

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

*experiencing His Presence in each situation*

Life Point Church International  
Sermon Journal 2021

2 Peter 1:3

"For His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who called us..."

20 twenty one

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# Knowing God

Monthly Theme and Direction

2 Peter 1:1-10

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## January

"Grace and peace are multiplied through the knowledge of God."

2 Peter 1:2

January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Theme Launch
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Knowledge that God is in control
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Knowledge that God is provider
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Knowledge that God is just
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Knowledge through our confession

## February

"God's power grants us everything pertaining to life."

2 Peter 1:3

February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Power for emotional stability
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Power for conviction
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Power for Safety
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Power for provision

## March

"God's power grants us everything pertaining to godliness." 2 Peter 1:3

March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Righteousness is received
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Freedom from condemnation is experienced
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	The word of the Holy Spirit
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Contentment through godliness

## April

"The promises of God." 2 Peter 1:4

April 4 <sup>th</sup>	The great set-up (Easter)
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Promise of being sent
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Promise of receiving the Holy Spirit
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Promise of access

## May

"Applying moral excellence." 2 Peter 1:5

May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Choosing to direct our mind
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Warnings from a lustful man Sampson – Part 1
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Warnings from a lustful man Sampson – Part 2
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Warnings from a lustful man Sampson – Part 3



## June

"The action of knowledge." 2 Peter 1:5

June 6 <sup>th</sup>	No knowledge without knowing knowledge
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Worldly knowledge
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Father's Day
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Obedient knowledge

## July

"The actions of self-control." 2 Peter 1:6

July 4 <sup>th</sup>	David's dangerous dilemma – Part 1
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	David's dangerous dilemma – Part 2
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	David's dangerous dilemma – Part 3
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	David's dangerous dilemma – Part 4

## August

"How to persevere." 2 Peter 1:6

August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Purpose in persevering
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Persevering by faith
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Persevering through good deeds
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	The heart of perseverance
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Special Service

## September

"Using godly disciplines."

2 Peter 1:6

Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Church Picnic – No Service
Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Godliness through prayer
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Godliness through giving
Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Godliness through teaching

## October

"Brotherly kindness."

2 Peter 1:7

October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	A Heart of refreshing
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Not living ashamed
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	Searching to meet a need
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	The consistent nature
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	True strength

## November

"Love."

2 Peter 1:7

November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Closeness of His love
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Forgiveness of His love
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Our display of closeness
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	Our display of forgiveness

## December

"Living useful and fruitful." 2 Peter 1:8-9

December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sight
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Long-distance vision
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Righteousness

Press in...

Go deeper

Make time...

Experience  
His  
Presence!

Know God

*20 twenty one*

Let's begin →

# Knowing

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*20 twenty one*

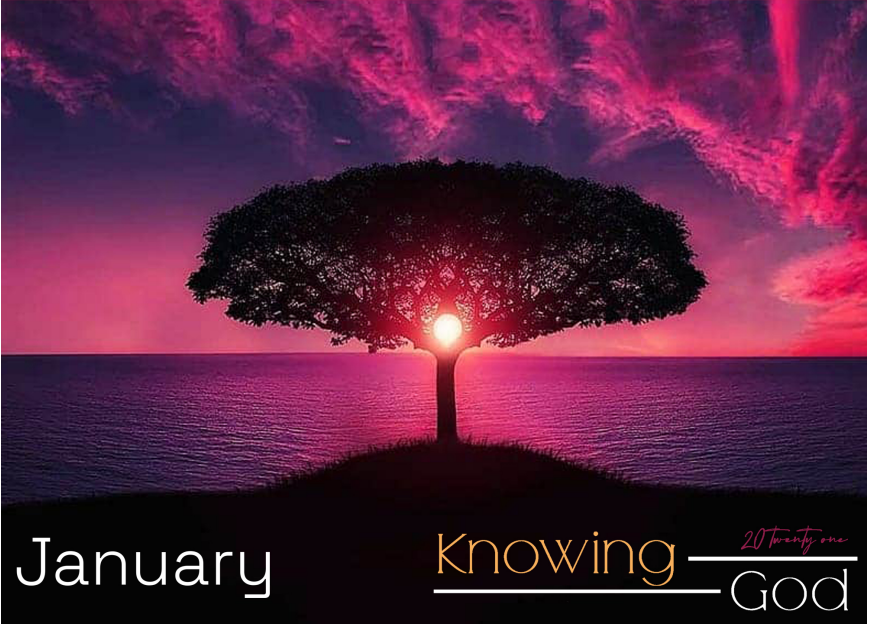
*experiencing His Presence in each situation*

# God



"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge** of God."

2 Peter 1:2



January

Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

## Monthly Message Direction:

January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Theme Launch

January 10<sup>th</sup>

Knowledge that  
God is in control

January 17<sup>th</sup>

Knowledge that God  
is provider

January 24<sup>th</sup>

Knowledge that  
God is just

January 31<sup>st</sup>

Knowledge through  
our confession

**Date:**  
January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: Theme Launch**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:2; Job 42:5

*“When we come to “know God,” the events of our lives, both good and bad, all come into focus.”*

The question we will need to be asking each day of this year is: How can I discipline myself to know God more? What must be removed so He can be more?

**1 – Grace and peace are benefits that are quantitative based on our pursuit of knowledge.**  
**2 Peter 1:2a**

- Peter is specific in using the word *multiplied*.

It is possible to live life more blessed than another person!

- Although this is not indicative of whether or not God desires to bless a person, but rather whether that person desires to know God.

**Here therefore is our biblical word of prophecy for this 2021 year:**

**(See insert)**

**2 – This year should move us from merely “hearing” about God to “seeing” God.**

**Job 42:5**

There is never a wasted opportunity to know God in our lives. Job was at a very difficult stage in his life.

- Yet, he was able to experience the power of God.

**3 – Grace is given to endure through trials.**

**2 Peter 1:2**

- Considering the state of the Church that Peter is writing to, they were in desperate need of grace to endure.

**4 – Peace is given as stability through endurance.**

**2 Peter 1:2**

- As we endure through the trials of this world and especially of our current situations, we find peace in the midst of it.

Many people endure through trials. Life simply goes on.

But as Believers, we endure through trials receiving and experiencing peace (stability) in the midst of it.

**Psalm 1:1-3**

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Living it Out 

What time aspect will be disciplined to press in a little bit more to know God?

**Date:**  
January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup>  
God

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Papparatti

**Sermon Title: Theme Launch**

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## **Biblical Word of prophecy for 2021**

As we press in to *know* the presence of God, His Word declares to us that we will receive a closeness of His presence that will be magnified and set apart from any other year. His movement over our life will not be dependent upon a certain government or institution, but it will be poured out over those who are seeking. Jeremiah 29:12-14 declares:

**<sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will let Myself be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'**

Will this be the year of favor? Will this be the year of victory? This the Church is asking. They are looking for favor without relationship. They are looking for victory without love for Me.

As I spoke to the Church in Ephesus, so I speak to the Church today. Revelation 2:4-5



<sup>4</sup> But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

What will I do? What will I perform for the Church? Will there be peace? Will there be persecution? LOOK TO ME.

There will be PRESENCE! If you look to me, come to me, seek me, desire me, there will be My Presence multiplied.

The clarity of My words...

The wisdom to navigate...

The Peace that surpasses all understanding...

My power made perfect in weakness...

My plan as the forefront in your ways...

My redemption displayed for each situation and each person connected to you.

Follow me. When you walk through difficulty, follow me and I will make a way. Isaiah 43:16-21

This is what the Lord says,

*He* who makes a way through the sea  
And a path through the mighty waters,

<sup>17</sup> Who brings out the chariot and the horse, the army and the mighty man (They will lie down together *and* not rise again; They have been extinguished, *and* have gone out like a wick):

<sup>18</sup> “Do not call to mind the former things, or consider things of the past.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, I am going to do something new, Now it will spring up; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup> The animals of the field will glorify Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I have given waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My chosen people.

<sup>21</sup> The people whom I formed for Myself Will declare My praise.

**May our response ever be:**

**Lord, I want to know You!**

Date:  
January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Knowledge that God is  
in control!**

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Text: Job 38:4-18

*“When you accept the fact that sometimes seasons are dry and times are hard and that God is in control of both, you will discover a sense of divine refuge, because the hope then is in God and not in yourself.”*  
- Charles Swindoll

God takes Job back to the beginning! Job is struggling with injustice and yet God takes him back to the foundation of the earth.

These are foundational absolutes:

## **1 – God is eternal from times past. Verse 4**

➤ “Where were you?”

We were not there at the beginning. God’s eternal quality makes Him supreme over the beginning and ending of our current situation.

If God is “ever-existent,” His eyes see the beginning of our circumstance through till the end.

➤ Therefore, I can trust, not only His control, but His plan for me, for His gospel, and for His glory.

*“Where were you?”* As we hear this Word from God, let us not fear or question, but trust knowing that He has always been!

**2 – God is intrinsically involved in the details of our lives. Verses 5-6**

- Measurements, measuring line, cornerstone.

God was rebuking the fear and feelings from Job that were declaring, “*God, don’t you see what is happening in my life!*”

If God set the very details of putting this world in order and motion, how much more will he care for the details that make up our own lives, which were created in His image?

- Matthew 10:29-31, Matthew 6:25-26

**3 – God has the systems of this world at their ready, to His command. Verse 12**

- *Commands the morning. The dawn knows its place.*
- The very aspects of nature are ready to do whatever God has commanded them to do.

We can trust God in the midst of our situation knowing that if He commands nature itself, there is no thing or even that can operate on its own doing without being used by God to fulfill His purpose.

- Genesis 50:20

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Living it Out 

Let’s start the conversation together. Can we comment on *how* God is in control over the details of your life?

**Date:**  
January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: Knowledge that God is  
Our Provider!**

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Text: Job 38:41; Matthew 6:26; Exodus 16,:1-18

*“Our heavenly Father is a very experienced One. He knows very well that His children wake up with a good appetite every morning... He sustained 3 million Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. We do not expect He will send 3 million missionaries to China; but if He did, He would have ample means to sustain them all... Depend on it, God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.” – Missionary Hudson Taylor*

## **1 – God provides, not only because He is in control, but because of our worth to Him.**

### **Matthew 6:26**

- God feeds the creatures of the earth that are not redeemable. He cares for them.
- He therefore cares for us. We are worth more than they.

## **2 – God’s provision is linked to our obedience.**

### **Exodus 16:4**

- As the Israelites obeyed the command of the Lord, He provided exactly what they needed and also how much they needed.

This is not to say that it was always easy. Sometimes they collected more than they were

supposed to. Yet, God's provision met them exactly where there need was.

As we obey God's commands:

- To love Him with all our heart and to serve Him, He will meet our need.
- He is our need!

**3 – As we experience provision, we experience the closeness of God. Exodus 16:12b**

- God promised that they would have their needs met and that they would **know** that He was the Lord their God.

When we obey Him, we come to know Him personally.

God wants to reveal Himself to us. Why?

- Because He is what we truly need instead of the provision we complain about having.

God wanted Israel to take their eyes off of desiring what they thought they needed, and to keep their eyes on what they desperately needed – HIM!

We must take our eyes off of provision and see what is truly important – Jesus Christ!

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Living it Out 

1 – Let us pray this week that we become fulfilled with Christ above everything else we may desire.

Date:  
January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Knowledge that God is Just!**

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Text: Job 40:8-14

We must come to know that God is just, even if our life cries out injustice.

*“God being fair is not about total uniformity, but it is trusting that the sovereign God, who is also righteous and holy, will act justly...God is forever in the business of restoration, by picking up broken pieces and rebuilding us. He is a just God.”*

– Dr. Latha Christie

**1 – Our lack of understanding the hardships in our life, does not justify our emotional premise that God has been unjust in our life.**

**Verse 8**

➤ *Will you condemn Me so that you may be justified?*

Job was coming from the angle of hurt, ache, and frustration that God did not answer *when* he wanted Him to and *how* he wanted Him to.

➤ Job 6:1-4, 8

We all struggle with the **when** and **how**.

When we come to the place where we see God as unjust because of the situations of our life, we

compound the situation by giving credibility to the lies of the enemy.

**Asaph worded this best:**

**Psalm 73.**

When he looked at injustice rather than God he:

1. Was envious of wicked people. Verse 3a
2. Their sin was appealing because it kept them well. Verse 5
3. Righteousness was considered as a vain attempt. Verse 13
4. Thinking about it made it worse. Verse 16

How do we change our feelings that God is unjust when our situation cries injustice?

**Asaph continues:**

1. Until I entered the sanctuary of God. Verse 17

Not that he went to church, but that God ALONE became his sanctuary.

- He is with us always. Verse 23
- He has a plan. Verse 24a
- Eternity is always in view. Verse 24b
- God is our sole possession. Verse 25

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Living it Out 

1 – Declare Asaph’s conclusion out loud to the situation you are in: **Psalm 73:26, 28**

*My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

*But as for me, the nearness of God is good for me; I have made the Lord God my refuge, So that I may tell of all Your works.*



**Date:**  
January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: Knowledge Through  
Confession!**

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Text: Job 42:1-6

*“There is no faith without confession. Confession is faith’s way of expressing itself.”* K.H.

## **1 – God can do all things!**

### **Verse 2a**

- This is a mighty realization in the midst of everything going wrong.
- Can we confess that God can do anything even if we do not see the immediate benefit?

## **2 – No purpose of God can be thwarted.**

### **Verse 2b**

- This is the great confession that God does have a plan.
- No attack or attempt by the devil can disrupt the plan that God.

If the devil means harm and God allows it, it is because everything in this world moves towards the purpose of God.

When the enemy means harm for us, his harm will work to accomplish God’s ultimate plan because it is God who rules and reigns this world and no one or nothing else.

## **Romans 8:31-39**

Who can bring charges against God’s elect? (v.33)

1. Will **tribulation**? – The word signifies *internal pressure that causes someone to feel confined or restricted.*
2. Will **distress**? – Word signifies the *external pressure caused by circumstances.*
3. Will **persecution**? – *Those seeking to punish God’s messengers trying to suppress their convictions.*
4. Will **famine**? – Situations that are out of our control yet affect our well-being.
5. Will **nakedness**? – Not having for our bodies that which affects our nature of thought. Embarrassing.
6. Will **peril**? – Danger from government.
7. Will **sword**? – Indicating death.

### **Power in God’s Love – Verses 38-39**

In all these things, none of them can disrupt God’s plan and His love towards us.

### **3 – Our lack of understanding does not determine God’s ability. Verse 3**

- It only determines our level of trust in God who never changes.

It is ok to confess our own lack, but not lack in God. Mark 9:24

### **4 – As we confess before God, we “give-in” to the ways of God, which prepares us to be led by God. Verse 4**

- God *will* lead us, no matter the situation!
- Isaiah 30:20-21, 23

Living it Out

Using the points above, declare them out loud to the very situation you are in. Confess and grow!

