Body of Christ is going to be a perfect man. The whole Church worldwide is going to be mature. Can you imagine the whole Body of Christ in this city, the city you came from, in this nation, or in the whole world maturing to the measure of the maturity of Jesus in His earthly ministry?

## **WALKING IN THE MATURITY OF JESUS' EARTHLY MINISTRY**

Do you know what it means to be mature to the measure of the stature of Jesus? That means the end-time Church will function like the Man Jesus did when He was thirty years old, thirty-three years old; when Jesus was walking the earth in full mature ministry. The end-time Church will have this level of spiritual maturity, and will operate in power, obedience, and purity. Nothing is exactly like Jesus, but we will be parallel to Jesus. At least, I will say parallel. Obviously, Jesus is in a category of His own.

There is a work of God that is coming that is so radical, so extreme that the whole Body of Christ is going to be walking in this; however, the point I really want to look at is the subject of the knowledge of God. At the very centerpiece of God's end-time purpose is this subject of filling the Church with the knowledge of God. Do you get a sense of how strategic, and how vital this subject is to God's plan? It is not a secondary thing. It is not, "Well, I am just going to kind of live my Christian life, and hopefully I will get anointed, have a big ministry, and make an impact."

It is very different than that. We need to be, right now, cultivating the knowledge of God in our spirits because this is what the Spirit is looking for in order to release it through you to others. It did not say that the apostles, prophets, and pastors would function until we all learn to have church-growth ministries. What the Western church is focused on right now; it is almost exactly opposite of what God is focused on for the end-time Church. Again, the subject of God is almost the most neglected subject in the whole Body of Christ today in the Western church.

## **PAUL PREACHED THE BEAUTY AND RICHES OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS**

Paragraph C. Paul said in Ephesians 3:8: "This grace"—you can put the word anointing—"was given"—of the Spirit was given to me—"that I would preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." Paul said, "I was anointed to preach the glory, and the beauty of one Man." God is raising up right now singers, musicians, preachers, and writers. Some of you will be writers. You will not be preaching on a platform. Some of you will disciple others one on one. Here is what He is after: Jesus wants to give you grace or the anointing that you could preach the knowledge of the unsearchable beauty of the Man Christ Jesus. So my question is: is that what you are studying? Is that what you are filling your spirit with right now?

The great apostle Paul told us, "That is what I gave myself to. When I preached, there were times that I had to discuss the issues of the church and different practical things like that, but when I was at my best, I was making known the beauty of the Man Christ Jesus to the human spirit." Paul was functioning 2,000 years ago in the way that apostles will function in the generation that the Lord returns. He was filling the Church with the knowledge of God. He was not just preaching the riches of Jesus to unbelievers. He was preaching the riches of Jesus to the Church, so they would be awestruck and fascinated with the Man Christ Jesus.

Remember: this information hits our spirit, when the Word of God about God touches our spirit, the Holy Spirit is brooding and hovering over the earth and waiting for the Word to find its place in us. Then the Holy Spirit will move in power, and there will be strength and might in our inner man. Again, as I said earlier, it is not enough just to study it without an encounter in the Holy Spirit. Some of the great scholars of history have studied it, but their spirits were dead. Neither is it good enough to trust the Holy Spirit, love God, and to have a lively spirit, we have to fill ourselves with the knowledge so the Spirit can move on it when it touches us.

It is like how God provides the rain and the sunshine, but the farmer has to put the seed in the ground. The farmer could go there all day long and with a 1,000-acre farm and say, “Lord, send the rain and the sun.” The Lord says, “That is great, but if there is no seed in the ground, you are not going to get a harvest.” Our job as humans is to put the seed in the ground. The Word of God is often called *the seed*. We have to seed our hearts with the Word of God. Jesus said, “I am going to declare the Father to you so that love will be awakened in you.” Jesus is saying, “I am going to seed your heart with the knowledge of God so that the Holy Spirit will move on you and awaken love inside of you.” Jesus wants to *seed* us. As we read the Word, He will be leading us and guiding us. Beloved, we have to put the Word in us; Jesus will speak to our hearts as we put the Word in our hearts. It takes time to do this.

