

**Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-teacher
Bethel Baptist Church**

Bible Study and Discussion Group

Topic: “Experiencing God”

Textbook: “Experiencing God (2021 Edition): Knowing and Doing the Will of God”

Handout #9

“God Invites You To Join Him”

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself...and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ;

certain that God is appealing through us.”

(2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

Introduction

- Story – Invited to Africa
 - “Every invitation from God has limitless possibilities because of Him ‘who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think – according to the power that works in you.’ (Eph. 3:20)”
- God’s Invitations
 - The Bible reveals that God has always been involved in the world to reconcile people to Himself.
 - God is the center of all that takes place.
 - When we read how God accomplished His divine work in the world, we see that He always takes the initiative to involve His people in His work.
 - Whenever God was about to accomplish a new work, He invited people to join Him in His activity.
- God’s Timing
 - As God’s obedient child, remember you are in a love relationship with Him.
 - In His timing, He will show you where He is working so you can join Him.
 - Don’t be in a hurry to be constantly engaged in activities for God.
 - God may be preparing your character or developing your love relationship with Him before He gives you a large assignment.
 - Don’t get discouraged if the task or call doesn’t come immediately.
 - Remain faithful in what He has told you to do, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant it may appear.
 - God knows what He is doing.

- Keep your focus on deepening your communion with God, and out of that fellowship will inevitably flow effective service for God.
- In the process of knowing and doing the will of God, you may ask: “Why doesn’t God give me a big assignment?”
 - Be patient and learn to trust Him.
 - God will first build some basic foundations into your life before He gives you a larger role in service to Him.

I. The Next Level

- Key question: “Are you ready to go to the next level of faith in God?”
 - God knows the exact limits of your faith.
 - He knows what you can handle.
 - Our own hearts can deceive us (see Jer. 17:9). We can often have a higher estimate of our faithfulness and trust in God than we should.
 - God is never fooled. He always matches His assignments with our character and faith in Him.
- Don’t insist that God put you in a position you think you should have. Don’t strive to gain a position you think you deserve or can handle...Rather, trust God and obey wholeheartedly where He has put you, and watch to see where He leads you next.
- God is far more interested in accomplishing His kingdom purposes than you are. He will move you into every assignment He knows you are ready to take on.
 - Let God orient you to Himself.
 - The servant does not tell the Master what kind of position he or she wants.
 - Servants wait on the master for whatever instruction they may be given.
 - So be patient and wait.
- Waiting on the Lord should not be an idle time for you.
 - Let God use times of waiting to mold and shape your character.
 - Let God purify your life and make you into a clean vessel for His service.
 - As you obey Him, God will prepare you for the assignment that is just right for you.

- Any responsibility that comes from the Maker of the universe is important.
- Do not use human standards to measure the significance or value of your assignment.
- Whatever mission God gives, do it with all your heart.

II. Reviewing Jesus' Example

- Jesus example (John 5:17, 19-20)
- Principles modeled by Jesus
 - The Father has been working right up until now.
 - Now God has Me working.
 - I do nothing on My own initiative.
 - I watch to see what the Father is doing.
 - I do what I see the Father is already doing.
 - The Father loves Me.
 - He shows Me everything that He is doing.
- Jesus announced that He had come, not to do His own will, but the will of the Father who had sent Him.
 - To know the Father's will, Jesus watched to see what the Father was doing.
 - Then Jesus joined Him and did the same work.
- The Father loved the Son and took the initiative to reveal to Jesus what He (the Father) was doing or about to do. → The Son kept watching for the Father's activity around Him so He could unite His life with the Father and His work.

III. God's Revelation Is Your Invitation

- When you see the Father accomplishing His purposes around you, that is your invitation to adjust your life to Him and join Him in that work.
- Is it possible for God to be active around you and you not recognize it?
 - Elisha's Servant (2 Kings 6:17)
 - Jerusalem's Leaders (Luke 19:42)
- Two factors are important if you are going to recognize God activity around you:
 1. You must be living in an intimate love relationship with God.
 2. God must open your spiritual eyes so you can see what He is doing.

IV. Working Where God Is At Work

- The example of starting a new church...

- Missed opportunities – Missing God at work.
- The key to joining God at work: “A tender, sensitive heart, prepared through a love relationship with the Father, will be ready to respond to God at the slightest prompting.”
- Things Only God Can Do
 - If you are going to join God, you need to know where He is working.
 - There are some things only God can do.
 - When you learn to identify these things and when you see them happening around you, you will immediately recognize God’s activity.
 - Only God can:
 1. Draw people to Himself.
 2. Cause people to seek after Him.
 3. Reveal spiritual truth.
 4. Convict the world of guilt and sin.
 5. Convict the world of righteousness.
 6. Convict the world of judgment.
- Identifying God’s Activity (An example from the workplace.)
 1. Start by praying and watch to see what happens next...
 2. Make the connection...
 3. Ask questions...
 4. Listen attentively...
 5. Be ready to make whatever adjustments are required to join God in what He is doing.

Conclusion: Two final considerations:

1. When God Speaks
 - The time God speaks to you is the moment for your response.
 - You need to immediately begin adjusting your life to Him.
 - You may need to prepare yourself for what He is going to do through you.
2. What God initiates
 - What God initiates, He completes.
 - We must recognize when God is the One speaking. When He says something, we can be sure it will be so.
 - Once we know we’ve heard from God, we can proceed with absolute confidence...
 - The verification of God’s message is that what a person hears becomes a reality.