For His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life...  
through the true knowledge of Him... 2 Peter 1:3



February

Knowing 20 twenty one  
God  
*experiencing His Presence in each situation*

## Monthly Message Direction:

February 7<sup>th</sup>

Power for Emotional  
Stability

February 14<sup>th</sup>

Power for  
Connection

February 21<sup>st</sup>

Power for Safety

February 28<sup>th</sup>

Power for Provision

Date:  
February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Power for Emotional Stability!**

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Text: John 21:18-22

*“Being driven by our emotions can leave us with a sort of spiritual paralysis which can effectively render us useless.”* - Rose-Lynn Fisher

We have been granted *power for emotional stability* through the knowledge of God.

John 21:18-22 is the setting for 2 Peter 1:13-14.

**1 – As we look only to Christ (not people), we break the stronghold of emotional instability through our people comparison.**

### Verses 20-21

- Many times our emotions rebel in our life because we look at other people’s lives and consider our own to be inadequate.

Too often we want to live in the experience of someone else instead of living in Christ.

The plan for stability: Galatians 2:20

### **1. I have been *crucified* with Christ.**

- There is the association we must make in each circumstance. I am dead to the ways and results of this world. I am alive in Christ.

### **2. And it is no longer *I who live*.**

- Do we realize that our own life is not ours to live?

### **3. But Christ *lives in me.***

- His presence is not based on location or circumstance. It is based on acceptance.

### **4. The life which I now live in the flesh *I live by faith in the Son of God.***

- We now live by faith – our choosing to live Christ above the situation of our life.

### **5. Who loved me & gave Himself up for me.**

- This becomes the cause and strength of our emotional stability.

## **2 – Emotional stability is not about the removal of difficulty, but about the complete and unobstructed view of following Jesus.**

### **Verse 22b**

- This must have been extremely difficult for Peter.
- Note: Jesus does not remove this burden from his experience.
- Jesus redirects his attention.

When our attention is redirected towards Christ, it is not a misdirecting illusion. It is focusing on Him who brings purpose to life and not the lie of an earthly experience.

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Living it **Out** 

1 – Take time this week being happy with Christ living in you! Ask of the Lord, show me how to live through You? Listen to His response!

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Write down what you hear Christ saying above.

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Illustration for **Power for Emotional Stability**  
Introduction.

## **Rare Disorder Makes N.J. Woman Fall Asleep When She Laughs – Fox News May 2011**

Laughing is no joke for Claire Scott—every time she gets the giggles she falls asleep.

The mother-of-two has a rare sleeping disorder called **cataplexy**, in which feelings of emotion can trigger a weakening in the muscles.

It is, in other words, a sort of emotionally induced paralysis, the effects of which can last anywhere from a few seconds to several minutes, during which victims can hear but not see.

It has made her collapse up to 50 times a day since childhood. Scott, 24, once fell asleep 25 times during a Christmas lunch.

Anti-depressants have improved the condition but she recently had an attack after laughing at a joke told by her five-year-old daughter Ebony.

"I burst out laughing. The next thing I knew my husband David was picking me up off the kitchen floor. It can be really embarrassing," said the accounts clerk from New Jersey.

Date:  
February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Knowing

20 twenty one

God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Power for Connection!**

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Text: Philemon

*“No matter where we are or in what situation we are in; God will send someone in our path at the right and most pressing moment. We must accept them.”*

**1 – God’s power reconciles difficult and burdened experiences. Verses 10-11, 18**

- Paul was in prison for the Gospel.
- Onesimus was a runaway slave.
- God connects them both!

Who has God brought in to our lives?

Write their names: \_\_\_\_\_

- God is granting us connection.

The connection that God allows in our lives is two-fold.

1. **Connection for redemption.** Onesimus needed to be redeemed. Not only for Salvation, but there was a specific role he needed to play in God’s storyline.
2. **Connection for refreshing.** God was going to use Onesimus to refresh Paul while he was going through his difficult situation.

\*Onesimus ran away and was on the run to avoid prison. God connected him to someone in prison to set him free.

- Don’t condemn the circumstance. Watch!

God is doing this sort of connecting all of the time. We often miss it because we want to **choose** the type of connection that we **feel** matters the most to us.

- Yet when we allow the connection that God brings, it shapes, guides, and refreshes us more than we could have asked for.

## **2 – Life is not always about the restoration of our perfect scenario.                      Verses 16, 23-24**

- It is about the connection in the family of God that define us!
- Our current situation becomes God's situation.
- We have a job to do (*verse 24b- fellow workers*) and God sends us people to complement that job.

Paul wanted to be released! Philemon wanted his slave back. We desire verses 15 & 22.

It is about the connection and Presence of God along the way!

### **How to receive the connection:**

1. Pray for the person.
2. Reach the person with the gospel.
3. Connect them to fellow Believers.
4. Receive their friendship.
5. Pray that God will use them as a benefit in our lives.

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Living it Out 

Specifically pray for those people that are surrounding your life. Pray that your connection will be a God connection. Wait and expect!



**Date:**  
February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: Power for Safety!**

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Text: Isaiah 41:9-11

*“Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.”* Benjamin Franklin

*Any person that has pursued after God and His will, has found not the absence of difficulty or suffering, but the purpose and power of God through it.*

Does God promise His people safety?

- We are safe from the intent of harm.
- John 10:10

## **1 – Fear tries to isolate us, but it cannot!**

**Verse 10a**

- *“Do not fear, for I am with you.”*

The intent of the devil is fear through separation.

God promises Presence as a confrontation to fear!

## **2 – Fear wants us to lose focus. But God!**

**Verse 10b**

- Trials and tribulation brought on by the devil are meant to cause anxiety and disorientation.

- This is why *knowing God* is so important for us. As we *know* Him, He gives us everything pertaining to life.

### **3 – Fear wants to weaken us, but God gives strength. Verse 10c**

- The anomaly as a Believer in Christ is that weakness becomes the platform for strength.
- 2 Corinthians 11:24-28, 30; 12:5, 9-10

We must remember that God's strength is not just strength to endure! It is strength to accomplish His will.

- For His glory and for our good!

### **4 – Fear wants us to feel and launch out alone. Verse 10d**

- *Surely I will help you.*
- We are not alone in the trial and we are not alone in facing the trial.

God not only is with us, but He leads us.

- The word *help* is the Hebrew word *azar* and means *ally*.
- Someone with means of skill joins with us to help, protect, and stand for us!

### **5 – Fear wants feel as if we can no longer stand. But God upholds us. Verse 10e**

- See insert

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Living it **Out** 

Worship Him for being your safety. Worship knowing that you are never alone!

# God will uphold us with His Righteous Right Hand

Throughout scripture, God's "**right hand**" is the symbol of His power, His protection, His love and His grace.

*Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your **right hand** is filled with righteousness. Psalm 48:10*

*Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The **right hand** of the Lord does valiantly, the **right hand** of the Lord exalts, the **right hand** of the Lord does valiantly!" Psalm 118:15-16*

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous **right hand**. Isaiah 41:10*

*Your **right hand**, O Lord, glorious in power, your **right hand**, O Lord, shatters the enemy. Exodus 15:6*

*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your **right hand** are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11*

*You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your **right hand** supported me, and your gentleness made me great. Psalm 18:35*

*Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his **right hand**. Psalm 20:6*

Now, in Colossians 3:1, the Apostle Paul writes this:

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, **where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.***

And suddenly, we know why His hand is filled with righteousness, why it strengthens and upholds us, why it is filled with saving might. We know why there are glad songs of salvation and fullness of joy — we know how He has shattered the enemy — we know the mightiest of mighty things He has done.

We know, because, we see the One who has been sitting there all along, wiping our tears and our grief and our sins away, having made all concession on our behalf.

Great and Almighty Jesus, Yours is the victory.

-Kelly Adkins  
kellyadkins.com

Date:  
February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Power for Provision!**

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Text: Matt. 19:29; Mark 10:29-30; Luke 18:29-30

*“We must be careful that provision does not end up being about what everyone else has. It is about having what we need in our journey with God.”*

**1 – We receive the power for provision based on the knowledge and willingness to sacrifice just as Christ has done.**

- Not empty sacrifice. We are good at this.
- Sacrifice for Christ’s purpose and not our own.

Matthew: For My Name’s sake.

Mark: For My sake and the Gospel’s sake.

Luke: For the sake of the Kingdom of God.

**What we receive:** Eternal Life, houses, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, children, farms, persecutions, and relationships.

**What we sacrifice:** Houses, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, children, farms, and relationships.

We cannot expect to gain from what we have lost. We gain from what we have given up for the kingdom.

What will we willingly give up for Christ to have freedom to reach people through us?

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## **2 – We receive the right provisions. Mark 10:30**

- Deep connections!
- The connections of the family of God bring deep benefit in and through our lives.

The connections provide provision in emotions.

The connections provide provision in relationship.

The connections provide provision in resources.

If we are not receiving from the provision of God, it is because we are not doing!

- We must be doing and releasing.

## **3 – God’s power is always provision in the midst of persecution. Mark 10:30b**

- We ought not fear the persecution that may come against our Christianity.
- We have the God who provides for us especially when we suffer some of the sufferings of Christ.
- Philippians 3:10

*If God is to be our provider and we are to receive His provision, we must be actively living a life with open hands. Giving, releasing, and sacrificing for the work of God, will always produce provision.*

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Living it **Out** →

1 – Willingly give up something for the sake of the Gospel and see how God will send you His response. God gives us everything we need for this life – His provision.

*For His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to...godliness, through the true knowledge of Him...*

*2 Peter 1:3*

Knowing

*20 twenty one*

God

*experiencing His Presence in each situation*

**March**

## Monthly Message Direction:

March 7<sup>th</sup>

The effect of Righteousness

March 14<sup>th</sup>

The effect of Freedom from Condemnation

March 21<sup>st</sup>

The active & present work of the Holy Spirit

March 28<sup>th</sup>

The effect of Contentment through Godliness

**Date:**  
March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: The Effect of  
Righteousness!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Timothy 4:8; Romans 5:15-21;  
Galatians 2:20-21

*On our own, we can never achieve righteousness  
and yet, we are in desperate need of righteousness  
to enter heaven. (Matthew 5:20)*

The most we can hope for are “filthy rags.”

- Isaiah 64:6

Righteousness is given free and clean through  
Christ.

**1 – The abundance of grace is imparted to us  
dependent upon our reception of it.**

**Romans 5:17b**

- We need to receive the abundant grace of  
Jesus.
- What is His abundant grace?

The abundant grace of Jesus given to us is the  
power we need to break the stronghold of sin.  
Verses 20-21

How do we receive the abundance of grace?

- Time spent with God.
- Sacrificial time intended to see results.



- We must desire to be more like Him and not complain about the condition of our life which we are not willing to change.

## **2 – The righteousness of God is a gift which is never earned. Verse 17c**

Sin in our life causes condemnation and guilt, which ignites an system of earning.

- We equate the feeling of having the righteousness of God with the length of time we have stayed holy.

This is why time spent with God (receiving time) and time spent with His people is so important in our life.

## **3 – Righteousness received causes us to live through Christ. Verse 17d**

- Righteousness causes us to reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Galatians 2:20

The divine power of God gives us everything we need pertaining to godliness because we are living life through Him.

1. Through His power.
2. Through His will.
3. Through His purpose.
4. Through Christ.

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Living it Out 

1 – Set apart a time this week for 1 hour of uninterrupted time to open the Bible and hear from God. Expect something profound!

Date:  
March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **The Effect of  
Freedom from  
Condemnation!**

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Text: Romans 8:1-16

Condemnation is: *the expression of very strong disapproval.* Oxford Dictionary

## **1 – Condemnation is experienced when we walk in the flesh. Verse 3b-4**

- Because sin is condemned in the flesh, any act of sin brings with it condemnation.

Yet, when we walk in the Spirit, we are freed from condemnation.

- Walking in the Spirit is better understood as the Actions of Spirit.

Our actions affect the thought process of our heart and mind (verse 5), which in turn, magnify the pull to commit more actions.

Acting on sin = sinful mind = more action of sin.

Acting on the Spirit = renewed mind = more action of renewal.

## **2 – Condemnation is magnified through a fleshly thought life. Verses 5-7**

- The mind set on the flesh is death!
- What type of death?

1. **Hostility towards God.** Verse 7a  
➤ Hostility meaning *a meaning for opposition*.  
We end up blaming God for every trial.
2. **Not subjecting to the law of God.** Verse 7b
3. **Failure to please God.** Verse 8

We end up failing to please God, because sin screams against God.

- The devil wants us to feel that we are alone and alienated from God.

### **3 – To destroy the effect of condemnation, we must live under the right obligation.**

**Verse 12**

- The obligations of the Spirit bring us life!

### **What are the obligations of the Spirit?**

1. Put to death the deeds of the flesh. Verse 13
2. Be led by the Spirit of God. Verse 13
3. Act in the spirit of Adoption. Verse 15
4. Link up with the Spirit of God. Hear what He wants you to hear. Verse 16

### **4 – To magnify the Spirit of Adoption, we must declare what the Spirit declares. Verse 15b**

- There is something so powerful that happens when we speak out that which the Spirit of God declares for our lives.
- Revelation 22:17

Living it Out 

1 – Declare out loud what the Spirit of God is saying about you. Don't use your own words. Use the words of the Bible.

2 – Make a list and write down the deeds of the flesh you practice and deeds of the Spirit. Pray over them.

## **The Active and Present Work of the Holy Spirit!**

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

Speaking to a large audience, D.L. Moody held up a glass and asked, "*How can I get the air out of this glass?*"

One man shouted, "*Suck it out with a pump!*"

Moody replied, "*That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass.*"

After numerous other suggestions Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass.

"*There,*" he said, "*all the air is now removed.*"

He then went on to explain that victory in the Christian life is not accomplished by "*sucking out a sin here and there,*" but **by being filled with the Holy Spirit.**

*Today in the Word, September, 1991, p. 30.*

Date:  
March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **The Active & Present  
Work of the Holy  
Spirit!**

---

Text: John 14:21-26

**1 – Obedience to God’s Word will allow for us to experience the manifestation and revelation of Jesus through the situations of our lives.**

**Verse 21**

- To *disclose* is the GK word *emphanizo* and it means *to appear in person, make visible, and pass before*.

This promise of Jesus to reveal and appear before us is made manifest through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

- The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus and His love towards us in each situation.

The only prerequisite is that we obey His Word.

**2 – Obedience to God’s Word causes our life to become the resting place for God the Father.**

**Verse 23**

- God is already everywhere in this world. What then is the importance of His dwelling being in us?

For the Believer, this denotes that the Christian is under the influence of God. That he:

1. He rejoices in His Presence.
2. Has the views of God.

3. Has the feelings of God.
4. Has the joys which God produces in a redeemed soul.

### **3 – The Holy Spirit will teach us “all things.”**

#### **Verse 26a**

- This phrase suggests that the work of Jesus through the Holy Spirit is continual to each situation of life.