### **WE NEED 10,000 MESSENGERS TO UNFOLD THE RICHES OF JESUS**

Paragraph D. What we need today are 10,000 preachers who have the anointing of Ephesians 3:8 to preach the riches of Jesus. The church in America needs singers, preachers, and writers who talk about the unsearchable riches of the Man Christ Jesus. This is the great need of the hour right now. We do need miracles. We need power. We need all kinds of things, but more than anything, we need the revelation of the knowledge of God being communicated through song, proclamation, writing, and one-on-one discipling. This is what the Holy Spirit wants to anoint in the generation that the Lord returns. You do not have to be a singer or a musician. You do not have to be a preacher or a writer. The Lord may call your main ministry to be one-on-one discipleship; but beloved, whatever sphere He has called you to, you are going to be one who is proclaiming not just Bible information. You are going to be explaining the splendor of a Man because you have experienced it, because you have searched it out, and because you live there in your private life.

### **SPIRITUAL WARFARE CENTERS AROUND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

Paragraph E. The central issue in spiritual warfare is around the subject of the knowledge of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4-6: “...whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake. 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 of Jesus Christ.”

Satan blinds our minds so we cannot receive the knowledge of God. Satan wants to blind our minds on this subject more than any other subject. There are negative, spiritual strongholds in our lives—believers and unbelievers alike—because they lack the knowledge of God. That is what the Scriptures say.

### **THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD BREAKS SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS**

Negative strongholds bind us: some are bound to lust, some are bound to fear, some are bound to guilt, shame, greed, or all kinds of things. There are the kinds of things that bind the human heart, and most people have a couple—a combination of those things. The Scripture makes it clear that it is the knowledge of God that enters the heart that breaks spiritual strongholds. This is what Satan does not want to enter into the human heart and into the Body of Christ—the knowledge of God—because this is what he is blinding us from, because this is what breaks spiritual strongholds.

Peter said in 2 Peter 3:18: “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” It is as if Peter is saying, “Here is what I want you to do—grow in the knowledge of God. Grow in grace, but grow in the knowledge of God.” In his final statement of 1 and 2 Peter, this is the last sentence of the apostle Peter’s last

book. It is as if Peter says, “Let me sum it up and say this. Grow in the knowledge of God, and you are going to be fine.”

Again, this is the very thing that the Church has not focused on. Peter said it earlier in the book. He said in 2 Peter 1:2-3: “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things which pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory.” It is when the knowledge of God enters our spirit, when we seed ourselves with the Word of God about God, when the knowledge of God enters into our heart—that is where there power of God is released through the knowledge of God. This is a very important point.

### **WE NEED A REVELATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD TO WALK IN OUR CALLING**

Paragraph F. Now this is the most prayed prayer at IHOP–KC, which I love. Paul prayed this prayer for the church in Ephesus. He said in Ephesians 1:17-19: “...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.”

We often pray, “God, I ask that You would fill them with the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God,” because when we get filled with the revelation of the knowledge of God, all the things of this passage begin to operate in our lives. I do not want to go through the details of all that, but I want to point out this: Paul understood that when the Church grew in the knowledge of God, the Church would experience the rest of this passage. The Church would experience what their divine destiny would be. They would understand and feel what it would mean to be Jesus’ divine inheritance and operate in the power of God, but it would only happen to the degree that the revelation of the knowledge of God touched their spirit.

### **MY JOURNEY INTO THE KNOWING OF GOD: PROVERBS 2**

Roman numeral III. I will give you just a really short story of my own journey into the knowledge of God. It is a very abbreviated story because it has been a lifelong journey. I am fifty years old now. I was about seventeen years old. I was in a discipleship program, and my leaders told me that I could not be a mature Christian if I did not grow in the knowledge of God.

My leaders stood up and held up a book by A. W. Tozer, which is one of the books we have sold most over all the years of IHOP-KC and even during the years before that in the ministry here in this city. It is a little book of about 100 pages or less called *The Knowledge of the Holy*. My leaders stood up and said, “If you do not know the knowledge of God, you will never grow and mature in God.”

I did not even know what he was talking about—just like some of you now are looking at me and saying, “That sounds right. I do not know quite what it means, but it sounds right.” I said, “OK,” and I went out and got this book called *The Knowledge of the Holy* by A. W. Tozer.” I had never heard of A. W. Tozer, but now I know that he was one of the most powerful writers in the last generation. He died in the 1960s. Through 1930–1960, he was a very powerful preacher on the subject of the knowledge of God. His most well-known book, he has about thirty, is this subject called *The Knowledge of the Holy* on the knowledge of God. I went and got that book at age seventeen or eighteen. I could not make sense of it at all. I read it and thought: “What on earth is he talking about—His attributes and transcendence?” I did not understand anything he was talking about, but it plagued me

because my leaders told me that if I did not grow in this, that I would never grow spiritually. So I thought, “Well, I guess they know what they are talking about. I hope they do because I am going to read this book.”

