

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, PT. 4
NOVEMBER 26, 2017 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. Eternal Life is Knowing God

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

- A. The chief promise to those who are born again is that they will inherit eternal life (Mat 19:16, Mat 25:46, Mat 10:30, John 3:16).
- B. This promise is shocking and ultimately incomprehensible. While we live inside of a finite shell, we are not able to remotely comprehend what it means to live forever.
- C. And though the promise of eternal life is incredibly rich, actually living forever isn't what eternal life is primarily about. Eternal life is primarily about knowing God intimately.
- D. Living forever is ultimately not a wonderful promise if we don't have something or someone to fully occupy us, stretching the boundaries of our deepest desires for love, wonder, pleasure, mystery, excitement, and beauty.
- E. Sharing loving intimacy with human beings as an expression of God's own glory is God's foremost desire. And so living forever is actually a by-product of much more powerful key issue and reward for the redeemed: eternal knowledge of God.
- F. Many believers falsely imagine that being born-again (i.e. having eternal life) is primarily about receiving something in this age, an experience, a manifestation, a temporal blessing, or a testimony. It's true that anything we receive from the Lord in this age is wonderful and praise worthy, however, these things are ultimately only a shadow of things to come (Col 2:17).
- G. We will live forever and ever peering into the unsearchable depths and wonder of the One who is *infinite* in love, power, and majesty.
- H. The powerful truth is that eternal doesn't begin when we die physically; eternal life begins when you give your life to Jesus trusting His sacrifice on the cross as the only way to pay for your sins. For the Christian, eternal life begins in this age.
- I. It's an astounding truth that we right now have access to the wonders of the mystery of the knowledge of God.
- J. Furthermore, God offers greater measures of revelation of Himself to those who seek Him fervently.
- K. In a certain sense, the amount that one partakes of eternal life (the intimate knowledge of God) now is dependent upon the level of desire and pursuit that individual expresses in seeking the knowledge of God.

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II. The Knowledge of God is connected to Spiritual Hunger

Proverbs 2:1-5: My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

A. There is a five-fold progression to engaging with God and receiving the knowledge of God.

1. *Receive* my words and *treasure* my commands – Accept the word of God as the primary means of instruction the Holy Spirit uses to reveal the Father. Then treasure up the word inside you, store up the word of God in your heart.

2. *Incline* your ear to wisdom and *apply* your heart to understanding – When you hear wisdom, listen and pay attention. Put your energy into seeking understanding of the knowledge of God.

3. *Cry out* for discernment and *lift up* your voice for understanding – God answers the intercessory cry of desire from the heart of His people. There is something about passionate seeking that the Lord loves.

4. *Seek* and *search* for her (wisdom), as for silver and hidden treasure – This is urgent pursuit over the long haul. Its seeking God aggressively in a sustained manner knowing that the promise of encounter is for sure if you pursue.

5. You will *understand* the fear of the Lord and *find* the knowledge of God – the promise is secure that if we pursue the knowledge of God, God will answer with releasing revelation of Himself

B. Those who are hungry for the knowledge of God will not do without it. It's amazing, that those who are hungry for God are the ones who receive.

C. There is a divine interplay between God's choice and our response. As God chooses to reveal Himself, those who respond with passionate pursuit of God are the ones who receive.