He has a moment by moment relationship with us where He teaches us His plan, will, and response in each situation.

Acts 16:9-10; 18:9-11; 22:17-18; 23:10-11; 27:23-25;

This is the reason WHY we must obey His commands.

- Not because they are rules. But because they allow His voice to be heard clearly.

### **4 – The Holy Spirit reminds us of the Words of Jesus.**

#### **Verse 26:b**

- We are in need of the Words of Jesus in our lives because they are life in us.
- Matthew 4:4

How much life are we allowing the Holy Spirit to bring in our situation? How much of the words of Jesus are we consumed with?

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Living it **Out** →

The progression of the Holy Spirit’s work in us is solidified through obedience. Pick 1 area of your life. How will you obey? \_\_\_\_\_.

**Date:**  
March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

**Speaker:**  
Jose Gavidia

**Sermon Title: Contentment through  
Godliness!**

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Text: 1 Timothy 6:6-8

*“But godliness actually is a means of great gain  
when accompanied by contentment.”*

1 Timothy 6:6

Godliness is living in a God-centered life.

**1 – Godliness and contentment in our life’s  
situations in all wrapped up in the person of  
Jesus Christ. 1 Timothy 3:16**

- There can be no true contentment without a relationship with Jesus.

**2 – Contentment in our situations is finding joy  
in what God has given to us. 1 Timothy 6:8**

- Paul is giving Timothy the guideline to focus on WHAT God has given to us as opposed what we feel we are LACKING.

**3 – Contentment in our walk with Christ is a  
process that must be practiced.**

**Philippians 4:11-14**

- Paul says, “I have LEARNED to be content.”

Paul learns to be content through the experiences of loss.

Yet, Paul is able to learn contentment through:

1. Doing all things through Christ! Verse 13

The more we live each of our situations through Christ, the more we will be content. Why?

- In the hands of God, little things we have accomplish great and mighty feats!

**4 – The more we PRACTICE contentment in our situations, the more godliness produces a happiness which no person or situation can remove from us. 1 Timothy 6:6**

- *“It is a means of great gain...”*

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Joy under the Juniper

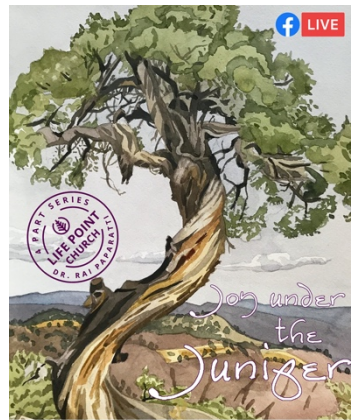
**“The crippling effect of stress” as experienced by Elijah**  
Sunday, 7pm - Monday, 7pm - Tuesday, 7pm - Wednesday, 7pm

# Joy Under the Juniper

“The crippling effect of stress” as experienced by Elijah.

March 7, 2021 @ 7pm

## Part 1: How Elijah Dealt With Stress.



“The crippling effect of stress” as experienced by Elijah  
Sunday, 7pm - Monday, 7pm - Tuesday, 7pm - Wednesday, 7pm

Text: 1 Kings 19:1-4

After accomplishing a mighty feat, a messenger was sent from evil Jezebel to Elijah telling him that she would take his life. Verse 2

We as Believers, are receiving many *messengers* these days.

- The attack against the Church is great indeed.

Elijah, took this message which was the straw that broke the camel’s back.

- Stress was allowed to push him to the limit.

**The epitome of stress is FEAR. Verse 3**

**Stress brought in Elijah’s life: Verse 3**

1. **Fear**
2. **Negative action** – *he ran for his life.*
3. **Isolation** – *he left his servant.*

Isolation is the desire of the Spirit behind stress to bring us to ruin.



If you recognize any of these indicators in your life, the great news is that God has a plan and relief for you.

Jesus declares: Matthew 11:28-30  
*“**Come** unto Me all who are weak and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **Take** My yoke upon you and **learn** from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

### **How to respond:**

#### **1 – Come to Jesus.**

- James 4:8 – “Come near to God and He will come near to you.

#### **2 – Take Jesus’ yoke.**

- He is not giving us a burden, but exchanging our burden for His offer of freedom.
- To take His yoke is to accept His redemption in your life.

#### **3 – Learn from Jesus.**

- Spend some time with Him in prayer and reading the Bible. The more you spend time with Him, the more you understand the freedom He has given you.

# Joy Under the Juniper

“The crippling effect of stress” as experienced by Elijah.

March 8, 2021 @ 7pm

**Part 2: What God prompted Elijah to do.**



“The crippling effect of stress” as experienced by Elijah  
Sunday, 7pm - Monday, 7pm - Tuesday, 7pm - Wednesday, 7pm

Text: 1 Kings 19:1-9

It is interesting to note that an evil message was brought to Elijah by a messenger.

- We are always keen to hear, accept, and internalize the myriad of evil messages that come our way.
- In fact, we don't have to search very hard for them; they simply find their own way into our lives.

The interesting point here is this: Before the enemy of our soul began communicating with humanity, God was communicating with man.

- Therefore, it isn't that God is not speaking and the enemy is.
- It is that we must desire to hear that which God speaks.

We are masters of tuning people out. It mustn't be that way towards God.

The enemy sent only 1 message to Elijah:

- “You will die.”

God sends 2 messages to Elijah multiple times.

Elijah hears one evil message and desires to bring his life to ruin.

Elijah hears constant messages from God and yet is too drained to properly respond.

### **What God Prompted Elijah To Do:**

#### **1 – Eat and drink.**

**Verses 5, 7**

- God knew that Elijah needed sustenance and energy to get Elijah to the place that he would desire the Kingdom of heaven rather than be stuck in the temporal way of life.

We must note that God wasn't just interested in feeding His servant.

- God was interested in sustaining and empowering him with and through His own power.

We must force ourselves to ingest the Word of God.

### **Jesus declared about the Bread of Life:**

**John 6:35**

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."

**John 6:47-51**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life.

Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they die.

This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

**John 6:56**

“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.”

### **Jesus declared about the Living Water:**

**John 7:37-38**

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”

**Matthew 5:6**

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

**2 – Begin a journey.**

**Verse 7-8**

➤ Begin a journey where?

I love that God doesn't give Elijah some crazy thing to do or hoops to jump through.

➤ God simply says, “I want you to meet with me alone on a secluded mountain.”

God is calling for and alone experience with you!







# Joy Under the Juniper

“The crippling effect of stress” as experienced by Elijah.

March 9, 2021 @ 7pm

## Part 3: How Elijah Responded to God.

Text: 1 Kings 19:9-10

I love how pointed and to the point God’s question is to Elijah.

- “What are you doing here?”

We cannot look at this question only on the surface. If we look at the surface of it all, we will allow stress to get us angry at God.

What am I doing here? You told me to come here!

- You sent me on this journey!
- I had to travel over 200 miles for 40 days and you ask me, “What I am doing here?”

Elijah knew that was not what God was asking him.

- More than location, because of Elijah’s response, God was asking him, “*What are you doing here in this place in life?*”

God was cutting right to the heart of his stress and depression.



“The crippling effect of stress” as experienced by Elijah  
Sunday, 7pm - Monday, 7pm - Tuesday, 7pm - Wednesday, 7pm

## **Elijah Responds to God:**

**1 – Elijah came close enough to hear God speak, but was armed with a poisonous response.**

- Stress not given to God causes our responses toward God to become skewed.

While Elijah's responses seem innocent enough, we can read the accusations that are there based on God's actions following this encounter.

**Let's look at his responses:**

**1. I have been very zealous!**

- Elijah has allowed stress to give him a very false assurance of self-righteousness.
- This is an accusation against God. I have been VERY zealous, while you have mistreated me!

**2. Israel has forsaken your covenant!**

- Interesting that Elijah's problem was not with "sons of Israel," but with Jezebel and the false prophets, yet, he complains to God that "everybody has deserted God!"
- He is telling God, following You has become unrealistic. Nobody does it!

**3. They have killed Your prophets!**

- He is accusing God of doing NOTHING while the lonely group of VERY ZEALOUS prophets are destroyed.

#### **4. I alone am left!**

- This one is the heart of the matter. Elijah feels alone and feels that God is not with him.

Remember this is the heart of what stress desires to accomplish in our life. ISOLATION. Now that Elijah is alone, he feels that his isolation means that God has abandoned him.

- This is dangerous.
- God will never leave us or forsake us. He is everywhere at all times.
- He cannot leave us. Not only will He not leave us, He cannot leave us!

#### **5. They seek my life!**

- Elijah is not simply telling God what is happening. He is accusing Him of not caring enough to protect him.

Instead of seeing God how God has protected his life, (*Chapter 18, Elijah faces 450 false prophets*) he focuses on the threat of the ungodly and is convinced that Jezebel is mightier than God!

---

My friends, we can always, and should always bring our requests before God. We can let out our complaint before God knowing that He hears us.

- But we cannot assume that God is unjust in our lives because our situations do not go the way we want them to.
- Stress, while in our lives, must be silenced. If not, it will always speak and bring a case against God.

## **Psalm 46:10**

“Be still (cease striving) and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

The plan that God has is always greater than our plan.

His ways are always greater than our ways.

As we are still before Him, we will know that He is God and that He is arranging the entire universe to do His bidding and to benefit His children.

Hold on...there is always **Joy under the Juniper!**

# Joy Under the Juniper

“The crippling effect of stress” as experienced by Elijah.

March 10, 2021 @ 7pm

## Part 4: God Corrects Chaos With Peace.



"The crippling effect of stress" as experienced by Elijah  
Sunday, 7pm - Monday, 7pm - Tuesday, 7pm - Wednesday, 7pm

Text: 1 Kings 19:11-13, 15-18

God is always available in the midst of our chaos.

- Elijah was quite used to the chaos of life. In fact, I believe that it was in the chaos that he was most comfortable.

Yet, it is the chaos which we must allow to quiet down before we can see or hear what God has to say to us as we are struggling.

We must train our lives to know Him and not be moved by the striking chaos.

- The wind was so loud.
- The earthquake was deeply felt.
- The fire was hot and destructive.

These were all extremes with which we would like to see God answer.

- We desire for God to answer through wind, earthquake or fire.
- Yet, He desires to calm and quiet our soul.

God always offers, and is, Peace in the midst of chaos.

Through the wind, earthquake, and fire, God declared that He is more than able to care for Elijah.

- For Elijah survived them all and no harm came to him.

We often attribute our lack of hearing and our lack of feeling close to God, to God's lack of power and authority over the events of our life.

- Yet we are blind to see that when chaos is truly there, God is magnificent in all His wisdom and protection.

Elijah felt that he was alone and that he was running for his life.

- Yet, when confronted with insurmountable disasters, Elijah stands firm.

God's power and love for you and I is greater than the feelings that stress is trying to feed us.

God gives Elijah very practical steps after He brings a stillness to the situation around Elijah.

Awesome to note that God never answers the specific fears and stresses in Elijah.

- God displays His love and power to Elijah, and then enters the situation in through the sound of gentle blowing.

Once Elijah is still, God gives him some directives that not only reshape Elijah's life, but the lives of all who come in contact with him.

The same is true for you today. Follow what God is telling you to do. He has already lifted your stress. Just be obedient. The journey ahead is stronger and mightier than before.

## **God's Words of Peace and Restoration Over Elijah:**

### **1 – Go and return to the wilderness. Verse 15a**

- You may go back to the same lonely and isolated situation, but you must now keep your eyes open.
- God is at work in all the forces that may have seemed to cause our harm.

God had opened Elijah's eyes so that he could see that in the stressful situations of life, He is at work.

## **OPEN YOUR EYES!**

### **2 – When you arrive you must make new declarations. Verses 15-16**

- God told Elijah to anoint specific people.

What God told Elijah to do (anoint people), did not change the situation immediately.

- It was an action of declaration.

Yet, what Elijah declared began to shape the history not only of a nation, but of a new prophet's experience with God.

**3 – Receive that God does not leave wickedness and injustice untouched. Verse 17**

- Even if it means that He does so when we are out of the picture.

Our stress is no longer tied to hurt or injustice.

- Our stress has been traded for the light and easy yoke of Jesus Christ.

**4 – We are never alone. Verse 18**

- I love that God threw in this tidbit of information. It was very matter-of-fact.

“By the way Elijah, you are not alone. There are over 7000 in Israel that still worship me.”

By letting Elijah hear this, God was letting him know that His plan involves the wellbeing of all His children and not just the isolated one!

Why must we know this?

There is a network of Believers around this world who can stand with one another and encourage one another declaring the faithfulness of God.

Do you want to find them? **OPEN YOUR EYES.**

---

My friends, God had been at work in and through Elijah’s life continually. Even when he allowed himself to become bombarded with stress and its effects. But one thing we can always take away from God’s Word is this:



No matter the situation or symbol of grief,  
heartache, and stress in your life, God will always  
provide peace and restoration in it.

He is the ultimate redeemer!

Therefore, look up towards heaven, and receive  
from God your **JOY UNER THE JUNIPER!**

He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises  
so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature  
2 Peter 1:4

Knowing *the Father*  
— God  
*experiencing His Presence in each situation*

April

## Monthly Message Direction:

April 4 <sup>h</sup>	The Great Set-Up
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	The Promise of Being Sent
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	The Promise of Receiving the Holy Spirit
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	The Promise of Access



The **tomb** was the same. The **garments** were the same. The death **stone** He laid on was the same. But yet, it was entirely **conquered**.

- The women were in the center of tragedy but yet they were okay.
- This was the first recorded instance of someone experiencing comfort, joy, and peace from within a situation after the resurrection.

All the while Jesus was in their midst Verse 9

- The trials were nothing but **preparation** for **Presence**.

Matthew 11:28-30

1. Come to follow / purpose
2. Come to gain rest / strength
3. Come to experience victory

**3 – Third Command – Go** Verse. 7, 10

- This command gives feet to the experience we have with Jesus
- Go Quickly
- Go Tell

**The Results:**

1. Fear / Awe Verse 8
2. Great Joy Verse 8
3. Promise Verse 9
4. Reinforcement Verse 9
5. Presence of Jesus Verse 10

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Living it Out 

- 1 – Take your greatest fear and command it to go declaring Jesus' resurrection over it.
- 2 – Allow your mission this week to become the voice of experience to someone else.

Date:  
April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **The Promise of Being Sent!**

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Text: John 20:21-22

*“We must not delude ourselves into thinking that we have been sent into the world to live according to our own methods and ways of life. We have been sent, as Believers, in the same manner that God sent Christ.”*

**1 – In this one promise, Christ defines the remainder of our lives with His purpose.**

**Verse 21**

It is a life of His Peace.	Verse 21a
It is a life of the Father’s plans.	Verse 21b
It is a life of Jesus’ sending.	Verse 21c
It is a life of our supernatural receiving.	Verse 22

**2 – While being sent is a command, the promise is in the context of being sent in the “same way” as the Father sent Christ.**

**Verse 21**

*“As the Father has sent me, I also send you.”*

John 17:22-26

**A – His promise of sending provides the glory of the Father in our lives which solidifies our relationship with Him.**

**Verse 22**

- When we are obedient and go, we magnify the closeness of relationship with God.

