Session 1

The Knowledge of God

ERHOP

1. Mission
   a) Our assignment here House of Prayer in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David with night & day worship & intercession
   b) Through prayer & worship we seek the change the spiritual climate of our region in agreement with what Jesus wants to do here.
   c) To help prepare the Bride for the return of her Bridegroom God & King
   d) To train and equip forerunners – those who will boldly speak of Jesus and His return.
2. Essential for the Church, individual believers and the corporate body to be prepared for the time of Jesus' return, it is critical that we really KNOW HIM.

Overview

A. Purpose of our time

1. Stir up fascination for Him
2. Stir up love for Him
3. Get people looking at Jesus again
4. Going for the "OH!" moments
5. Move from the familiar to a renewed awe
6. This is my Beloved, this is my Friend
7. Going for the response: where is He that I might know Him too!

B. Scope of our time

1. How do we begin to know the eternal, infinite, transcendant God in only 8 weeks?
2. The Mighty God
3. The Intimate God
4. The Bridegroom God
5. The Holy God
6. The Just God
7. The Meek God
8. The Returning God

I. The Greatest Invitation

A. What you were born for... to know God.

1. Salvation is only the first step - it's a very important step, but its truly only the first step. There is an ocean of love called God that is waiting for you to step further in and know Him. Why wait until eternity?

B. Created to Know God

1. Why we exist?
2. He created humanity for relationship with Him
3. Bridal partner for His Son
4. I want them with me, they were created to be with me, to gaze on my glory, to soak in my glory, to receive greater revelation of the Father's love for Me that they may encounter greater revelation of the Father's love for them.
5. When Isaiah speaks on behalf of Yahweh in Isaiah 43:7 is he saying that we were created to bring him glory (i.e.. our sole reason for existence is to bring him glory) or was he saying what Jesus said in Jn 17:24 - I desire them to be with me where I am (relationship) so they may see, behold my glory and know that you love me. By being able to peer into the glory of the Son, we will behold the love the Father has for the Son from the foundation of the world. This is the same love the Father has for us and in the presence of the Son as He is exhibiting the glory He received from the Father, we will experience a greater revelation of the love the Father has for us.
6. All of creation exhibits the glory of God. The glory of God is something tangible, it has substance, it is something to be seen, touched, it has weight, etc.
7. Did God create everything for the purpose of bringing Him glory, or does all of creation simply reflect His glory and His purpose for creation is to point us to Him. Our salvation brings Him glory, we are commanded to give Him glory, but is He narcissistic in that everything must be about Him as the point of it all.
8. He created us to be in relationship with Him. To be with Him. To love Him. Humanity, far different than all of the other created beings, was designed to be in close proximity and volunteered love for Him.
9. We are for a little while, below the angels...
10. The consummation of History comes with God dwelling among us forever. Rev 21:3-5

C. Barriers to knowing Him

1. Knowing Him rightly – being will to let go of wrong ideas about Him
   a) Speculations, strongholds of thought lifted against the knowledge of God.
      (1) 2 Cor 10:3-5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

      We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,…"
   b) Doctrines of Demons
      (1) Tim 4:15 "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,…"
2. Pride/Arrogance

a) Over-Familiarity
b) Material Comfort
c) Immediate Gratification

II. The Destination & the Path

A. The Knowledge of God

1. Verb

2. To Know God

a) Yada

(1) Know – full spectrum including the most intimate levels between husband & wife.

b) Gnosis

(1) Not gnosticism

(2) The knowledge of God that we seek is freely offered to all people. It begins with salvation, but that is but stepping onto the path. It's not reserved for a select few. God is waiting to reveal it to all who love Jesus.

c) Epignosis

(1) Knowledge by experience.

3. Noun

a) Factual Knowledge
b) Knowledge by experience

(1) Knowledge of facts is like reading and studying how to fly. You can even take a test to show your knowledge, but you've never flown an airplane. Your knowledge is strictly in your head from a book or perhaps an instructor in a classroom.