Then I went a couple hours down the road to the University of Missouri. I went to college there at the big state university, and I started a Bible study. I went out and got permission to use one of the rooms on campus. I made a little flyer that said: Tuesday night Bible study, 9pm. I told them where it was going to be. I made a little handout and passed them out. I had about thirty people show up—well I passed out thousands of them. I started my own little Bible study there. I did that for over a year. We ended up with about one hundred or so students coming to it on a regular basis. I taught every Tuesday night, but I was more confused than they were, to be honest. I was up teaching at nineteen years old, and so what I taught them—you are not going to believe this—I taught them through the book of A. W. Tozer. So I studied it all week long and memorized the chapters, and then I got up in front of them—100 to 150 college students there—I would give them these passionate sermons on the knowledge of God.

Now, I did not even understand what I was saying. I just memorized it, and I do not think it was that good. I think most of them were there because they were flirting with each other, and they were dating. The Bible study was the best place for Christians to show up and meet. I figured that out later. I thought that I had an anointed ministry, but when I got older, I caught on. I thought, “Now, I know why they were all showing up. I had the Christian dating service. Gee wiz! I thought it was anointed, but it was not that at all.”

Somebody would ask me afterward, “Now, something you said at your Bible study tonight, what do you mean by this and that?” I did not have a clue how to answer him. I just memorized it. I said, “I do not know. Let me go study, and see if I can figure it out.”

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

Here is my point: I was in anguish over this subject of the knowledge of God. I bought into it, and that is the one point I want to leave with you here. I want you to buy into one fact: without this subject—this subject so vast and important to God’s end-time purpose and so important to God’s eternal kingdom—you cannot grow. That is the one point that got across to me when I was seventeen to eighteen years old.

So by the time I was nineteen years old, I had read several books on the knowledge of God, but I hardly understand any of them, to be honest. I talked about them all the time because I wanted to impress my leaders who were ten and fifteen years older than me, and I wanted them to know that I was taking their stuff seriously, so I did what they said. I remember how much confusion I had, because I could never figure out how to make this stuff work. I did not know how to grow in the knowledge of God. I said the words *knowledge of God* all the time, and I preached on these books to my Bible study on campus, but none of it was really connecting.

Now I understand, looking back, that it was a set-up because God wanted me to learn it. God was trying to get it to enter into my heart, not for me to necessarily make it known to other people at nineteen years old, because I was so confused. He was trying to get me connected to it. I read that book for many, many years, and I really recommend that book. It launched me into a whole series of other books on the subject of the knowledge of God. I became a fanatic on the subject on the knowledge of God. I could not get enough of it. I wanted to study everything I could possibly get on the subject. It was because my leaders set me on a right course, and that is what I want to do tonight—it is just that one key point.

I want to show you that this is not a secondary issue. This is the premier issue of the end-time Church: the knowledge of God—even if you cannot grasp it—it really is. So what happens is that we go on a college ski trip. Our whole Bible study goes on a ski trip. There were about fifty to one hundred of us who went to Colorado on the break. So I am there, and I am the leader of this ski trip; so one of the guys in the university comes up to me and says, “Hey, could you teach me how to have a quiet time—a personal prayer time—a personal devotional time with the Lord?”

I say, “Sure.” It was one morning before we went skiing, and I was just sitting there a little early reading my Bible. He says, “How do you do this? I have never had a quiet time—a personal devotional time, and I have seen you here the last couple mornings. How do you make this happen?”

I said, “Let me show you.”

### **PROVERBS 2:1-5**

Bill Gothard—some of you know his name. I studied a lot of his stuff way back when, as Bill Gothard had these big conferences. How many of you ever went to a Bill Gothard conference? Well a handful of you, and most of you are my age. Anyway, he was really famous way back when. Bill Gothard taught people. Bill Gothard said that there are thirty-one proverbs, so read one proverb a day. If it is the fifteenth day of the month, then read Proverbs 15. I did that for years because he said to do it, and it seemed like a good idea. I would recommend that. If you read a proverb a day, then you read the book of Proverbs once a month. Again, if you skip a day, do not go back and read the others. Just read whatever proverb is for that day.