**B – His promise of sending provides the characteristics of Christ to shine through our life. Especially through our weaknesses.**

**Verse 23**

- When we are obedient and go, we magnify the expression of Christ to a much needy and hurting world.

**C – His promise of sending provides supernatural glimpses of the purpose and plan which God has destined.**

**Verse 24**

- When we are obedient and go, we develop an audience at the throne of God.
- Our experience at His throne allows us to *see* where we fit in and the scope of His plan since the foundation of the world.

**D – His promise of sending provides the power and expression of God’s love through our life’s experiences.**

**Verse 26**

- When we are obedient and go, we become active manifestations of His saving power.

*“We often desire promises that are self-gratifying. When they are self-gratifying, they will often lack power. If we desire promises that are redemptive in nature, we will live life full of the peace of God (John 20:21) and full of the manifestation of His Presence.”*

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Living it **Out** 

Live out the redemption of God and purposefully reach someone this very week with the Gospel.

**Date:**  
April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: The Promise of  
Receiving the Holy Spirit!**

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**Text: John 20:21-22**

*“Breathing brings us energy. We need to breathe to send oxygen into the cells in our bodies, which constantly need a new supply so they can produce energy. When breathing, we also allow our bodies to get rid of the waste products and toxins it creates, which can easily stagnate in our bodies and damage vital functions if not expelled.” – U. Chudasama*

When Christ breathed over His disciples, it was the same action He used in Genesis 2:7.

- God had breathed life into man.
- Sin came in and brought death. Jesus conquered death.
- Jesus breathes life into man once again.

But this time, His Spirit now dwells inside of us!

**1 – The Holy Spirit was given to qualify them for the work He now sent them to do.**

**Acts 1:8**

- Up until this point, man served his own purpose. And his own purpose always brought destruction.
- But living in the purpose of God, is living under the guidance, influence, and power of God.

The Holy Spirit was released over Believers in Christ to accomplish:

1. Being His witness. Acts 1:8b
2. Handling hometown life. Acts 1:8c
3. Handling transition in life. Acts 1:8d
4. Living yielded to His purpose. Acts 1:8e

**2 – This promise is so important because we no longer have to live bound.**

**Galatians 5:22-25**

- We can rely on the Spirit of God.

The more we daily yield to the fruit or ways of the Spirit, the more we experience the walking of the Spirit.

As we live by the Spirit, we also walk by the Spirit.

- This is to have the experience of God in each of our lives transitions and experiences.
- We do not have to have an experience in this life apart from God living through us.
- We never have to be alone.

Galatians 5:16 – Walk by the Spirit.

- *Walk* is the Greek word *peripateo* and it means *to walk around in a complete circuit. Going full circle.*
- We must follow through on our walk with Christ. The moment we press through is when we experience living by the Spirit!

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Living it  Out

1 – How will you press through and *walk* by the Spirit for 1 day? \_\_\_\_\_



**Date:**  
April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: The Promise of  
Access!**

---

**Text: 2 Peter 1:4**

*“The drop of water is of one nature with the boundless ocean that rolls shoreless beyond the horizon, and stretches plumbless into the abysses. The tiniest spark of flame is of the same nature as those leaping, hydrogen spears of illuminated gas that spring hundreds of thousands of miles high in a second or two in the great central sun.” MacLaren*

**1 – We have the promise of constant access to the divine nature. Verse 4b**

- The very characteristics of God’s nature are open and accessible to us.

Before we make an assumption that the divine nature is to be like God, Peter is writing about having the same moral characteristics of God.

If we possess the same moral characteristics of God; better understood as His holiness, then we receive benefit from the manifestation of that holiness.

**The manifestations of holiness is becoming a vessel: 2 Timothy 2:21**

- 1. A vessel for honor. Verse 21a**
  - Speaking of Value.

**2. A sanctified vessel.** Verse 21b  
➤ Speaking of position.

**3. A vessel useful to the Master.** Verse 21c  
➤ Speaking of daily usability.

**4. A vessel that is always prepared.** Verse 21d  
➤ Speaking of having a stable emotional disposition.

**2 – The promise of divine nature is realized in our life by our choice.** Verse 4b  
➤ It is about living a “partaker-style” life.

Through prayer, we receive the **conviction** to use the characteristics of the divine nature.

By our own choosing we **use** the characteristics of the divine nature.

By God’s divine power they take **affect** once we choose them.

*“When we choose the promise of access to the divine nature, through holy loving, we live life in the very manifestation of Christ through us. His power for our every situation.”*

---

Living it **Out** 

1 – Practice cutting the ties of sin in your life and expect to see the power of God in a pressing situation.

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply **moral excellence**... 2 Peter 1:5



**Monthly Message Direction:**

May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Choosing to Direct Our Mind

May 9<sup>th</sup>

Mother's Day

May 16<sup>th</sup>

Warning's from a Lustful Man – Part 1

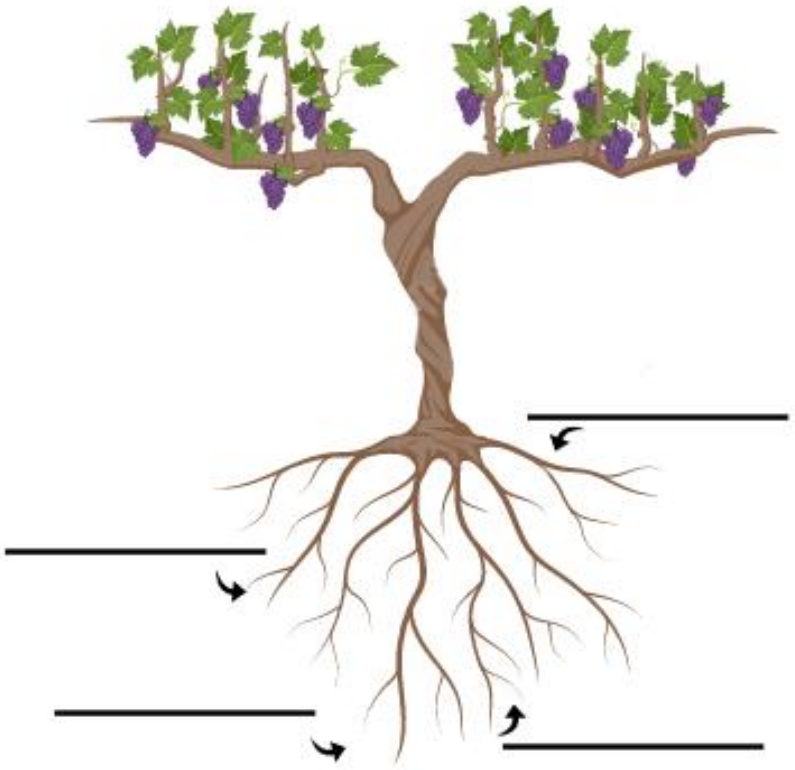
May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Warning's from a Lustful Man – Part 2

May 30<sup>th</sup>

Warning's from a lustful man - Part 3

## *Naming our Root System:*



### **Committing it to God:**

I will sacrifice my fleshly addiction to God through my active and willful choice by a greater intake of God's Presence. At the patterned time of temptation, I will substitute in God's Word and Prayer.

The Word – Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer – Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: Choosing to Direct  
Our Mind!**

---

Text: 2 Peter 1:5a; Romans 12:1-2

We all have faith (Hebrews 11:6). Yet, we are to supply to our faith certain characteristics with all diligence.

- The idea of all diligence is that these characteristics will be fought against.

**1 – We will never begin to direct our mind if we are not first transformed by the renewing of our mind.**

**Verse 2**

- Being able to redirect the focus of our mind is tied to our level of conformation to the world.
- How many roots do we have in the ground?

**Name our root system: (See Insert)**

Conforming to the methodology of the world allows direct access to our mind.

- If our mind is accessed by sin, we are open for theft.
- Any and all theft costs something to replace.
- This is the classic phishing scam.

The question then becomes: How are we transformed by the renewing of our minds?

## **2 – We are renewed by the active and willful choice to sacrifice from our bodies. Verse 1**

- What defines “bodies?”

“Bodies” is our *Sinful Pleasure Receptors*.

Therefore, if it gratifies our flesh and leads us away from relationship with God; we must sacrifice it.

### **The Essence of Sacrifice:**

- Key components: Living & Holy

#### **Living:**

1. Sacrifice must take place in the grind of our life.
2. Sacrifice must consume the nature of our life.

#### **Holy:**

1. Sacrifice will always be set apart for the purpose of being used by God.
- This is the very nature of holiness: set-apart for a godly purpose.

As we sacrifice and direct our minds towards God, we live a lifestyle of worship before Him.

- Worship causes us to know and be known by God. John 4:23-24

---

Living it **Out** 

1 – As we direct our mind towards God, the strongholds of sin lose their grip.

2 – Spend 1 hour this week letting your mind dwell on God’s plan for your life.

## Mother's Day

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Illustration for  
the:

### **Power of a Spiritually Aggressive Mother**

On her first Mother's Day, Amber Dyck posted a photo of her son on Facebook, and a message: "*I would walk through fire for you.*"

Three days later, the Morinville, Alberta mom jumped out of her second-floor bedroom window, clutching her baby to her chest as her house was engulfed in flames. She fell about six meters, hitting a BBQ on the way down and landing on her back, fracturing vertebrae in her spine.

Her son, seven-month-old Daemon, wasn't injured.

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In 2018, another Canadian mom showed superhuman strength — this time while in childbirth.

Danielle Johnston was able to save her newborn triplets' lives by resuscitating one of them while giving birth to the other two.

After going into early labor at home on her farm and delivering the first baby, who wasn't breathing, Johnston gave her daughter CPR while waiting 45 minutes for an ambulance to take them to the hospital.

*"I don't think you have any choice. You just do it,"* she previously told the Canadian news outlet.

In 2006, northern Quebec mom Lydia Angyiou fought off a polar bear to save her sons. The bear weighed at least 700 pounds, and the five-foot-flat Angyiou only weighs about 90, the Globe and Mail reported.

She told her children to run, then kicked, punched, and wrestled the massive animal until someone else could shoot it.



**Date:**  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: Mother's Day!**

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Text: Matthew 15:21-23; Mark 7:24-30

*Moral excellence is not only defined by what sinful things we omit from our life; but in the active drive to seek God for the fulfillment of all our needs.*

- If we omit a sin and do not fill it with a touch from Christ, we only increase the perpetual hold of previous temptations.

### **The Power of an Aggressive Mother:**

This mother had all of the wrong stereotypes listed against her.

- She was a woman. Probably alone.
- She was Syrophenician.
- She lived in cultural, economic, and political oppression.

Yet, when Jesus is in the picture, people gain freedom and are immensely empowered!

**1 – The power behind her receiving came through the unashamed display of her need for Christ. Matthew 15:21b**

- Her action of coming to Jesus for help was not hindered by what she might have looked like in the eyes of other people. Matthew 15:23b

People's perception and even their conversation of us must not dictate our experience with Christ.

## **2 – The power behind her receiving came through her display of humility.**

**Mark 7:25b**

- The house was full, the atmosphere charged, and the disciples annoyed.
- Yet, she still came to Jesus humbly.

While the disciples complained, she yielded in humility against the innate temptation to vindicate herself and defend her actions due to her condition.

## **3 – The power behind her receiving came through her unmovable display of persistence; knowing that Jesus alone was her answer.**

**Mark 7:26b**

- We often only ask once and then become discouraged in our lack of receiving because we do not believe in our core that Jesus alone is what we need.
- James 4:2-5

This should push us to grow in:

1. Knowing the love of Jesus in all of our situations.
2. Knowing His love for that which matters to us.
3. Knowing that what matters most is not our society fit, but our place as children of God.

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Living it Out 

Name your need \_\_\_\_\_

Know your answer: JESUS!

Date:  
May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Giving in to  
Immorality – Warnings from a  
Lustful Man – Part 1!

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Text: Judges 13:24-25; 14:1-7, 20

*“The immoral addict calls Jesus “Lord” with his mouth, but then like Peter denies Him and turns to the goddess of lust. Sin takes a strong foothold in his heart as he lives trying to have both God’s love and lust’s “comfort.””* - safesurfing.org

**1 – Our eyes will always “see” what the failure of our heart desires. Judges 14:1a**

- For Sampson, “woman” was the weakness of his flesh.
- We can replace that word in so many different ways.

His *seeing* was directly linked to his *desiring*.

- The very strongholds we desire, our eyes will make a way to see.

We must begin to change our desires. But how?

1. Routine – We must change the method of the day and stick with it.
2. Seek the change – We must keep the spiritual giant picture before us.

**2 – Immorality is easy to distinguish. It will go against what God has plainly declared.**

**Judges 14:1b**

- Exodus 34:11-16; Deuteronomy 7:1-6;  
Joshua 23:11-13

When God says no, it is for greater purpose and not for momentary denial.

### **3 – Immorality is completely feeling based.** **Judges 14:3b**

**Immediate urgency** – “*get her.*” Sin always wants to have its way immediately.

- The immediacy of sin sets quick anchors.

“Immediately” is a powerful word. It can drop us deep into sin or it can raise our faith.

- Mark 7:25

**Immediate gratification** – “*looks good to me.*” Immediate gratification almost always bypasses quality and character.

### **4 – Immorality looks for self-pleasure and not reconciliation.** **Judges 14:19b-20; 15:1-2**

- Sampson followed his urges rather than wisdom.
- He visited his “wife” when his lustful urges were back.

Giving in to immorality causes intense hatred which is then covered up by immoral temptation once again.

- Hatred and lust go hand-in-hand.

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Living it Out 

Read through Judges chapters 13-16.  
Commit your immoral weakness before Christ.

May 23, 2021

Opening Illustration for:

**Giving in to Immorality – Warnings from a Lustful Man  
Part 2!**

ABC News : November 30, 2011

“Oscar Wilde’s famous tomb in Paris will now be getting a lot less love,” reports ABC news.

This month marks the 111th anniversary of the death of writer Oscar Wilde (author, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST, et al).

So beloved a literary giant was he that countless thousands have made pilgrimage to his tomb, and countless admiring fans have for decades planted lipstick kisses all over his headstone.

While very romantic and endearing, the misguided acts of adoration actually damaged the tomb to a point nearly beyond repair. It seems that the oils in the lipstick wore away at the stone’s surface, making it increasingly more porous with each cleaning.

Cemetery officials finally said “enough!” Recently closed for repair, the tomb was just this week reopened, unveiling a cleaned and secure gravestone entirely encased in glass to prevent any further damage.

