Intimacy With God: Session One

Knowing God

Daniel 11:32b "But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."

Know – to be intimately connected with Him

Knowing Love

It's difficult to have faith in someone you do not know. Knowing the heart of God for us is the entranceway into a supernatural lifestyle. When we know God, we realize that He is love, and His love casts out fear (1 John 4:8; 18). Without fully knowing His love, we will be perpetually insecure.

When we know the love of God for us, faith is activated and we no longer feel disqualified to participate in the supernatural.

Ephesians 3:14-15 "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

Our identity is found in Jesus!

Rooted and Grounded in Love

Ephesians 3:16-19 "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."

Knowledge of God's love strengthens us on the inside and allows us to supernaturally deconstruct all the lies we have believed about God.

John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

We gain knowledge of God through:

- 1. Reading His Word
- 2. Worship

God's not disillusioned with you, because He never had any illusions about you in the first place.

God's Love vs. Human Love

Human love requires a rebuilding of trust after offense. God's love is available the moment we approach Him in faith. He knows He is the answer to every need we have.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Human love is conditional. God's love is given on the basis of *His* merit, not ours.

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-24 And He said, "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."' So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

This story is a picture of how God responds to us every day, not just when we first come to Him.

Every time we come to God feeling weak and unworthy, He sees us taking even the tiniest step and He runs to meet us!

What happens when God's love comes?

- 1. Restores authority
- 2. Gives us what belongs to Him
- 3. Makes us co-heirs with Christ
- 4. Blesses us extravagantly
- 5. Seats us with Him in Heavenly Places
- 6. Rids us of insecurity
- 7. Releases us to minister to others

We need a supernatural revelation of God's love for us! His love is demonstrated tangibly in signs and wonders.

Understanding God's love for you will cause your life to be different. Because of what Jesus has done for you, you become the righteousness of Christ.

Finding the Father's Heart through Worship

Worship is our opportunity to be divinely embraced by God. It's our chance to bless Him and for Him to bless us.

Psalm 38:9 "Lord, you know all my desires and deepest longings. My tears are liquid words and You can read them all." (TPT)

God understands you completely. His knowledge of you allows Him to heal you. Worship provides the atmosphere and opportunity for God to restore your soul (**Psalm 23:3**).

Isaiah 40:31 "But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

The love of God we experience in worship:

- 1. Activates our faith
- 2. Brings us into union with the Father
- 3. Reveals our heart and priorities to us
- 4. Reveals His heart for us

Our heart's deepest desire is for fellowship with Jesus.

Ephesians 3:20-21 "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be Glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

When you get a revelation of God's love, nothing is impossible!

Believing God's love allows you to believe His promises.

Ephesians 1:18-19 "That the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may 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 exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power."

Psalm 34:4 "I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

When people see someone who is secure in God's love, they are able to receive from them what God wants to give. As you rest in God's love, you will be the aroma of Christ to others (2 Cor. 2:14).

Prayer

Father, cause me at this very moment to open up my heart to begin to receive Your love. I ask you to begin to remove all the hindrances in my life to receiving Your love for me. I want my very identity to be firmly rooted and grounded in Your love. Give me supernatural revelation and understanding of Your love, as I give you my heart each day. In Jesus name, Amen!

Personal Application

- 1. Write Ephesians 3:14-19 on several index cards and place them in prominent places your bedside, your mirror, your car... anywhere you will see them often throughout the day. Make this apostolic prayer your own. Pray it often and allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen you in this revelation.
- 2. Find a quiet place before beginning the next session and in a journal or on a pad of paper, ask the Father to speak to you...about you! Journal what you hear the Father saying to your heart. It's important to know the *truth* of how God feels about you. This is what brings deep and lasting healing, wholeness and change within our hearts.

- 3. The "apple" of the eye is the tenderest part of the eye, the pupil. Have you noticed what happens if something comes near your pupil? Your eye has been designed in such a way that your other body parts will jump in to defend it. Your eyelids will instinctively close; your hands will immediately jump to protect it. Should something get near it, your tear ducts will begin to secrete tears to wash it out. You are the apple of God's eye! Read these Scriptures and allow the truth of God's tender love for you to minister to you.
 - Deuteronomy 32:10
 - Psalm 17:8
 - Psalm 56:8-9
 - Zechariah 2:8