So I tell this to this young guy. We are both about nineteen years old. I said, “Let’s turn to Proverbs 2.” So we turned to Proverbs 2. “Now,” I said, “Here is how it goes,” because it was January 2. I said, “It is January 2, so we will go to Proverbs 2. It says, ‘If you receive My words,’” and I remember I stopped, because I was teaching the guy as we went along.

I said, “Wow! ‘If!’ Now whenever there is an *if*, in a moment there is going to be a *then*.”

He said, “Wow! How did you know that?”

I answered, “Well, it is kind of pretty standard.” He was easily impressed. I said, “An *if* is a condition, and a *then* is a promise.”

He said, “I want to write that down,” but I said, “It is really pretty standard. An *if* is a condition and a *then* is a promise.” Proverbs 2:1-2: “My son, if you receive My words, and treasure My commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding...” I said, “Oh, that is kind of an implied second *if*—‘if you treasure My commands.’” We continued, “...if you incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding...”

Proverbs 2:3-5: “Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.” I said, “Oh, there is another *if*. This is going to be a pretty big promise coming up here. ‘If you lift your voice for understanding,’ Proverbs 2:4, ‘If you seek for her as silver, and search for her as hidden treasure...’” and I stopped right there.

I said, “This is going to be a major promise.” Now I have read Proverbs 2 many times, but it never connected with me. Proverbs 2:5. I said, “Then,” and I stopped. I remember I looked at him, showing off a little bit. I said, “I told you a *then* was coming any minute now.” I said, “So there are four or five *ifs* here. There are some that are implied as well; then there is a big promise. So let’s read the promise.”

“Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and you will find the knowledge of God,” and it hit me like a truck hit me. I said, “Oh my gosh!” This was the thing that I was in anguish about. I was reading all these books about it and preaching on it, but I was very confused. I was in anguish because it was boring, difficult, confusing, and I did not like it, but I bought into the fact that I needed it.

And I said, “Then you will find the knowledge of God,” and it hit me so hard that I just felt choked up. I excused myself and said, “I have to go,” because this was the most important subject in my life. I had said, “I do not know how to find the knowledge of God,” and I had been complaining for some weeks about it. I had said, “God, I am teaching these books on it. I do not know how to find the knowledge of God. If you could tell me how to find the knowledge of God, I would do it. I do not know where or how to make this work.”

So here I read this in Proverbs 2:5: “Then you will find the knowledge of God.” And I said, “Oh my goodness. Our lesson is over. Goodbye.” And I went into another room.

He saw me later and said, “Did I do something wrong? Why did you leave so abruptly?”

I said, “You have no idea how radically important that Bible study was for me.”

He responded, “Well, it was so short that it did not seem like it was that great.” I was only there three minutes with him.

I responded, “No, no, it was like unbelievable. This changed my life—this one thing there—this one passage.”

## **FIVE CONDITIONS FOR CULTIVATING THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

Roman numeral IV. Let’s look at these conditions really quickly. They are really quite obvious, so I do not need to go into great detail, but I have the notes here for you to go through more on your own. He said in Proverbs 2:1: “If you receive My words.” Beloved, there is no substitute for a heart of obedience. I talked earlier about the scholars who can study all the information, but may not have a heart of obedience. If you do not receive God’s words—note that receive them means you say yes to them—it does not mean to just nod your head in the sense of saying that they are true. To receive them means that you obey them, and you take them seriously in your life.

I have had many people try to even study the knowledge of God, but they do not do it with a heart of obedience. They have a couple areas of their life where they are still grieving the Holy Spirit. They are in a relationship, or they are doing things with alcohol, immorality, pornography, drugs, slander, with their words, or with their money, and here is the problem: the only way you and I can get the knowledge of God is if the Holy Spirit empowers us with it. If we are grieving the Spirit, then the Spirit will not give us the knowledge of God. I have seen people try this logic. They try to walk with God while they are grieving the Holy Spirit, and this is impossible. You cannot walk with God, grieve the Spirit, and get anywhere in walking with God.

