



CHRIST'S COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

Los Angeles

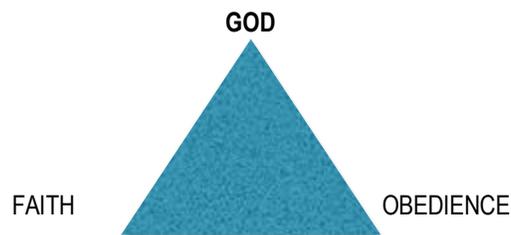
Dgroup Discussion Guide
August 10, 2014

Knowing our God

Word:

Genesis 22:1-3

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."² He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

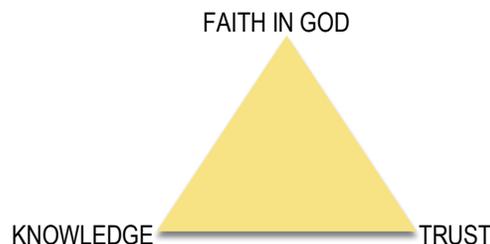


This is the triangle of God's blessings. We can only experience being in the center of His blessings when we are able to surrender our "Isaacs" (please see previous message) or until we are able to give up our idols, the things which hinder us from focusing on God and developing an intimate relationship with Him. Once we are able to surrender these things that preoccupy us then we can easily surrender to God in faith and in obedience every aspect of our lives.

Often times it is not a question of our willingness to surrender to God but rather in the actual doing that we falter. The mind is willing but the flesh is weak . . . as the old cliché goes. But should we just accept this and not do anything about it?

Thomas Kempis said *"Instant obedience is the only kind there is; delayed obedience is disobedience."* We come out with all rationalization and reasoning to delay obedience. . . but a delay in our obedience to God is also disobedience. This we should realize. Because when we delay our obedience to God's commands then we are positioning ourselves away from the blessings of God. It is no wonder that Abraham instantly obeyed God's command to surrender Isaac. But his instant obedience did not come overnight, Abraham had to go through a process of transformation until he reached this point in his walk with God. His faith was progressively being dealt with by God until Abraham trusted God completely. Likewise, all of us should imitate Abraham and grow in our faith and obedience to the Lord. Because when we have become transformed and when our faith has grown then we can easily obey God's command to surrender our Isaac.

Faith and Obedience go hand in hand. Without faith it will be difficult for us to obey. But in order for our faith to grow progressively we should know the basis of our faith. Without knowledge, we cannot trust. Without trust, we cannot have faith. Without faith, we cannot obey. If we do not obey, we cannot be blessed.



This is something we should remember:

1. Know God to trust and have faith in God
2. Faith in God to obey God
3. Obey God to love God
4. Love God is to be blessed by God
5. Blessed by God to bless others

PRINCIPLE: The blessed/ happy life starts with Knowing God.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 says ***“Thus says the Lord, ‘let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord’*** This is how God wants it, this is how it was ordained. . . that we have to understand and know Him because that is all that is of importance. The book of Daniel 11:32b adds ***“but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.”*** This should define us. When we know our God then we will have decisiveness and strength.

Many of us think we know God, but the truth is we do not. Because if we truly knew God then we would easily surrender our Isaac. If we knew our God, then we would trust in His plans for us. . . and this is reason enough to obey Him immediately. Our hesitation comes from our lack of understanding and knowledge of who God is and what His plans are for us.

We insist on clinging to our idols, to our gods. . . the things we think are important to us . . . the things we put before God. These idols preoccupy us, the direct our choices and take control of our lives. And all because we do not know God. We do not know Him enough to trust Him. Do not trust Him enough to grow in faith. Not enough faith to obey.

How then can we expect to be blessed?

What are the consequences of not knowing God:

1. We will have a wasted curse life.
2. There will be an absence of God's blessings.

J.I. packer wrote in his book KNOWING GOD ***“The world becomes a strange, mad, and painful place and life in it is a disappointing and unpleasant business for those who do not know about God. Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfold as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way you can waste your life and lose your soul.”***

In essence, if we believe that knowing God is irrelevant to our existence we are cursed. There are curses that will befall one who does not know God.

1. Psalm 115:4-8 says ***“their idols are silver and gold, the work of man's hands. They have mouths, but they cannot speak; they have eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but they cannot hear; they have noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but they cannot feel; they have feet, but they cannot walk; those who make them will become like them, everyone who trusts in them.”***
2. Psalm 53:1 ***“The fool has said in his heart, ‘there is no God’, they are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice; there is no one who does good.”***

When we let other gods take control of our lives then we become like them. We lose sight of what is real and what is important. . . and end up focusing on this world and all its false promises.

Wrong thinking equals wrong behavior . . . and this leads to a cursed life.

Francis Schaeffer said ***“As a man thinketh, so is he”*** Simply said whatever believe to be true, this makes us who we are. If we do believe in God, we will strive to please Him by obeying Him. . . then we will be who God wants us to be.

Right thinking equal right behavior . . . leading to a blessed life.

The blessings from God to those who know Him:

1. John 10:10-15 ***“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and my own knows Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”***

- Romans 8:28-30 ***“And we know that God causes all things to work together for the good to those who love God, to those who care called according to His purpose. For those whom he foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, he also justified; and these whom He justified, he also glorified.”***

The God who created the heavens and the earth and everything in it (Genesis), is the same God who made these promises. He is almighty, He is holy, He is omniscient, He is omnipotent, He is omnipresent, He is eternal, He is sovereign, He is faithful, He is immutable, He is merciful, He is gracious, He is good, He is eternal. . . and He loves us.

To truly come to knowledge of God, we should:

- Find information, revealed facts about God. Who He is, how He exists, what is He like.
- We have to intentionally and aggressively need to go beyond just the facts about God. We need to know Him personally and intimately.

How can God be known?

The Bible gives witness to two facts regarding the knowledge God. First, it teaches us that God is **incomprehensible**, and but then it also declares that God is **knowable**. Both are true, but not in an absolute sense. To say that God is incomprehensible simply means that finite man cannot know everything there is to know about God who is an infinite being. To say that God is knowable means that, though incomprehensible, God can be known and man can grow in the knowledge of God, at least in a limited sense and to the degree that is needed for man to trust God and have a personal and growing relationship with Him. God’s incomprehensibility is declared in passages like Job 11:7 and Isaiah 40:18.

But even if we cannot truly grasp or comprehend who God is, the bible tells us that He is knowable. John 14:7 says ***“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”*** (See also John 17:3 and 1 John 5:20)

We can know God through His word in the bible and through Jesus. . . and He wants us to know Him. The question then is: do we really and truly know God?

Works: Journaling task

- Knowledge of His book. Have I given time to read His word?
- Knowledge of God. How well do I know God? How can I say I know God? What do I know of God? Take time to fill in this table.

God’s characteristics	How have I experienced it in my life?
Example: God is merciful	He has forgiven me of my sins.
	** try to be specific so that you can fully appreciate His presence in your life

- Do I have a personal and intimate relationship with God? What are the proofs of this relationship?
- Have I surrendered my Isaac? My other gods?
My Isaac List -- How are they hindering my growing in my relationship with God

Eg. My husband – I focus too much on him and making him happy
My children – I am preoccupied on planning for their future