(2) Knowledge that comes when you sit in the pilots seat and start the engine. This is the knowledge that comes from experience. The more you move forward, the more knowledge by experience that you gain. You come to know the airplane in its different modes - taxing, lift off, cruising, how it responds in turbulence, storms, calm, cold, warmth, night flight, foggy conditions, etc. You learn by experience what it means to decrease the speed, set the flaps and land. The more you fly, the more intimately you come to know the airplane and how it behave or responds to all conditions.

(3) The knowledge that came from the classroom and books is important. Without it, you find yourself flying in dangerous ways. If you don't understand lift, airspeed, weight, etc, you can make fatal errors causing you to end your flight in a fiery crash. If you are carrying passengers, you will take them down with you.

(4) If you violate the laws of aerodynamics, you will come under the law of gravity and find yourself plummeting to the ground suddenly.

(5) There are those who in the early days of flight learned the laws of aerodynamics through trial and error. Many of them learned by injuring themselves or dying. But through their experiences came knowledge of certain facts that allowed others to fly with greater effectiveness and security. Today, there are those who try to fly without the flight-school knowledge that will give them greater confidence and safety. Most will crash, many will die. A few will have a grace that allows them to fly and even soar because they have a natural feel for flight. If they become arrogant, they will eventually crash and burn. But if they remain humble in their confidence, they will see the great value and necessity for the basic knowledge needed for safe flight.

c) Epignosko

(1) Eph 1:16-20 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will 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 surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

(2) Phil 1:9-10 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

(3) Col 1:9-10For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

(4) 2 Pet 1:12 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

4. True Intimacy must include both facts and experience.

a) The spectrum of facts to experiencing of Him.

b) I want to know Jesus in every facet I know about him.

B. The Fear of Yahweh

1. Prov 1:7 The fear of Yahweh is the entry way into the knowledge of God.

a) Many of us entered in our salvation by first realizing that we needed Jesus to escape from an eternal destiny in the lake of fire. We were scared us into the kingdom. Sometimes I have been tempted to think this was a bad way to come to Jesus, just seeking fire insurance. But this is a legitimate biblical path. God used the great trial of judgment to turn the people of Israel back to Him. They had lost the fear of God and over time, entire generations became lost and forgot their God.

b) The goodness is God is very important. It is part of who He is. But He is also perfectly righteous and just. It is against His character to simply be good and not just.

c) In order to understand our need for a savior, we need to come into the understanding that we are in trouble and not in the eyes of man, but in His eyes. It is only through encountering the fear of Yahweh that we can appreciate the love of God.

(1) Mt 10:28, 32-33 fear Him who can destroy both body and soul in Hades...whoever denies me before men, I will also deny before My father who is in heaven.

(2) Mt 7:21-23 I never knew you, depart from me, you workers of lawlessness

2. Healthy Fear vs Unhealthy Fears

a) Healthy fear

(1) Fire - healthy fear of fire keeps us from sticking our hand into the flame, or leaving a flame burning where it can burn our house down. Yet when treated with the respect & honor that it deserves, fire becomes a huge asset to our lives.

b) Unhealthy

(1) Fire - anxiety of fire causes us to live in paranoia of the risks & dangers. Those with this fear live a life that is under constant anxiety & paranoia of any flame or fire even when it it treated with the proper respect and safe practices.

(2) Fire - lack of fear

1) *can cause people to misuse or treat fire in ways that end up injuring or killing themselves and/or others.*
2) *ignorance that causes people to lose out on what they could have*
3) *Rejection or unbelief*

c) Healthy fear of God

(1) Awe

1) *Psa 22:22-23 I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.*
You who fear the LORD, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel.

(2) Trembling

1) *Psa 4:4 Tremble, and do not sin; Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.*

2) *Psa 99:1-3 The LORD reigns, let the peoples tremble; He is enthroned above the cherubim, let the earth shake!*
Psa 99:2 The LORD is great in Zion, And He is exalted above all the peoples.
Psa 99:3 Let them praise Your great and awesome name; Holy is He.