### **CONDITION ONE: A COMMITMENT TO OBEY 100 PERCENT**

There is no way forward except that we decide we are going to obey 100 percent. It is absolutely the only way forward. The only person who has the knowledge of God to give to you is the Holy Spirit—the One brooding and hovering over the Church, to use that analogy. He is waiting for the Word of God to enter into our hearts, and He is waiting for the heart of obedience, and then He will release power and life, and touch our inner man with it.

### **CONDITION TWO: A LIFE OF MEDITATION ON THE WORD OF GOD**

Roman numeral VI. It goes onto say, “If you will treasure My commandments within you.” It is not enough to receive them—a heart of obedience. We have to spend time filling our mind with the Word of God. We cannot do this on the run. It is not like twenty minutes a day, we are just going to read the Bible a little bit on the run. Beloved, we have to treasure the command of God. We have to treasure it within us. I want to challenge you to treasure the Word; often in the Old Testament, the command of God is often synonymous with the Word of God. To treasure it means to meditate on it, to take time to grow in it, to turn away some of the entertainment, recreation, some of the social stuff, and begin to fill yourself with the Word of God because you treasure it. It is absolutely critical to do this. People sometimes come to me and ask me, “Hey, can I have an appointment then?”

I have done this for thirty years; I say, “No, I cannot make an appointment then because I already have an appointment then.”

They say, “OK, that is fine.” But my appointment is with Jesus. My appointment with Jesus is as real as my appointment with another person, because Jesus is a real Person.

People respond, “Well, just come once. Jesus will forgive you.”

And I say, “No, I want to know Him. I am going to keep my appointment with Him. It is a real appointment and not a maybe appointment. It is a real one, and I am going to keep it with Him. I am busy. I cannot meet. My schedule is full.” I schedule my appointments with Jesus, and it is something I have done for these many years. It is a really important priority, because I want to treasure the Word of God in my heart. I want to treasure His commandments.

### **CONDITION THREE: A TEACHABLE SPIRIT AND A HEART OPEN TO CORRECTION**

Roman numeral VII. Condition number three is found in Proverbs 2:2: “So that you incline your heart to wisdom.” To incline your heart is to have a teachable spirit instead of resisting. It is to have an open, humble heart. It is being teachable and openhearted. You can read a little more about that. It is not stubborn and resistant. It is inclined. Instead of a “no,” it has a “yes.” I have found that really zealous people for God often have a stubborn spirit. I have found many of them—not most of them, but I have met many who are zealous—who have an arrogant, stubborn spirit, which is an unyielding spirit. We have to open, incline, and apply our heart to the ways of God. The main ways of God are through humility.

### **CONDITION FOUR: PERSEVERING PRAYER FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

Roman numeral VIII. Condition four: we have to cry out and lift our voice for understanding. It is not enough just to study. It is not enough to have a heart of obedience. We actually have to ask Him for revelation. As simple as that is, many believers never ask for revelation.

Beloved, we need to pray the prayer of Ephesians 1:17. It has been one of my main prayers in the last thirty years because of this experience. It was not an awesome experience like an angel, or something visiting. It was just a Bible study, but it changed my life—that one little three minutes in Colorado on a ski trip. I decided that I was going to go after the knowledge of God according to these five conditions, and I was going to make it a point to cry out as close to daily as I could. I decided to ask, not just on the run, but actually take time to ask God for revelation.

### **CONDITION FIVE: EXTRAVAGANT SEARCHING FOR DIVINE TREASURES**

Roman numeral IX. Condition five is extravagant searching. Here is probably the most challenging one of all in Proverbs 2:4: “If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures.” Beloved, we need to search for the knowledge of God like it is hidden treasure. Now imagine somebody took a million-dollar check, and they said, “Here is what I am going to do. I am going to take this million-dollar check, put it in a little capsule, and I am going to put it somewhere in the foundation of this house. I am going to put it in one of the bricks, or somewhere in this house, and you can have that million dollars if you can find it.”

So you have the whole house, and you do not know where it is, so you would have to take it apart brick by brick, break each one, and tear all the boards off the wall. If you stayed with it, sooner or later, you would find that check, and it would be yours. Most people would remove every brick, and pull every panel and board off the wall until it was theirs, because it would really be theirs. But when it comes to God, people will maybe check a couple rooms, open a couple closet doors, and a couple places. They will look around and say, “Well, it did not work.”