*“If misguided or misplaced affection can destroy one’s tombstone, imagine what it can do to one’s soul.”*

**Date:**  
May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: Giving in to  
Immorality – Warnings from a  
Lustful Man – Part 2!**

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Text: Judges 16:1-3

*“If misguided or misplaced affection can destroy one’s tombstone, imagine what it can do to one’s soul.”*

**1 – The temptation of immorality does not go away. It comes back in deeper progression.**

**Judges 16:1**

- When the vice of our life is not dealt with, we give in to it, and each time it takes more ground.

As Sampson began to give in to temptation, we can see that the temptation grew deeper and so did the consequence.

**Temptation:**

Judges 14:1 – He saw a woman (Philistine).

Judges 16:1 – He saw a prostitute.

Judges 16:4 – He LOVED a woman.

**Consequence:**

Judges 14:20 – Relational loss.

Judges 16:3 – God’s touch – a game of pride.

Judges 16:21 – Physical harm.

Judges 16:23 – Giving credibility to false gods.

**2 – Our vice, once established and rooted, prepares the ground for assault and nightly terror. Judges 16:2**

1. **They surrounded the place.** We will find that the place of our everyday dealing will feel surrounded. Lust at work, lust at school, lust at home, lust when alone.
2. **They laid in wait for him all night.** Our night experience is completely disrupted. Lack of sleep. Increase of sinful thinking. Disrupted and confused day. Our night sleep is important. Psalm 3:5
3. **They conspired and made plans.** One sin opens the door to others. More spiritual attack. Matthew 12:44-45
4. **We will kill him.** The plan is always the same.

**3 – Moments of strength with God do not uproot desired sin. Judges 16:3**

- Just because Sampson did something great, did not justify his sin.

Sampson made it seem that the moment of strength he experienced gave him godly pride on top of the mountain.

- Yet, he was never supposed to be where he was.

---

Living it Out 

**Untangling and uprooting the grip of sin:**

1. Develop hate for it. The more time in the disciplines, the more God's heart becomes ours.
2. Repent from it. Turn around and change the habits. From old habits to new ones.aa

**Date:**  
May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: Giving in to  
Immorality – Warnings from a  
Lustful Man – Part 3!**

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Text: Judges 16:4-21

**1 – When allowed to take root, we eventually  
justify immorality. Verse 4**

- Samson *loved!*

Samson used his feelings as the emotional justification for what he was doing wrong.

- How we feel can never be the basis for our morality.

If we feel hurt – we justify our sinful actions as relief.

If we feel lustful – we justify our sinful actions as a quick fulfillment for our lack.

If we feel angry – we justify our sinful actions innocent retaliation.

Samson loved that which was wrong.

- We will never destroy sinful addiction through our feelings (self-will & self-strength)
- We destroy sin through the strength of Christ.

How do we develop the strength of Christ?

- “*Whichever wolf you feed wins*”



## **2 – Holding on to immorality blinds us from seeing the same trap over again.**

**Verses 6-19**

- This progression happens because of Samson's feelings. Verse 15 – *I love you.*

Verse 6: Where do you get your strength?

Verse 7: Sampson lies. Verse 8: She binds him.

Verse 10: How can I bind you?

Verse 11: Samson lies. Verse 12: She binds him.

Verse 13: How can I bind you?

Verse 13: Samson lies but gets closer to revealing his vow to God. Verse 14: She tied his hair.

Verse 15: Where do you get your strength?

Verse 17: Samson lays down his vow before God.

Verse 19: Samson's strength leaves him.

## **3 – Rooted immorality will bring us to make light of severe circumstances.**

**Verses 9, 12**

- There was no alarm in Samson's head. There was only the pleasurable moment.

*“Let's all wise up. Some of us aren't fighting the fire; we're playing with fire. Flirting with the devil. Stop it! Stop it now before all hell literally breaks loose.”*  
Beth Moore

## **4 – Rooted immorality causes us to deeply give in.**

**Verse 16**

Immorality turns into daily pressure.

- It picks up momentum.

His soul was annoyed to death.

- It uses what we desire as payment for our relationship with God.

He gave in.

- We release to the devil our commitments towards God.
- *“That which we compromise to keep; we lose.”*

## **5 – Immorality destroys our senses and punishes the very entrance in has into our life.**

**Verse 21**

- *They gouged out Samson’s eyes.*

Remember, Samson saw...no longer.

**If we allow lust** – it will destroy our capability to function morally in our sexual experiences in marriage.

**If we allow substance addiction** – it will destroy our spiritual reflex capability. We will turn to substance as a priority before turning to God.

**If we allow self-harm** – it will destroy the prospect of doing anything for God. For it will always show us as deeply lacking and not capable of doing.

**If we allow bitterness** – it will destroy the image of anything good in people. We will firstly see man’s wrong before we could see their godly worth.

**What is my immoral proclivity?**

*(Circle your struggle)*

Lust    Anger    Bitterness    Hatred    Self-harm

Substance abuse    Adultery    Lying    Pride

Gossip    Cheating

**How often does it consume my time?**

*(Circle closest match)*

Once a month    Once a week    Once a day

Less than 1 hour a day    More than 1 hour a day

Continually throughout the day

**How often do I spend time with God?**

*(Circle closest match)*

Only on Sunday    Once a week    Every day

*(Circle time)*

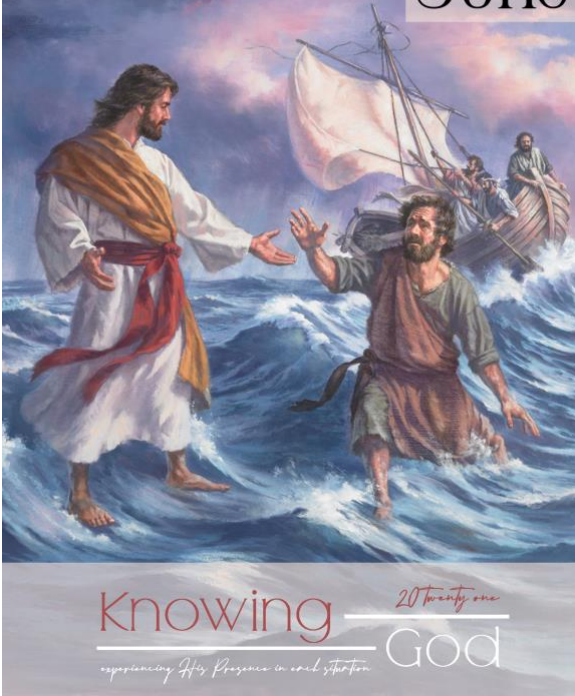
Less than 20 min    More than 20 min but < 1hr

One hour or more

**Contrast time with God and time spent with immorality. FEED THE RIGHT WOLF!**

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence,  
in your faith supply... knowledge. 2 Peter 1:5

June



## Monthly Message Direction:

June 6 <sup>th</sup>	No knowledge without knowing Knowledge
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Worldly Knowledge
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Father's Day
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Obedient Knowledge

**Date:**  
June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: No knowledge without  
knowing Knowledge!**

---

Text: 2 Peter 1:5; 1 Corinthians 2:2-14

*“God alone is the Initiator of our knowledge of Him. Only God can reveal Himself.”*

## **1 – Only God can reveal Himself. Verses 9-11**

This is so important for us in that, each time we experience an aspect of God, we are experiencing an invitation from God.

- Learning is invitation.
- Preaching is invitation.
- Time spent in His Word is invitation.

With invitation comes: Verse 4

1. Demonstration of the Spirit.
2. Demonstration of power.

The reason behind the power of this invitation is so that our faith would be rooted not on man’s wisdom but on the power of God.

We believe because we have experienced His power.

- Experience of Salvation.
- Experience of Baptism.
- Experience of His stronghold breaking.

We believe because we are living through His power.

- Life with purpose.
- Life without fear.
- Life on a greater mission.

We believe because we are showing His power.

- We have highly underestimated the power behind praying for someone.
- This is why we don't do it.

**2 – We must act upon seeking Him for the revelation of who He is. Verse 12**

- Jeremiah 29:13

Because we have received the Spirit of God, we possess in us the ability to *know* the things freely given to us by God.

- These are mighty things that have been given to us. Verse 9

We must act and speak. Verse 13

We have been given the mind of Christ.

- Verse 16

We must learn to respond to the aspect of revelation we have received.

- If we receive revelation that God is a provider; we must respond to God about His provision.

---

Living it Out 

1 – Dedicate prayer time with a journal. What did you learn about God this week? How will you respond to His invitation?

Illustration for introduction of:

## **WORD-ly Knowledge**

June 12, 2021

A man in Kansas City was severely injured in an explosion. Evangelist Robert L. Sumner tells about him in his book The Wonders of the Word of God.

The victim's face was badly disfigured, and he lost his eyesight as well as both hands. He was just a new Christian, and one of his greatest disappointments was that he could no longer read the Bible. Then he heard about a lady in England who read braille with her lips. Hoping to do the same, he sent for some books of the Bible in braille. Much to his dismay, however, he discovered that the nerve endings in his lips had been destroyed by the explosion.

One day, as he brought one of the braille pages to his lips, his tongue happened to touch a few of the raised characters and he could feel them. Like a flash he thought, I can read the Bible using my tongue.

At the time Robert Sumner wrote his book, the man had "read" through the entire Bible four times.

[Robert L. Sumner, The Wonders of the Work of God](#).

Date:  
June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **WORD-ly Knowledge!**

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Text: John 15:1-11

*The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to transform the Children of God.*

The knowledge of God is intricately tied to His Word.

- We must move from reading the Word to living the Word.

The importance of abiding in Christ is clear.

- If we do not abide in Him – we are removed.

If we abide in Him, we are filled with:

1. Fruitfulness. Verse 5a
2. Responsive prayer life. Verse 7
3. The joy of Christ though us. Verse 11a
4. Our joy made full. Verse 11b

There is no substitute for assimilating the Word of God through:

- Reading. Romans 15:4
- Studying. 2 Timothy 2:15
- Memorizing. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Meditating. Joshua 1:8

**1 – We cannot bypass the handbook that God has given to us and expect to know Him in some other way.**

- Acts 2:42 – His Word must be first.



We are cleansed through:

- The Word of God.

Verse 3

We connect with God:

- Through His Word.

Verse 7

We are covered by the consuming nature of His love:

- Through His Words.
- Romans 8:35, 37-39

Verse 10

*“The only god we can know in our own way, is the one we make in our own image – and that is idolatry!”*

**2 – Abiding in Christ is through the connection we make with His Word.**

**Verse 7, 10**

- Abiding in Christ is His Words abiding in us.
- Keeping His commandments is abiding in His love.

The relationship we have with the Word of God is the measurement of how we are abiding or living in Christ.

Do we know His Words?

Yes / No

Can we speak His Words?

Yes / No

Do we live His Words?

Yes / No

---

Living it Out 

Live out His Word. Take 1 Peter 5:6-11 and write out 1 verse each day. Pray it. Meditate on it. Have conversation about it.

## **Father's Day Opening Illustration.**

Intro for: Knowing the Heart of the Father.

Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Father's Favorite Sayings:

1. Never underestimate the power of human stupidity. Rich Constand's Dad (Business Man)
2. Wherever you are in life, first make friends with the cook. Bill Lewis's Dad (WWII Bomber Pilot)
3. The second time you get kicked in the head by a mule it's not a learning experience. Ebb Dozier Jr's Dad
4. Never buy anything that eats. Neal Bashor's Dad (Artist)
5. If this is the worst thing that happens to you in life, don't worry about it. John Taylor's Dad (Minister)
6. Never be so broke that you cannot afford to pay attention. Michael Brose's Dad (Teacher)
7. Peer pressure is a crack in the armor of your own conviction. Peter W. Troy's Dad
8. If everybody else is doing it, it is probably wrong.
9. Marry a big woman; someone to give you shade in the summer and warmth in the winter. Bill Bodin's Dad (Chief architect at IBM)

**Date:**  
June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Papparatti

**Sermon Title: Knowing the Heart of  
the Father!**

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Text: Luke 15:11-24

*“While many dads say many things, it is the Word of our Heavenly Father which will ultimately change the course of our lives.”*

**1 – God is always our answer even amid earthly situations that are completely out of our control. Verse 14**

- Famine, while wretched in experience was actually God’s grace towards the young man.

Famine was out of the boys control. But becoming impoverished was in his own hands.

- He squandered his money. Verse 13

The contrast we see here is that the Father is our answer amid situations out of our control and situations caused by our control.

**2 – Our own methodology, no matter how much it makes sense according to the situation, causes more harm than good. Verse 15**

- What makes sense apart from knowing God, leaves us longing, empty, and cynical.

Verse 16

### **3 – God has greater plans for our restoration than what we could come up with on our own.**

#### **Verse 18**

- So often we would rather live relationship with God as “hired men” rather than His children.
- “Hired men,” have more control over their lives. Children must live surrendered.

### **4 – God is the great initiator of our relationship with Him.**

#### **Verse 20b**

1. The Father sees him. Even from a long way off. The eyes of God are ever towards us.
2. The Father felt compassion for him. His longing for us to be restored is greater than our own desire to be restored.
3. The Father ran to him. God will close the distance between us and Him the moment we initiate an act of surrender.

*“We must realize that this was not the first time God acted towards the boy. God was in control of all events, including the famine at the right time and in the right place.”*

4. The Father embraced and kissed him. Our filth is not a hindrance to God. He never sees that as a limiting factor to be near to us.

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Living it **Out** 

1 – Make the effort to “come near” to God. It’s all about the time we are willing to sacrifice to hear His heart for us. When, in the prime of our day, will you run towards God?

Date:  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Obedient Knowledge!**

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Text: John 14:21-24

*“The Knowledge of God cannot be separated from faithfulness to God.”*

**1 – There is no such thing as genuine knowledge of God that does not show itself in obedience to His Word and His will. Verse 21a**

➤ *Has my commandments and keeps them.*

If we claim that we love Him, we must keep His commandments.

What it means to keep the commandments of God:

➤ Love towards others. Romans 13:8-14

We must have an active participation in love.

Romans 12:9-21

➤ This should be the drive of our desire and Christianity. The more we focus on meeting these specific needs, the more we show that we love Christ, the more revelation we receive of Him and His plan for our lives.

**See Insert:**

(Note: Verses 9 and 21 are bookends.)

As we strive to love like Jesus, we are thrown into the realm of **complete revelation** of God through the venues of our life.

Keeping commands = love for Christ.

Love for Christ = revelatory love from God.

Love from God = revelation from Christ.

**2 – Loving Christ by actively loving others, realigns the chaos of our life by bringing communion, connection, and capability with God. Verse 21b**

- *Will be loved by My Father.*
- God already loves the world? John 3:16

The love that is being mentioned is the love of God towards us because we are doing His will.

God loves the world. God love His children.

