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Bible Study and Discussion Group
Topic: “Experiencing God”
Textbook: “Experiencing God (2021 Edition): Knowing and Doing the Will of God”
Handout #2

Chapter 1 – “Knowing God By Experience”

This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent – Jesus Christ. (John 17:3)

Intro. – “Experiencing God’s Protection”

- A. Blackaby’s story – “Knowing God as my Protector by experience...” – (Ps. 41:2; 121:7)
- B. Scripture is filled with descriptions of God’ character. You can read these accounts and believe them to be true about God. God does not want you to read about Him, He wants you to know Him.
 - a. Greek knowing
 - b. Hebrew knowing
- C. Jesus want us to have firsthand, experiential knowledge of God.
- D. “Merely know about God will leave you unsatisfied. Truly knowing God only comes through experience as He reveals Himself to you through His word and as you relate to Him.

I. Knowing God through His Names

- A. In biblical days, a Hebrew person’s name represented his character or described her nature. Peoples’ names gave insight into what they were like.
- B. Biblical names, titles, and descriptions of God identify how men and women personally came to know God.
- C. The Scripture is the record of God’s revelation of Himself to people.
- D. Each of the many names for God represents a different aspect of His nature.
 - 1. The Lord Will Provide (Jehovah Yirei)
 - 2. The Lord Is My Baner (Jehovah Nissi)
 - 3. I Am Who I Am (Yahweh)
 - 4. Other names...
 - a. The Lord my Healer – (Jehovah Rophi)
 - b. The Lord my Peace – (Jehovah Shalom)
 - c. The Lord my Shepherd – Jehovah Roi)

d. The Lord my Righteousness – (Jehovah
Tsidkeini)

II. A Relationship – Not Just a Name

- A. Whenever God reveals His nature in a new way, it is always for a purpose.
- B. He created you for a love relationship with Him.
- C. When He encounters you, He is allowing you to know Him by experience.
- D. Encounters with God are always an expression of God’s love for you.

Summary

Experiencing God Today

Questions for Reflection

Chapter 2 – “God Works According to His Nature”

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)

Intro. – “Loving and Trusting God No Matter What”

- A. Blackaby’s story – “His Daughter’s Cancer”...A father’s actions toward his children may seem confusing sometimes, but his love for them is constant and unchanging.
- B. Does God still love us when we go through devastating circumstances? Yes, God still loves us. Circumstances do not alter or change God’s love for us.
- C. “God created you for a love relationship with Him. He yearns for you to love Him and respond to His immeasurable love for you. God’s nature is perfect, holy, and total love. He will never relate to you in any other way although you may not always understand His actions...”
- D. “There are many things God does that we will never understand this side of heaven. But God does invite us to come to know His nature, the essence of who He is and what He is like. As you think about knowing and doing God’s will, you must first come to know who God is.”

God's Nature

I. God Is Love – His Will Is Always Best

A. "God is love." (1 John 4:16) – God's essential nature is love. God will never act contrary to His nature...God's kind of love always seeks His best for each person...God's discipline is based on love. (Heb. 12:5-11)...Your confidence in the love nature of God is crucial...

a. Blackaby, "I always view my circumstance against the backdrop of the cross, where God clearly demonstrated once and for all His deep love for me."

b. Blackaby, "I chose to base my trust in God on what I know – His love for me – and I choose to trust that in time He will help me understand the confusing circumstances I may be experiencing."

B. Trust Him!

a. Sayings demonstrating lack of trust...

b. When you trust that God always gives His best, you will devote your heart to whatever assignment God gives because you know in that role you can experience everything God has in His heart for you.

c. Never allow your heart to question God's love. Settle it on the front end of your quest to know Him and experience Him...

d. Every dealing He has with you is an expression of His love for you.

C. God's Commands Are for Your Own Good

a. God's commands are expressions of His love. (Deut. 10:12-13; 32:46-47)

b. The foundation for God's commands is His love relationship with you. (1 John 5:3)

c. God does not want you to miss out on His best, and He does not want your life to be destroyed through foolish choices.

d. Avoiding Land Mines

D. The Purpose of God's Commands

a. God wants you to live and abundant life. (John 10:10)

b. When God gives you a command, it is to protect you and lead you toward His blessings.

c. God's commands are designed to guide you to the best He has to offer.

d. You will struggle to obey God if you do not trust Him. You will not trust Him if you do not love Him. You will not love Him unless you know Him...But if you come to know Him as He reveals Himself to you, you will love Him, trust Him, and obey Him. (John 14:24)

- II. God Is all-knowing – His Directions Are Always Right
 - A. God is omniscient
 - B. As you seek to know and obey God’s will, you must wait to proceed until you clearly understand what God want you to do and how He wants you to do it.
 - C. Once you’ve heard God speak, you don’t need to continue waiting to seek other alternatives. You need to proceed with confidence based on what God said.
 - D. Trusting in God’s Direction (an example) – Whenever God directs you, you will never have to question His will. He knows what He is doing.

- III. God Is All-Powerful – He Can Enable You to Accomplish His Will
 - A. Our all-powerful God created the universe out of nothing...He can accomplish anything He purposes to do. (Isa. 46:10-11)
 - B. When your life is centered in God’s activity, He will arrange your thinking...As soon as you recognize that the job appears humanly unattainable, you need to be ready to believe God and to trust Him completely.
 - C. You must believe He will enable and equip you to do everything He asks you to do.
 - D. Either we believe God is all-powerful or we don’t. When you declare it’s impossible for you to do what God told you to do, you show your doubts about how powerful God really is. It is one thing to believe in God’s power, it is quit another to live your life in obedient response to an all-powerful God.**

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