



CONSECRATE

TO BE SET APART

To Know God



To know God is very simple in relationship form. Yet, God is so big and so infinite, there will always be much to learn about Him. The more we scratch the surface, the more we are sure to find. Ironically, the more we learn about God, the more we begin to learn about ourselves. The amazing thing is that through Christ, God has allowed us to have fellowship with Him. He desires for us to be on one accord with Him in the way we think, to be able to hear Him clearly when He speaks and to walk alongside Him daily in order to develop His characteristics.

John chapter one begins, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.” One of the things we can take away from this passage is that God is synonymous with His Word. As we become more familiar with the Bible, we are becoming more familiar with God as a result. Our relationship with Him is sure to grow if we apply what we know with faith. It may turn out that His ways are not as “mysterious” as some would suggest, but rather a God of principles and a God of order.

There is a great significance in knowing God. First of all, He is our creator. We were made from dust, yet He breathed life into us. Secondly, He is our savior. We were dead in our trespasses, yet He redeemed us through the work of the Cross. Thirdly, He has a purpose for us all. In Jeremiah 1:5 God declares, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations”. Our purpose in this life is why we exist on the earth. Without knowing God, our time here is simply in vain. God is readily available and has made Himself easily accessible. Through Christ, the path to God has been made clear and we can know Him for ourselves.

Information on Fasting	Bethel Prayer Schedule
<p>Visit BethelWorld.org and the May 2018 devotional for information on the purpose of fasting, helpful tips while fasting and appropriate things to do and not do during a time of fasting.</p>	<p>Monday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary. Tuesday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary. Wednesday: Monthly church-wide day of Prayer and Fasting - Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary - 7PM service.</p>

“The Mind of Christ”

READ

John 14:26 • 1 Corinthians 2:16 • Ephesians 4:22-23 •
Philippians 2:5-11 • Romans 12:1-2 • Proverbs 23:7 •
Philippians 4:8

REFLECT

Typically in sports, the coach of the team will have a game plan for the players to follow. Although he is with them for the full duration of the game, there are only certain times he is able to huddle with the team. However, every so often, we will see an example where the coach has an extension of himself on the court or the field. This means that one of the leaders on the team views the game from the coach's perspective. He strategizes like the coach and responds like the coach. Without fail, they are always on one accord. In these rare occasions, we would say the player has the mind of his coach.

The more you began to know someone, the better you understand their intentions and the way they think. The Apostle Paul's message was clear: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Yet, this does not happen by chance. Many of us have asked the question, "What would Jesus do?" and not really know the answer! Well, first a relationship must be formed with Him. Secondly, we must continually renew our minds and surrender our thoughts to the Lord. For we know, "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he." As members of the body of Christ, we are designed to be an extension of Him. We are His hands and His feet. Let us take on the mind of Christ that we may always be on one accord with Him.

How can you intentionally renew your mind continually?

What does it mean to surrender your thoughts to the Lord?

Why is it important to have the mind of Christ?

RESPOND

- Repent for anytime you have been in opposition with God
- Allow the Holy Spirit to renew your mind daily
- Desire to be on one accord with the Lord

“An Ear to Hear”

READ

John 10:27 • Romans 10:17 • John 8:47 • Galatians 3:5 • Isaiah 55:3 • Jeremiah 33:3 • Revelations 3:20 • John 16:13

REFLECT

When the prophet Samuel was only a child, the Bible records his first experience in hearing the voice of God. As great as this is, the truth is that although he heard God’s voice, he had no idea who the actual speaker was. Three times God called his name; however, each occasion left Samuel confused. He felt in his heart he was being summoned by someone but ran to the wrong person to receive the message. Ultimately, the Bible goes on to highlight the fact that “Samuel did not yet know the Lord.” After receiving instructions from Eli the priest, he would wait in his bed until he heard the voice again. This time he would respond, “Speak, your servant hears.”

He that has an ear to hear, let him hear! God is always speaking, but the question is whether or not we are listening. He desires to lead us if we would only take heed to His voice. Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” But like Samuel experienced, it is impossible to know the voice of someone you never communicate or spend time with. Just like with any other relationship, the more time you spend in God’s presence, the more familiar you will become with His voice. In the early church, the disciples knew the voice of God so well that they could distinguish between His voice and the angels. As we seek God’s face and spend time in His word, let us open our ears and respond, “Speak Lord, your servant hears.”

Why is it important for you to hear the voice of God?

How can you position yourself to hear God when He speaks?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Ask God to forgive you for anytime you failed to hear His voice
- Make time to read God’s word so that you may know Him better
- Pray for understanding and clarity when God speaks

“Walking in Godly Character”

READ

Amos 3:3 • 1 John 2:6 • Micah 6:8 • Galatians 5:16 •
 Proverbs 13:20 • Ephesians 2:10 •
 1 Timothy 4:12 • Romans 13:14 • Ephesians 4:1

REFLECT

Henry Ford said, “Those who walk with God always reach their destination.” When people decide to walk together, two things are guaranteed. The first, and maybe most obvious, is that no matter which way they were going, they will now begin to walk in the same direction. Secondly, because they may naturally walk at different paces, one will eventually conform to the other. With the Bible informing us that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, it is safe to say He will not be doing any conforming. Since two cannot walk together unless they agree, this means when we decide to walk with God we have no choice but to begin to conform to His ways and His character.

According to Proverbs 4:18, “The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.” As we continue to walk with the Lord, we should continue to mature in godly character as well. We are Christians, called to be Christ-like and reflect His image. It is one thing to profess our love for the things of God, but he that says he abides in Christ should also walk and conduct himself like Christ did. While this may seem impossible, God has given us His Spirit to teach, lead, and guide us along the way. We cannot expect to model godly character in our own strength, but as we depend on the One we walk with, we will find ourselves moving in the right direction and conforming our character to match His.

Why should godly character be important to you?

How can walking with God produce godly character in your life?

What is God speaking to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Repent for any time you have denied godly character
- Ask the Holy Spirit to lead and direct your path
- Write down three characteristics of God you would like to better reflect