There is a difference of love experiences.

- Luke 15:31 does not apply to unbelievers.

**3 – Our obedience to His commandments allows for the revelation and realization of Christ in our life. Verse 21c**

- *I will disclose Myself to him.*
- *Disclose means: to appear in person and reveal.*

We can have experiences with Christ that will remove any lingering of doubt.

We accomplish more and take bigger risks when we are completely certain of a thing.

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Living it Out 

1 – Devote one week to the Daily Checklist provided and evaluate your obedience to Christ.

2 – Seek to accomplish at least one item each day.

# Daily Checklist of Keeping His Commandments

**Romans 12:9-21**

- 1 – Abhor evil, cling to what is good. Vs. 9  
*Have I resisted evil and sought out to please God today? Yes / No How?*
- 2 – Give preference to one another in honor.  
Diligent Fervent Serving Vs. 10-11  
*Have I put others first today? Yes / No How?*
- 3 – Rejoicing in Hope. Vs. 12a  
*Was today filled with hope? Yes / No How?*
- 4 – Persevering in tribulation. Vs. 12b  
*Did I endure any attacks? Yes / No How?*
- 5 – Devoted to prayer. Vs. 12c  
*Did I spend time in prayer? Yes / No When?*
- 6 – Contributing to the needs of the saints. Vs. 13a  
*Did I meet any needs of those in the Church? Did I seek out to know any needs? Yes / No How?*
- 7 – Practicing hospitality. Vs. 13b  
*Have I used my assets for anyone else? Did I open my home for Christ? Yes / No How?*
- 8 – Bless those who persecute you. Vs. 14  
*Have I spoken blessings over those who have it out for me? Yes / No How?*

9 – Rejoicing with those who rejoice. Vs. 15a  
*Have I celebrated with those whose life is going pretty well at the moment? Yes / No How?*

10 – Weeping with those who weep. Vs. 15b  
*Have I encouraged those who are going through a difficult time? Yes / No How?*

11 – Associate with the lowly. Vs. 16  
*Have I regarded those who are not in my friend circle? Yes / No How?*

12 – Never pay back evil for evil. Vs. 17a  
*Have I been mindful of my evil words for people who have harmed me? Yes / No How?*

13 – Respect rightness openly. Vs. 17b  
*Have I taken a stand publicly for that which is morally right? Yes / No How?*

14 – Be at peace with all men. Vs. 18b  
*Have I strived to be peaceful? Yes / No How?*

15 – Never take revenge. Vs. 19  
*Have I trusted God today for any desire of revenge? Yes / No How?*

16 – Meet needs of enemies. Vs. 20  
*Have I gone far enough to meet the needs of any that are against me? Yes / No How?*

17 – Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Vs. 21  
*Have I overcome the pressure of evil with the goodness of Christ? Yes / No How?*



Knowing

20 twenty one

God

*experiencing His Presence in each situation*

July

Now for this very reason, applying all diligence, in your faith supply ... **self-control**. 2 Peter 1:5-6

## Monthly Message Direction:

July 4<sup>th</sup>

David's Dangerous Dilemma – Part 1

July 11<sup>th</sup>

David's Dangerous Dilemma – Part 2

July 18<sup>th</sup>

David's Dangerous Dilemma – Part 3

July 25<sup>th</sup>

David's Dangerous Dilemma – Part 4

**Date:**  
July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: David's Dangerous  
Dilemma – Part 1!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; 1 Samuel 24

*British statesman Edmund Burke argued, “Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains on their own appetites. Society cannot exist unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere, and the less of it there is within, the more there is without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters.”*

**1 – Self-Control removes emotion from hijacking the right decisions in complex situations. Verse 4a**

- David's men were appealing to his frustration of being victimized.

Experiencing victimization

1. never validates vengeance,
2. never approves rebellion, and
3. never condones self-depreciation.

It is dangerous to use God as the excuse for our emotions to run rampant.

David's men used God to try and convince him to make a decision based solely on feel-good emotion.

Their plan was three-fold:

1. This is YOUR day!
2. God is giving your enemies into YOUR hand.
3. YOU shall do as seems good to YOU.

Judges 21:25

## 2 – Self-Control encourages minute convictions.

Verses 4b-5

- David did nothing wrong outwardly. But it is the matter of his heart that he was dealing with.
- David had contemplated killing Saul.

We must not underestimate seemingly unimportant convictions.

- It is these convictions that prepare the heart for deeper things.

What conviction is God speaking to us at this very moment? \_\_\_\_\_

We are able to deal with outward convictions. But it is the inward ones in which we suppress and allow struggle.

- Psalm 51:3-4, 10; Psalm 139:23-24

## 3 – Self-Control makes public statements even though the consensus might be against conviction.

Verse 6a

- Why must the world be allowed to voice their conviction while Christians must remain silent?
- Vocalization of God-given convictions solidifies it in the heart of a Believer.

How to give priority to minute convictions?

1. Act immediately.
2. Act publicly.
3. Reinforce the reason of the conviction.

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Living it Out 

1 – Name the conviction and stand for it!!

Date:  
July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **David's Dangerous  
Dilemma – Part 2!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; 1 Samuel 24

*Proverbs 25:28 (NLT) “A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.”*

**1 – Self-Control does not slander even we are in the right to do so. Verse 6**

- Our words bind us to the situations we are in.

This is why we are admonished to be in control of our words:

Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:28; 1 Corinthians 4:12;  
Romans 12:14; 1 Peter 3:9

If David had given in to slander, he would have joined with the spirit that was actively at work in Saul's life.

- We break partnership with a self-degrading spirit through confession and declaration.

**2 – Self-control is not a one-time decision.**

**Verse 7a**

- Once the decision is made, we must continually fight the resistance.
- David *persuaded* his men!!

The repetition of our faith is where strength begins to take root.

David's persuasion meant that he had to continually face the barrage of opposing opinions.

When is the last time we persuaded someone towards our conviction of faith?

When is the last time we have been persuaded towards feeling defeated?

We must persuade our mind and forces around us.

- Acts 13:43; Acts 14:19
- One persuasion brings grace. The other brings destruction.

Romans 4:20-21

**3 – Self-Control leads people with the conviction of what God has said and the belief in who God said He is. Verse 7b**

- David did not let those with him do what God had stopped him from doing.

Self-control had a mighty influence in that crowd.

We can be assured that in that moment, the mighty presence of God had filled that place.

When we lead others in the conviction of Christ, the Holy Spirit targets the situation that seems impossible for us to conquer. Verse 7c

- *Saul arose, left the cave, and went his way.*
- Yet God was targeting Saul's heart giving him opportunity. Verse 16

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Living it Out 

Let's make a vocal confession. Morning, evening, and night!

**Date:**  
July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: David's Dangerous  
Dilemma – Part 3!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; 1 Samuel 24

*“Why do I say that love is balanced by self-control? Because love is self-giving, and self-giving and self-control are complementary, the one to the other. How can we give ourselves in love until we’ve learned to control ourselves? Our self has to be mastered before it can be offered in the service of others.” John Stott*

## **1 – Self-control takes the seat of humility in the midst of pressing and charged situations.**

### **Verse8b**

- It is amazing to note that David’s reflex was humility and not vengeance.

David allowed there to be control, through humility, in his:

- Words: what comes out.
- Demeanor: what our body language is saying.
- Actions.: what we do.

When we are humble in our words, we are able to hear in clarity what the Spirit of God is speaking for us to say.

When we are humble in our demeanor, we are able become sensitive to the prompting and urging of the Spirit of God.

When we are humble in our actions, we are able to move out in the power and conviction of the Spirit of God to speak and act through us.

*With David bowing so low, only God was the star!*

## **2 – Self-control waits upon God to intervene.**

### **Verses 12, 15**

- David never waited by being unproductive with his time.
- He waited upon God by advancing in his relationship with God and with people.

He lets God be the judge. Verse 12a

He lets God take vengeance. Verse 12b

He emphasizes that he will not act outside of waiting for God. Verse 12c

He lets God decide his fate. Verse 15a

He lets God manage the details. Verse 15b

## **3 – Self-control acts out in love and safety towards those undeserving of it.**

### **Verses 17-19**

- Safety with words and action.

David righteousness was noticed and measured by his method of retaliation.

David's words of love and reliance upon God brought a supernatural experience over Saul's life.

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Living it Out →

We must display the love of God this week towards those we feel frustrated with. Let Jesus move!

**Date:**  
July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: David's Dangerous  
Dilemma – Part 4!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; 1 Samuel 24

*“It is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves.”*  
Sir Edmund Hillary, first man who conquered  
mount Everest.

**1 – Self-control allows God’s plan to become  
solidified in the midst of pressing  
circumstances.**

**Verse 20**

- When we use self-control, we allow God to transform our circumstance.
- When our circumstance is transformed by God, even our circumstance will confess the plan that God has for us.

We do not need to force what God intends to do.

**2 – The effects of self-control must continue  
even after the situation seems over.**

**Verses 21-22**

- David needed to continue this very act of self-control for continuing generations.

We will never forget or escape some of the details of our hardships. If we think we will, we delude ourselves.

- Yet, the details of our hardship transform into redemptive measures always declaring the goodness of God.



Isaiah 43:2

1. When you pass through the waters...I will be with you. Presence is promised.
2. And through the rivers...they will not overflow you. Mental stability in the midst of continued barrage.
3. When you walk through the fire...you will not be scorched. Wholeness is continually offered.

*Fire and water are often used in the Scriptures to denote calamity. Water, because it overwhelms; fire because it consumes.* Barnes

➤ Psalm 69:1; Psalm 66:12

The promise of God in Isaiah 43 was reminding the Israelites of past hardships with a promise for their future.

**3 – Self-control is not eager for a win. It stays in the place where God has convicted until God moves the man.** Verse 22

David could have gone up to “collect” the kingdom which Saul declared was his. But he was careful and went back to the place of conviction.

When David accomplished all that God required of his character in the cave, he was able to move on and move up!

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Living it Out 

Declare self-control over the struggle of your life. Put measures into place and heed God’s conviction.

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence,  
in your faith supply... perseverance. 2 Peter 1:5-6



August

Knowing

20 twenty one

*experiencing His Presence in each situation*

God

## Monthly Message Direction:

August 1<sup>st</sup>

Purpose in  
Perseverance

August 8<sup>th</sup>

Persevering by Faith

August 15<sup>th</sup>

Perseverance  
through Good Deeds

August 22<sup>nd</sup>

The Heart of  
Perseverance

August 29<sup>th</sup>

Celebrating  
Perseverance

**Date:**  
August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: Purpose in  
Persevering!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; James 1:2-4, 12

*“Sometimes God is less concerned about our comfort that He is our endurance.” Dr. Mike Rakes*

The word *perseverance* refers to either *confidence in or tense expectation of (“waiting on”) the power or the faithfulness of God, who delivers His people.*

- Perseverance is not endurance to make it through.
- Perseverance is expectation to experience the power and faithfulness of God.

### **1 – Perseverance is perfected in the trial experience.**

**Verse 12a**

- Our trials automatically become platforms in our life for an experience with God.
- This is why James says a man becomes *blessed* if he perseveres under trial.

Trials have been redeemed by God for His children.

**Verse 3**

The testing of our faith produces!!

- In the life of a Believer trials are transformed into productive abundance.
- In the life of an unbeliever trials become destructive.

The testing of our faith produces: Verses 2-4

1. Perseverance. Anticipation for the movement of God.
2. Perseverance produces perfection and wholeness.
3. Perseverance brings us to a place where we lack nothing.

**2 – There is always a spiritual objective in the perseverance of a Believer. Verse 12b**

➤ *He will receive the crown of life.*

Perseverance through trials produces in us a spiritual reward that Jesus gives to those who endure.

The crown of life is a special reward .

- We must remember that His rewards are both for this life and eternal life to come.
- 2 Peter 1:3; Psalm 3

How to receive the purpose in persevering trial:

1. Acknowledge the purpose of God in it.
2. Desire to know God through it.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict the heart of its lack.
4. Ask Jesus for wisdom. James 1:5
5. Be willing to be used for God through it for others.

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Living it Out 

Target the trial: \_\_\_\_\_

Target the glory: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:  
August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Persevering by Faith!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; James 1:2-4

*“You will have no test of faith that will not fit you to be a blessing if you are obedient to the Lord. I never had a trial but when I got out of the deep river I found some poor pilgrim on the bank that I was able to help by that very experience.”* A.B. Simpson

**1 – The very thrust of our perseverance is found in our deliberate choosing of joy. Verse 2**

➤ It is a mental choice.

We must have the consideration of joy as our light in the trial.

As we consider joy, we experience its result in and through our situation.

- 1 Peter 4:13
- Romans 5:3-5

How do we choose joy in our situation?

1. Our attitude affects our outcome. Keep emotions in check.
2. Our choosing joy is based on what the trial will produce having to go through God before it reaches us. (Job 1:8)
3. As often as we see Jesus, we experience joy. Are we having a conversation with Him face-to-face or over a long distance telegram?

**2 – All of our situations in life always go back to the connection of our faith. Verse 3**

Nothing that we face is outside of our faith!

- Therefore, only in our faith do we conquer all things. (Philippians 4:13)

**Various trials of life (verse 2) test faith (verse 3).**

- We can never face or work through trials without activating, challenging, pressing through, and growing in our faith.

**3 – Perseverance in faith brings fulness.**

**Verse 4**

- Fulness always begins in our faith.
- Can we be full in our faith without having our needs met?

The fulness of our faith brings the needed adjustments to the emptiness of our trials.

- Fulness of faith redirects relationships.
- Fulness of faith fills voids and connects the family of God.
- Fulness of faith causes our spiritual eyes to see what we were originally blind to.
- Fulness of faith restores and redirects purpose.

*"The trials we are facing could be a mighty indicator that after we receive the fulness of faith, God is redirecting our life towards a new venture, reclaiming His purpose in our lives which we selfishly moved out of the way."*

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Living it **O**ut 

Act out in joy by speaking joy to the situation of your life!!

Date:  
August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Perseverance Through  
Good Deeds!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; Galatians 6:9-10

*“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.*

– Nelson Mandela

➤ Matthew 25:34-40

We often only see perseverance as *handling trials*. But, through trials, we must use the opportunity to do good.

## **1 – Doing good in the midst of trials, breaks the intended outcome of the trial. Verse 9a**

- Often times, we equate the *do not lose heart* with perseverance.
- John 10:10

If we focus only on not losing heart, we miss the opportunity to do good. And with it, we miss the opportunity to receive power, substance, and blessing in the midst of pressing lack.

Look to verse 7-8.

- The trial presents an opportunity of sowing.
- We cannot escape sowing.

We all sow in each situation that we are in. It is only a matter of *what we are sowing*.

If we can meet needs in the midst of our trial, we live life as Jesus lived: Redeeming under persecution.