They give up—they did not search for Him as hidden treasure. If it were real money, they would tear up the whole house, even if they had to be there five years taking every single board off that house. They would search if they really believed that it would be their own. However, for the most part, people do not search like this when it comes to God; they give up in three months. People in the world will go to school for eight or ten years in college and graduate school to get a Ph.D. and a double Ph.D. They do this so that they can excel in their occupation. They will spend ten years in college, or postgraduate work, and spend a couple hundred thousand dollars, so they can excel in their career. However, believers will not do that for God.

### **SEARCHING FOR GOD AS HIDDEN TREASURE**

Beloved, we need to search for her as hidden treasure. We need to search this thing out. We will not take no for an answer. I determined back then, “Lord, I do not care how long it takes—my whole life—I will be searching for this as for silver. I will turn down opportunities. I will say no to things that take my time in certain ways. I am going to pour hours and hours a day to be the best that I can,” and I have not always done that, but I have done it a lot over the years. I am glad that I have, when I look back thirty years later. I am really glad that I have done this as a life goal.

I am going to go after this thing as for hidden treasure. A lot of folks will read Proverbs 2, and they will read a little bit of it, but they will not take all five conditions literally. In Proverbs 25:2 “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings to search out a matter.” It is God’s glory to hide something, but it is the glory of the king to search it. It is a kingly spirit to go search out a matter. God says, “I am going to hide these things, but if you have a spirit of a king, then search them out. It is My glory to reveal them to you if you search for them.”

## **THE TWOFOLD DIVINE PROMISE**

Roman numeral X. The promise is in Proverbs 2:5: “Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and you will find the knowledge of God.”

## **MINISTRY TIME**

Amen, let’s stand. I want to call you to the subject of the knowledge of God. Again, tonight I was being very general about the knowledge of God. We are going to get into all kinds of details on what that is about—His emotions and His beauty. It is this idea that if you are nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, or it does not matter, you might be eighty, what I am aiming for are those people who are like I was when I was nineteen years old, and I decided that I was going to build my whole life around the pursuit of the knowledge of God.

I am going to invite those of you forward who are saying, “You know, I am going to go after this thing in a really aggressive way. I am willing to give ten, twenty years, or my whole life. I do not mean three months. I am willing to go after this for years to search this thing out.”

This is what the apostles and the end-time Church is all about. This is where God is going to bring the Church. I want you to come and stand if you are saying, “You know what? I am nineteen years old too just like you were, Mike. You know, I will do it faster than you did.” I would love to see you do that. Beloved, I want to call you to search for silver and for treasure. Go after it. Do not take no for an answer no matter what. It will cost you everything to go after this. Truly, it will cost you everything.

“Jesus, here we are. We want to go after this, Lord. This is my cry, Lord. I take my stand, Lord.” Let’s lift our voice to the Lord: “Jesus, I take my stand: this is my destiny. Lord, I want to be filled with the knowledge of God. I want to gaze on Your beauty. I belong to You, O God. Here I am, O Lord. I will search for You as treasure. I will seek for You as hidden gold. Release the knowledge of God to me Lord. Release the spirit of wisdom and revelation. Lord release revelation; release the spirit of revelation even now. We set our heart to seek You, Lord. If you seek for her as silver, if you will search for her as hidden treasure, then you will find, you will discover the knowledge of God. In the name of Jesus, we will search for You with all of our hearts. We set our heart, God. We will search You out. All of my days until I find You, my God. I will search for You. This is my cry, Lord; this is my confession. I will search for You, God. Deep calls unto deep, I want to know You God, the deep things of Your heart. I will cry for understanding. I will lift my voice for wisdom. I will search as for hidden treasure. I will discover the knowledge of God. This is my confession; this is my cry. This is my destiny.”

For the Lord will give you the knowledge of God. He will let hidden wisdom enter your heart. It will come to you. God says: “I will shine the light of My countenance upon you, My beloved. I will answer you. I will come near you. If you search with all of your heart, you will find Me in due season. I will show you My glory. I will show you My ways. I will come near you. I will visit you from on high. Wisdom will enter your heart. You will not be disappointed if you come with all of your heart. You will find Me.”

Release the spirit of wisdom; release revelation we ask. Break in, Lord, with power. Break in Lord; break in, Lord, with power. “You will find Me,” says the Lord, “I will come near you. It will cost you everything, you will not be disappointed.”