3) *Jer 5:20-24 "Declare this in the house of Jacob And proclaim it in Judah, saying,*

'Now hear this, O foolish and senseless people, Who have eyes but do not see; Who have ears but do not hear.

'Do you not fear Me?' declares the LORD. 'Do you not tremble in My presence? For I have placed the sand as a boundary for the sea, An eternal decree, so it cannot cross over it. Though the waves toss, yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot cross over it.

'But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; They have turned aside and departed.

'They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the LORD our God, Who gives rain in its season, Both the autumn rain and the spring rain, Who keeps for us The appointed weeks of the harvest."

(3) Reverence

1) *Psa 147:11 The LORD favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His lovingkindness.*

2) *Neh 1:11 "O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name…"*

d) Unhealthy fear of God

(1) Hardened hearts

1) *Exo 9:30 "But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God."*

2) *Psa 36:1 Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes.*

3) *Mal_3:5 "I will come to you in judgment, and I will be ready to witness against sorcerers and adulterers; against those who swear falsely; against those who oppress the widow and the fatherless, and cheat the wage earner; and against those who deny justice to the foreigner. They do not fear Me," says the LORD of Hosts.*

(2) Anxiety - Phobias

1) *Psa 94:19 When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul.*

2) *Psa 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts;*
Psa 139:24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

3) *Php_4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

e) "Ooh!" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he -- quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."

"That you will, dearie, and no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver, "if there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly.""Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

"I'm longing to see him," said Peter, "even if I do feel frightened when it comes to the point."

C. The Path – Proverbs 2 – IF THEN FOR

1. **Receive my Words (v.1)**
   - **a)** _ Faith - believe the Word and let it become foundational to your relationship with God
2. **Treasure my Commands within you (v.1)**
   - **a)** _ Priority - make His Word your treasure. Your treasure becomes your priority.
   - **b)** _ Let the great value of the treasure motivate your continued search.
3. **Make your ear attentative to wisdom (v.2)**
   - **a)** _ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.
   - **b)** _ Be intentional to listen
4. **Incline your heart to understanding (v.2)**
   - **a)** _ Lean in, press in
   - **b)** _ (Son 8:5) Who is this coming up from the wilderness, Leaning upon her beloved?
5. **Cry out for discernment (v.3)**
   - **a)** _ Call out - ask for help
6. **Lift your voice for understanding (v.3)**
   - **a)** _ Give your voice...
   - **b)** _ Vocalize. Speak out.
7. **Seek her as silver (v4.)**
   - **a)** _ Action - you must act. It won't just be dropped into your lap. It requires our part.
8. **Search as for hidden treasures (v.4)**
   - **a)** _ It takes work, it takes time, it takes persistence.
   - **b)** _ (Pro 25:2) It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.
9. **Then**
   - **a)** _ Discern the Fear of Yahweh (v.5)
   - **b)** _ Discover the Knowledge of God (v.5)
   - **c)** _ Discern righteousness, justice, equity and every good path (v.9)
10. **For**
    - **a)** _ Wisdom will enter your heart (v.10)
    - **b)** _ Knowledge will be pleasant to your soul (v.10)
    - **c)** _ Discretion will guard you (v.11)
    - **d)** _ Understanding will watch over you (v.11)

D. Aiming well, stay on the path…

1. **Knowing God is our goal, the revelation of God is the path to that relationship**

2. The word of God
   a) Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
3. Experiencing Him
   a) Hos 6:3 Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth."
   b) Php 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; "So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth."

III. Application

A. How does any relationship work?

1. Conversation
2. Shared experience
3. Prayer is talking with God
4. Eph 1:17-19

IV. Tools

A. Apostolic Prayers

B. Journal

V. Testimony/Discussion