- 1 John 2:6

## **2 – Perseverance through good deeds allows for an in-season harvest. Verse 9b**

- Good deeds being to serve one another, especially those in the church! Verse 10

Why is it so important that we meet needs especially in the body of Christ?

- Ephesians 4:11-16

1. It builds up the body. Verse 12b
2. It brings unity of faith. Verse 13a
3. It brings maturity to the measure which was in Christ. Verse 13b
4. We grow in all aspects of Jesus. Verse 15
5. We bring purpose as an important aspect of the Body. Verse 16

### **For in due time!**

- This means *in the right moment of personal need* we receive from the Spirit.
- 1 Timothy 4:8

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Living it Out 

Who in the body of Christ can I contact this week and see if there is any need I can meet? \_\_\_\_\_

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If not, I can pray and encourage them in Christ!



Date:  
August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **The Heart of  
Perseverance!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; Hebrews 10:32-39

*“He needs not fear **confiscation**, who has nothing to lose; nor **banishment**, to whom heaven is his country; nor **torments**, when his body can be destroyed at one blow; nor **death**, which is the only way to set him at liberty from sin and sorrow.”*

Eusebuis

**1 – We persevere through the very connection that we make with Believers whom have suffered for Christ. Verse 34a**

- Verse 32 – *But remember the former days...*
- Verse 36 – *For you have need of endurance.*

There is something about the connection with suffering Christians that helps us to persevere and brings a mighty blessing in and through our situation.

*Theology of Persecution by Open Doors*

Hebrews 13:1-6

1. Let love of the brethren continue. Vs. 1
2. Hospitality, strangers, and angels. Vs. 2
3. Remembering prisoners (persecuted). Vs. 3
4. Pure marriage for married and single. Vs. 4
5. Content spirit not bound by money. Vs. 5

In persevering confidence we can declare: Vs.6

THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?

**2 – Perseverance accepts God’s purpose over our material strength. Verse 34b**

- The church accepted *joyfully* the seizure of their property.
- This is one step past willingness to use our material means for the body.

*“The Church was able to be joyful when their property was taken as a result of the Gospel; because they had already learned to release what they had for the Gospel.”*

Can we make a financial heart decision to serve others?

**3 – The confidence of this heart attitude reaps greater rewards than what we have accrued for ourselves. Verse 35**

- The confidence that we can have throughout this life, finds its birth through perseverance in serving!

If we can persevere and serve the body of Christ, we find our confidence grows and produces a mighty reward.

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Living it Out 

Persevere this week through the sacrifice of giving! We MUST find a need and meet it in the Body of Christ.

## Illustration for point #1 in Sermon:

The Heart of Perseverance on  
Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

*Matthew 5:10-12* Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

There are no easy answers for why God allows his followers to face suffering. However, the lives of persecuted Christians reveal that even when things look out of control believers can rest secure, knowing that God is still in control. He is able to give courage, peace and even joy to stand strong through the storm. It is through these storms that believers discover God's love in new and powerful ways.

There are six theological and biblical lessons from understanding persecution:

**1 – Sometimes you need to build yourself a cell**  
*Be still, and know that I am God—Psalms 46:10*

One Chinese church leader, who spent 23 years in prison, once said this to Christians who did not face persecution: "I was pushed into a cell, but you have to push yourself into one. You have no time to know God. You need to build yourself a cell, so

you can do for yourself what persecution did for me—simplify your life and know God.”

It is vital that we spend time with God, to grow in Him, so we are prepared to stand strong in the face of persecution.

## **2 – God keeps secrets**

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts—Isaiah 55:8-9*

God knows all that has been and all that is to come. Our labor is not in vain, it is in His hands.

## **3 – Weakness is a direct path to power**

*That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong—2 Corinthians 12:10*

An Egyptian Christian reflected on the way he was treated when he converted to Christ: “In great suffering you discover a different Jesus than you do in normal life... Pain and suffering bring up to the surface all the weak points of your personality. In my weakest state, I had an incredible realization that Jesus loved me even right then.”

True empowerment does not come from human means, but through Christ alone. It often takes being at our weakest point to realize this.

#### **4 – Overcoming is greater than deliverance**

*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.* —**Romans 12:21**

Suffering is difficult and the natural response is to ask God to remove it from our lives, but these trials often come with the opportunity to both grow our faith and bring glory to Jesus. Persecuted Christians often ask us to pray that they would stand strong in the midst of persecution—and not just for persecution to be taken away.

#### **5 – Extreme hurt requires extreme forgiveness**

*And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments—***Luke 23:34**

A Christian widow from Iran said: “I only had hatred in my heart for my enemies who had murdered my husband. But one day a miracle happened. God taught me how I could love my enemies... I had been praying for this, even though on the deepest level I didn’t want it to happen. Gradually, through a process of ups and downs, God answered this prayer.”

#### **6 – Prayer is the ultimate fellowship**

*Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering—***Hebrews 13:3**

Many persecuted Christians often feel isolated and alone, since they are unable to fellowship with other believers. However, prayers from Christians half a world away have brought the same amount of encouragement that fellowship would have for

these persecuted Christians. Prayer is vital—not only as a direct line to God, but as a way to encourage our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.

**1 Corinthians 12:26** tells us that we are one body—when one member suffers, we all suffer. When one member is lifted up, we all rejoice. Persecuted Christians and Christians in the free world are not two separate entities, but rather are one body. The persecuted church needs the free church to support them and most importantly to lift them up in prayer. The church in the free world learns lessons from the persecuted who have stood strong in the face of persecution. Christ is the head of the body and uses the church (both free and persecuted) in unique and powerful ways.

Date:  
August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Celebrating  
Perseverance!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; Hebrews 12:1-3

*“We commonly associate patience with lying down. We think of it as the angel that guards the couch of the invalid. Yet there is a patience that I believe to be harder – the patience that can run. To lie down in the time of grief, to be quiet under the stroke of adverse fortune, implies a great strength; but I know of something that implies a strength greater still; it is the power to work under stress; to have a great weight at your heart and still run; to have a deep anguish in your spirit and still perform the daily tasks. It is a Christlike thing! The hardest thing is that most of us are called to exercise our patience, not in the sickbed but in the street.”* George Matheson (*The Blind Preacher*)

**1 – To receive the celebration of perseverance we must fight to grasp the person of Jesus as the main event of our life.** Verse 2a

➤ Philippians 3:10

We persevere not to *make it through* a trial.

We persevere not to *resist* sin.

We persevere not to *gain* a victory.

We persevere to *see* and *experience* Jesus!

If knowing Him is not our stride in life, we will fail continually.

*“If you think you have come to the mission field because you are a little better than others, or as the cream of your church, or because of your medical degree, or for the service you can render the African church, or even for the souls you can see saved, you will fail. Remember, the Lord has only one purpose ultimately for each one of us, to make us more like Jesus. He is interested in your relationship with Himself. Let Him take you and mould you as He will; all the rest will take its rightful place.”* Dr. Helen Roseveare receiving instruction from missionary Jack Scholes 1953

Romans 8:28-29

**2 – We receive the celebration of perseverance in the simple knowledge that Jesus gave us our faith and perfects it in all the situations of our life.**

**Verse 2b**

- Since Jesus authors and perfects our faith, each situation must work to His command.
- Hebrews 12:11

It yields for us the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

- Peace in the midst of trial.
- Righteousness to experience the fullness of the power of God.

**3 – We receive the celebration of perseverance as we consider Christ in what we face.**

**Verse 3**

- As we consider Christ, we develop spiritual stamina that overrides our physical weaknesses.

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Living it **Out** 

Let us make a plan and persevere to *know* Christ this week in sacrificial devotions. More so, than receiving an answer to our problems.



September

Knowing

*experiencing His Presence in each situation*

20 twenty one  
God

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence,  
in your faith supply... **godliness.** 2 Peter 1:5-6

## Monthly Message Direction:

September 5<sup>th</sup>

Church Picnic

September 12<sup>th</sup>

Godliness through  
Prayer

September 19<sup>th</sup>

Godliness through  
Giving

September 26<sup>th</sup>

Godliness through  
Teaching

Date:  
September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Knowing

20 twenty one

God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Godliness through  
Prayer!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; Acts 13:2-3; 14:21-23; 16:13-16

*“Prayer is surrender. Surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boathook from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God.”*  
E. Stanley Jones

## **1 – The Church used prayer as the direct link in hearing direction for their lives.**

**Acts 13:2-3**

- A lifestyle of prayer and fasting brings our lives to the place where we become sensitive to God’s leading.

Fasting moves our feelings.

Sacrifice establishes priority.

Prayer opens the communication with God.

Prayer and fasting brought about corporate direction and individual direction.

## **2 – The Church used prayer as a discipline regarding communication with God more valuable than deliverance.**

**Acts 14:21-23**

- There was no direct “*word from God*” yet, they prayed and fasted with the knowledge that tribulations lay ahead of them.

Prayer becomes the stronghold of our strength in Christ.

- The more sacrifice we make to pray and seek Him, the more we crave the power that He gives to live a faithful life.

### **3 – The Church used prayer as the readying agent in unexpected dilemmas.**

**Acts 16:13-16**

- Prayer removes complaint, personal bias, and wrong situational attitudes.
- It prepares the Believer for the work that is available in God’s perfect plan even if it is not a plan we particularly desire.

As we experience situations which are outside of our plan (*Verse 15b – they did not want to stay with Lydia but were prevailed*); when we continually practice prayer (*Verse 16a*); God uses a side-tracked plan for His purpose (*Verse 16b*).

Prayer produces *it happened that as we type moments.* Verse 16a

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Living it **Out** 

Using the included prayer plan, commit to God these moments of prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to participate in your life specifically through this time.



Week of Sunday, September 12, 2021

## Prayer Guide and Focus.

**Monday Morning:** **5 minutes**

Asking God for the grace to *know* Him during the day. Express your desire for Him in the midst of all that is happening.

**Monday Afternoon:** **5 minutes**

Ask the Lord for patience in the midst of your day. Surrender to Him personal characteristics that seem out of control. Invite His wisdom.

**Monday Evening:** **10 minutes**

Calm your spirit after a long day. Reflect on the day and what you have seen God do through your life. Confess all shortcomings and seek Him for peace.

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**Tuesday Morning:** **5 minutes**

Begin this morning my asking and receiving from the Lord His JOY. Spend time seeking Him for it and asking Him to change your day to express itself in and through JOY.

**Tuesday Afternoon:** **5 minutes**

Read Psalm 126 and Psalm 150 as prayers to God. Rejoice and Praise the Lord!

**Tuesday Evening:****10 minutes**

Reflect on the day asking the Lord to redeem any circumstances where the enemy sowed fear. Cast your care upon Him knowing that the Joy of the Lord is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

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**Wednesday Morning:****5 minutes**

Ask the Lord for usability this morning. Prepare your life in prayer asking God to specifically use you as a vessel for His purpose and will today.

**Wednesday Afternoon:****5 minutes**

Pray for any encounters you had with any person this morning. Pray for them, their needs, and that they would experience Christ. It can be a family member, coworker, or stranger. Don't miss the opportunity to pray.

**Wednesday Evening:****10 minutes**

Think about your day and release the emotions of it to God. Release the encounters to God and ask Him for wisdom in how to move forward in each of the relationships you have worked through. Spend time seeking God for His heart to become your own.

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**Thursday Morning:****5 minutes**

This morning, attack fear through prayer. Ask God to remove and prepare you spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially from any attack that will attempt fear. Pray for FAITH!

**Thursday Afternoon:****5 minutes**

Ask God to empower you to walk by faith. Spend the next few minutes praying that God would change your spiritual walk so that you walk as a giant in faith. Let your faith take over. Pray BIG!

**Thursday Evening:****10 minutes**

The day has ended but God is still working. Thank God for His Spirit living in you and begin to dream and speak great things over your life. Remember that, *“He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 1:6) Thank Him for His work.

---

**Friday Morning:****5 minutes**

Ask the Lord this morning for supernatural strength. Pray for your mind to be renewed and your heart to desire Him.

**Friday Afternoon:****5 minutes**

Read Philippians 4:8-9. Spend time thinking upon the very things the Scripture is telling us to think about. Use this time of prayer to reboot your mind.

**Friday Evening:****10 minutes**

Warfare time! Pray for those you are close to and ask specifics to God. Release them into His care but pray knowing that God hears you and that He is more than able to meet each need.

**Saturday morning:****5 minutes**

Desire your relationship with God this morning. Ask Him to remove any other competition and that you would love Him no matter what. Express your desire for Him and even you lack of desire so that He can fill you up.

**Saturday Afternoon:****5 minutes**

Re-confess you need for Him and what only He can do in and through your life. Spend this time expressing your need for Him to Him once again. The more we need Him, the more we are filled with His presence.

**Saturday Evening:****10 minutes**

Thank God for your day and invite the Holy Spirit in to scrutinize your life. Ask Him to show you where you are in need, ask Him to meet that need, and ask Him to show you clearly what part you must play in God changing your life. Confess sin, receive righteousness and prepare your heart in anticipation for the Word that God has for your tomorrow morning.

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*“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. Brethren, Pray for us.”*

*1 Thessalonians 5:23-25*

Date:  
September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Knowing

20 twenty one

God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Godliness through  
Giving!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

*“I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given into God’s hands I still possess.”*  
Martin Luther

*“The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord.”* J.L. Kraft (who gave approximately 25% of his income to Christian causes.)

**1 – The opportunity to give is usually found in the midst of great affliction. Verse 2**

- Whatever the greatest need we are currently in the midst of; it is then that we have the greatest opportunity to give.

The Macedonian churches gave to Paul and the Corinthian church while they were greatly being afflicted and experiencing the blow of poverty.

Affliction magnified two things:

- Their great joy and,
- Their deep poverty.

Merged together it produced:

- An overflow of wealth and liberality towards the work of Christ.



Great affliction reveals the content of our heart before God.

1. Can we trust Him in the midst of it?
2. Can we find joy in the midst of it?
3. Can we release and be used in the midst of it?

**2 – The eagerness of giving is found in the desire to give as God gave. Verse 4**

- Why were the churches so eager to give?
- They were eagerly desiring the favor of participation.

The favor of participation produces:

1. **Connection with church.** This produces blessings of giving and blessings of receiving from the work where we give.
  - Galatians 6:7-10
2. **Power of God's hand extended.**
3. **The spiritual perspective of our own situation.**

**3 – The power of giving is not in our resources first, but in the way we give of ourselves.**

**Verse 5**

As we give ourselves to God, we are able to be used by God.

- Usually, people who struggle with giving themselves to God will not give out their money to reach people.

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Living it Out 

See Insert.



Week of Sunday, September 19, 2021

## **Giving Guide and Focus.**

### **Monday**

Give to God of your life. Set apart some time and resolve that your desire before God is to be used by Him in a mighty and powerful way. Prepare your heart for a week of sacrifice and determine that each day when you pray, that God would convict your heart as to *what* to give and also as to *how much* to give. Resolve to be obedient in what the Holy Spirit Speaks to your heart.

