

# Knowing God through His Word, His Spirit, and His Church

Recently we announced our new mission statement as a church, and today I'm going to be expounding on that statement. Our mission as a church is "inviting people to know and enjoy God through His Word, His Spirit, and a loving Community"

## The Importance of Knowing God

- Knowing God is the meaning of life (John 17:3)
- Knowing God is the highest good a person could have
  - The most enjoyment a person can have (Psalm 84:10, 16:11, 4:7, 63:1; 1 Peter 1:12)
  - The most profitable thing a person can have
    - Knowing God changes us (2 Corinthians 3:18; Jeremiah 22:16)

## Knowing Him Through Each Means

- We've talked a lot as a church about how the Word, the Spirit, and the Church, are each practical ways to receive empowerment from God, but today I want to add to that idea, and make the case that the Word, the Spirit, and the Church are each their own means of getting to know, experience, and enjoy God.

### Knowing Him through His Word

- His Word informs us about who He is
  - His Word gives us Didactic facts about who He is
  - We learn about Him through His Word by watching how He interacts with His people
- He speaks to us through His Word
  - In general
  - Specifically

### Knowing Him through His Spirit

- His Spirit informs us about who He is and what He thinks and feels (1 Corinthians 2:10-13)
  - Often times when I see the gift of prophesy used, it's just the Holy Spirit speaking to people about how the Father views them, and it's very edifying.
  - The Scriptures speak to us about general things, but the Holy Spirit can speak to us about things that are very specific to us personally or to our specific circumstances
  - And I've heard multiple times in testimonies about times where the Holy Spirit has helped a person to really grasp the heart of God, often by causing them to feel a glimpse of the emotions that God feels. I've also experienced it myself. (Romans 5:5)
- He speaks to us through His Spirit (Acts 8:29-31, 16:6; Psalm 16:7)
  - If we only hear God through the Scriptures, and not also through His Spirit, then we are missing some of the things that God is saying to us
- We experience Him through the Holy Spirit
  - His gifts
  - Experiencing His presence

### Knowing Him through His Church

- The testimonies of other Christians inform us about who God is (Psalm 119:99)
- We experience His love for us through other Christians (Philippians 1:8)
- We hear from Him through other Christians (1 Corinthians 14:3-5)
- Other Christians help us to know God's word better (Acts 18:24-26)

## You Need All Three

- You don't know God as well as you could if you don't use all three.
- Relying on all three provides a greater stability
  - Each one has ways of misusing it
    - Scripture can be misinterpreted
    - Your sense of what the Holy Spirit is saying to you could be wrong
    - Churches can be wrong
  - The three sides of a triangle hold each other in place, and this is similar
    - The Word helps you to discern if what you're hearing in your heart is actually from God or not
    - The Church helps you to discern if what you're hearing in your heart is actually from God or not
    - The Spirit helps you to interpret Scripture correctly
    - The Church helps you to interpret Scripture correctly
    - The Word helps you know if what a certain church is saying is correct
    - The Spirit helps you know if what a certain church is saying is correct

## This is Why We Exist

- Knowing God should be one of our highest priorities as a church
  - It's the purpose of life
  - It's the highest good a person can have
- We should long for others to come to know Him too
  - Knowing God is like an ultimate feast with better food and wine than you ever thought existed, and God is giving it away for free. We want as many people to come to this feast as possible. We want to be inviting people!
  - God doesn't just want others to know Him, but He wants to use us (2 Corinthians 5:18)
- We want the idea people majoring in all three means of grace to become commonplace
  - We feel that God is in the process of preparing this to become a movement

## Conclusion

- This is our mission as a church
- Make sure you use all three of these means to get to know God