

## Experiencing God (Part 7)

### Review

- **The goal of this series: spiritual maturity; knowing and walking with your God.**
- Previous six realities: 1. God is active. 2. God pursues a love relationship with us. 3. God is inviting us into what He is doing. 4. God speaks through His Holy Spirit through His Word, the church, prayer, and circumstances. 5. This leads to a crisis of belief. 6. We must make major adjustments in our lives to join God in what He is doing.

### **Reality 7: We come to know God by experience as we obey Him and He accomplishes His work through us.**

### **Our God is The King, and Jesus is His Messiah—God in the flesh and savior of the world.**

- We often talk about a relationship with God, but what kind of relationship? Father... God... both have everything to do with one who is a loving, relational authority.
- The Father is one who knows more, one who is capable of protecting the one who is helpless.
- So many see Jesus as savior rather than as Messiah—the King.
- The basis of the problem on earth has to do with lack of submission to authority due to a lack of trust (trusting that God is good).

### **John 14:15–30**

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### **Steps to Take:**

#### **1. Acknowledge Jesus as your savior—if indeed He is.**

- He drew you to Himself
- Kept you alive
- Brought people into your life
- Revealed Himself to you
- You responded by accepting Jesus for who He is.

**John 6:44** (NIV) No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

#### **2. Acknowledge Jesus as your Lord, your Messiah, your King.**

- Ask the Lord, “What You want?”
- If it’s to forgive, forgive.
- If it’s to obey leaders, obey.
- If it’s to lay down your life for those you lead, do it.
- If it’s to stop doing something, stop doing it.
- If you don’t know, then humble yourself and ask.
- Sometimes things are hard to discern—get godly counsel.

**Romans 2:4** (NIV) Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

### 3. Take the step by faith. Trust and obey today.

- Take what happens next by faith. Stay the course and trust the Lord.
- Have the right attitude; one day at a time, one decision at a time.
- Don't get freaked out by the immediate results of your decision—look at the long game.
- Make the adjustments necessary to live out what the Lord reveals.
- Make sure you have the support to carry on during the journey.
- When you step out and obey Jesus, He leads you to the next step that you would not have seen if you hadn't taken the last step

**2 Corinthians 5:7** (NIV) For we live by faith, not by sight.

**Matthew 6:34** (NIV) Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

### 4. The Result

- As you trust in the Lord, you will learn more about Him and His love for you.
- You will learn that He loves you.
- You will learn that He sustains you even when you walk through the valley of the shadow of death.
- You will learn that He has a bigger picture in view—
  - God is eternally minded.
  - God is spiritually minded.
- When you are faithful with the first step, He leads to the next.

**Luke 19:17** (NIV) “Well done, my good servant!” his master replied. “Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.”

**Luke 16:10–12** (NIV) <sup>10</sup>Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. <sup>11</sup>So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

**1 Timothy 6:17–19** (NIV) <sup>17</sup>Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup>In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

### **NEXT STEPS Commitment - *Experiencing God***

As the Experiencing God series comes to a close, experiencing God in the midst of every day does not end.

- Where is God inviting you to join Him in what He is doing?
- What adjustments will you make to join Him?

**Commit** to take your next step in personally experiencing God. What is it? You might **choose one** of the suggestions below. Add an action plan with specific steps.

- ◇ Believe that God exists and is always at work. Share with someone your newfound belief.
- ◇ Commit to consistently engage with God in relationship.
- ◇ Seek to be God-centered not self-centered; look for Him at work.
- ◇ Actively listen for God's Spirit speaking to you through His Word, prayer, His people, and circumstances.
- ◇ Wrestle with what requires faith and action on your part. Be real, honest, and move toward action.
- ◇ Make the adjustments God has asked you to make in order to join Him in what He is doing. Identify specific adjustments and act.
- ◇ Recognize and share how you are experiencing God as you obey Him.