### **Tuesday**

This is where the outward giving process begins. Simple, make a meal for someone, provide a meal or coffee for someone, bake cookies for someone, etc. As you do something for someone else, let it be known that you are doing it because God loves them so very much.

### **Wednesday**

Prepare a financial offering for the work we are doing in Malawi. We will be providing some funds to a pastor who is sacrificing his all for the sake of the Gospel. We will encourage him and his family.



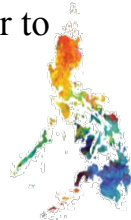
## **Thursday**

Prepare a financial offering for the work we are doing in India. We will be providing some funds to a pastor who is sacrificing his all for the sake of the Gospel. We will encourage him and his family.



## **Friday**

Prepare a financial offering for the work we are doing in the Philippines. We will be providing some funds to a pastor that is reaching the slums and prisons of Manila. We will encourage her to continue the cause no matter the cost.



## **Saturday**

Give of your time. Think of one person from this church and call them specifically to pray for them and encourage them in whatever they are going through. Prayer is the giving key on this day. Pray for them before the call. Pray for them during the call. And pray for them after the call is over. It will take some time, but the sacrifice of time is worth it.

**All the resources that we are collecting can be brought on Sunday morning and listed specifically on our offering envelopes. Our gifts of love for the churches and ministers we are collecting will be immediately wired the following week. Our desire is to make an impact, sow into ministry soil, and reap from God who loves us and cares for our specific needs.**

Date:  
September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Knowing

20 twenty one

God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Godliness through  
Teaching!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:6; Hebrews 5:12-14

*“If our lives do not publicly express the convictions of the Gospel, we stay stuck hashing throughout our existence the experiences of our deliverance and the seduction of our vices.” \**

\*The demoniac in Mark 5 was compelled to live a life of outward experience rather than of inward contemplation.  
(Mark 5:19-20)

### **1 – Talking a plunge into maturity requires just that: taking a plunge! Verse 12**

- So often we remain stuck in the infancy of our Christianity because we are ruled by emotion and condemnation.

Our time-consuming cycle is so often this: Living in forgiveness, falling into sin, feeling not worthy, avoidance, despair, running to God for forgiveness, repeat.

We never *feel* adequate enough to grow into teaching so we live life in the shadows.

### **Becoming a teacher of our own Christianity produces in and through us:**

1. Personal accountability.
2. Authenticity.
3. The practice of demonstration.

*“We cannot delude ourselves into thinking that the demonstration of the Gospel is solely a personal, intimate, and selfish experience. The Gospel is demonstrated in power when we release it to a fallen world.”*

4. Growth.

### **We must step out in the teaching of our Christianity by:**

1. Making specific effort to present the Gospel.
2. Making specific effort to encourage one another through the Scripture.
3. Making specific effort in our testimonial of what God has done.
4. Worship with one another through our participation.

### **2 – The more we practice the teaching of our Christianity, the more our spiritual senses develop to the place where we are led by our spirit rather than by our flesh.**

#### **Verse 14**

- The Gospel must come out of our lives through teaching.
- We must practice it. And doing so, it must be public.

A public Christianity is always an effective one.

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Living it **Out** 

Publicly declare the strength of Christ in your life. If you are able to, record yourself sharing a verse and what it means to you and upload it to the Church Facebook page this week. If you're not internet savvy, share a verse with someone this week and explain what it means to you. Share it with a non-Christian and also with a Believer. Step out from the shell of immaturity!

Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup>  
God  
*experiencing His Presence in each situation*

October



Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence,  
in your faith supply... **brotherly kindness.** 2 Peter 1:5, 7

## Monthly Message Direction:

October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	A Heart of Refreshing
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Not Living Ashamed
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	Searching to Meet a Need
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	The Consistent Nature
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	True Strength

Date:  
October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: A Heart of Refreshing!

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Text: 2 Peter 1:7; 2 Timothy 1:15-18; 2:1

*“We may not be treading dusty roads to get to work or visit family and friends, but we do walk through some perilous times in life that may cause spiritual buildup. It is important that as we enter into the home of a friend or a house of worship, we take a moment to remove the dust of the day and settle into relationships to be found there. Rather than physically washing feet, we can help clear away the burdens that life often throws at us by uplifting one another.”*

– Lisa Bevere

*Refreshing in this text is the Greek word *anapsucho* and means to cool by blowing; reviving with fresh air. It is to cause someone to recover a state of cheer or encouragement after a time of anxiety.*

Paul had faced abandonment (Verse 15).

## **1 – A heart of refreshing does so with physical presence. Verse 16b**

- Onesiphorus physically sought out Paul when every aspect of his situation told him not to.

Onesiphorus was up against:

1. Danger of connection.
2. Danger of belief.
3. Isolation.
4. Political intimidation by searching for Paul.
5. Ostracization.

Onesiphorus' name means: *bringing advantage*.

- Can we live up to this name?
- Do we bring others the advantage of Christ in us.

Sometimes, we are able to give out the very thing that we are lacking or desiring from God. Yet as we do this God moves in and through our life.

- Proverbs 11:25

What would our spirit be called in the context of this world? Anxiety? Overwhelmer? Greedy? Sufferer? \_\_\_\_\_.

Our physical presence does so much when we walk in the situation as the hands and feet of Jesus.

- Dying with AIDS...in Africa. Praying for a pastor's brother.

## **2 – A Heart of refreshing does so with godly conversation.**

**Verse 16b**

- This is a choice that we must make.

When we come across someone, do we refresh them or do we burden them? Do we lift anxiety or do we add to it with our words?

Onesiphorus was striking with his words towards Paul especially during the last chapter of his life.

---

Living it **Out** 

One week. 7 People. Be the greatest encouragement through Christ at least to one person a day! Use your words and presence to show the love of Jesus.



Date:  
October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Not Living Ashamed!

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Text: 2 Peter 1:7; 2 Timothy 1:15-18; 2:1

*“I am not ashamed to own my Lord, or to defend His cause, maintain the honor of His Word, the glory of His cross.”* Isaac Watts

The fact that Onesiphorus was not ashamed of Paul’s chains speaks volumes as to the depth of his character.

**1 – He was not ashamed of the aspects and the stance of Christian belief that were unfavorable at the time. Verse 16c**

- In every culture and time there will always be aspects of the Christian faith that go contrary to the popular opinion.

It is in these times that Christians are faced with the opportunity of association.

1. Association with and foremost Christ.
2. Association with the Church.
3. Association with those suffering for Christ.

To not be ashamed meant that he was specifically outward in his faith and intentional with his serving.

Mark 8:34-38

Our lack of being ashamed is not found solely in boldness or defiance to this world. It is specific.

- Living unashamed is denying oneself.
- Living unashamed is taking up our cross.
- Living unashamed is following Him.

It is losing our life for Christ's sake AND for the Gospel's sake.

- Do we have both?

The test comes in the very time and culture in which we live. In THIS generation do we live ashamed?

## **2 – He made quick association with Paul.**

### **Verse 16c**

- He quickly linked himself to the work that God was doing through Paul.
- We need to live life connected to the Church and to the work of Christ.

What are our associations? What takes the most time?

Our connections cause us to receive from God in perfect time and situation. Matthew 10:40-42

*“The power of sympathizing with any character is the partial possession of that character for ourselves.”*  
- Maclaren

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Living it Out 

Let's cement the bond of association with other Believers this week. We must make time to be with and encourage them. Make it a point to set apart time for at least one!

Date:  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Searching to Meet a  
Need!

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Text: 2 Peter 1:7; 2 Timothy 1:15-18; 2:1

*“When we actively search out the opportunity to meet a need, we take on the very character of Jesus. He came to seek and save the lost. Therefore, His power becomes presently available in our pursuit of serving through His hands.”*

## **1 – Onesiphorus did not wait to be confronted with a need to meet...he searched for one.**

### **Verse 17a**

- There are times when we are faced with needs and are given the opportunity to meet them. We mustn't miss these. Yet...

If we live a life that continually looks for needs to meet,

- We increase the opportunity to be used by God,
- which brings the power of God,
- which causes us to live a life filled with blessed reaping.

John 14:12; Philippians 2:13, Colossians 3:23

When we search to meet needs we:

1. Do the works that Jesus does.
2. Accomplish greater works.
3. Become the direct access of God through us.

#### 4. Develop His purposes which can never fail.

When we search for needs to meet in the Body of Christ (the Church) we become:

- Sensitive to His voice,
- Eager to do His will, and are
- Fulfilled with the outcome of our life.

#### **2 – As Onesiphorus searched for the need, he was overcome with the closeness of Jesus.**

##### **Verse 17b**

- There is something very special about searching to meet needs that draws us closer to Christ.
- Matthew 25:35-40; Isaiah 58:10; Deuteronomy 15:10-11; Psalm 34:18

We often times desire to sense the closeness of Jesus through the situations of our life. Yet, the closeness of Christ comes into view when we are used by Him.

The more we are presently used by Jesus the more we are surrounded with the active power of Jesus. This power surrounds our life, fills our lack, and concretes the purpose He has for us in our life's experience.

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Living it Out 

Stop waiting for a need to arise. Search one out in and through this body of Believers. Let God's presence consume your situation as you become His hands extended.

Date:  
October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **The Consistent Nature!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:7; 2 Timothy 1:15-18; 2:1

*“You have to keep speaking, you have to keep thinking, you have to keep believing and you have to keep acting, it is not enough to speak the right things for a day or two or for a season when it is convenient only. The miraculous is a product of consistency.”* - Bishop Kojo Bentil

## **Consistency in serving produces:**

- Closeness to the plan of God and therefore His will and ultimately His voice;
- A active participation of the movement of the Holy Spirit and therefore an active continuance of the supernatural moving of God in and through one’s life.

## **1 – Onesiphorus made serving a lifestyle which took him from place to place. Verse 18b**

- His experiences, people he met, and situations all revolved around the work of the ministry.
- As He served Christ, he allowed Christ to broaden his life’s experiences.

Onesiphorus was from Ephesus. Timothy was his new pastor and Paul was the founder of the church. He was no doubt converted during Paul’s 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey (Acts 19:1-10).

Onesiphorus travelled over 1241 miles to reach Paul from Ephesus to Rome.

Onesiphorus experienced many nights in new places, many experiences with new people, and many miraculous meetings all because he was consistent in serving.

*“We can go through life meeting people and having great experiences and yet never have experiences through the power of God. But when we are consistent in serving, even the mundane experiences become loaded with supernatural potential.”*

**2 – Consistency in serving changes the dynamic of our families.                      2 Timothy 4:19**

- In this last mention of Onesiphorus, the mention is towards his family.
- Paul became a personal friend to Onesiphorus’ family.

*“Our serving always has influence. The more godly influence surrounds our family, the more the experiences of God in our life benefit those around us.”*

Ill.: Receiving a home through prayer.

---

Living it **Out** 

Practice consistency in serving with your family. Make and link connections with this church for your home.

Whether you are single or have a full house, let your experience open your home to the move of God. God will bless and expound His purpose over your life!

Date:  
October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup>  
God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: True Strength!

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Text: 2 Peter 1:7; 2 Timothy 1:15-18; 2:1

*“I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of God. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time or eternity.”*

Dr. David Livingstone

Paul’s “therefore” is summing up the Onesiphorus account.

**1 – The brotherly kindness manifested through Onesiphorus truly becomes strength in and through the grace of Jesus.**

**2 Timothy 2:1**

- Paul is admonishing Timothy to be strong in the grace of Jesus.
- The *therefore* connects the previous to the strength of the grace of Jesus.

One avenue of strength in the situations of our life is to extend our hand of brotherly kindness.

- As we show the love of God through our actions with one another, we walk in the strength of the grace of Jesus.

Our service produces strength!

## Ephesians 4:11-13

We are being equipped for the:

- *Work of service* which
- *Builds up the Body of Christ* which
- *Produces unity of faith,*
- *Knowledge of the Son of God* and brings
- *Maturity* and the expression of
- *The Fulness of Christ.*

**2 – As we serve one another, we magnify strength in the grace of Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:1**

- To be strong in the grace of Jesus is to capitalize on the benefit that Christ offers.

*“If Jesus exemplified the might of His strength through the way in which He served, we who walk in His Spirit, can draw from and walk in the greatest aspect of might through Him as we serve.”*

As we serve one another, we show others the grace of Jesus while we ourselves are overcome with the closeness of God.

We must remember that we benefit from brotherly kindness only when it is tied to our desire to know Jesus.

After every expression of service Jesus spent time with the Father. This brought:

1. Strength for the current experience
2. Strength for future experiences
3. Clarity of the will of God

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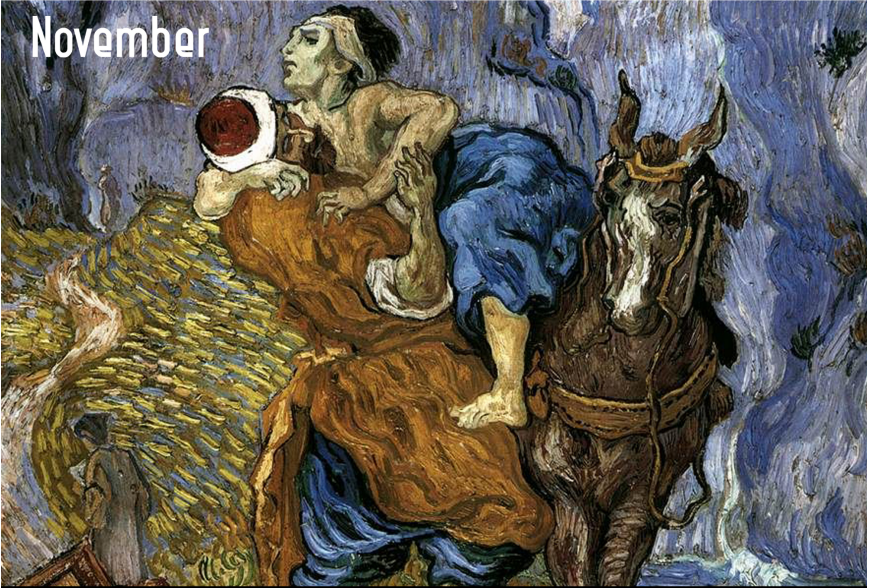
Living it Out 

Practice the strength of the Lord through Brotherly Kindness and take record of the experience this week.



Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence,  
in your faith supply... **love.** 2 Peter 1:5, 7

November



Knowing

20 twenty one

*experiencing His Presence in each situation*

God

## Monthly Message Direction:

November 7<sup>th</sup>

The Closeness of His  
Love

November 14<sup>th</sup>

The Forgiveness of  
His Love

November 21<sup>st</sup>

Our Display of  
Closeness

November 28<sup>th</sup>

Our Display of  
Forgiveness

Illustration for:

Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Introduction!

A Mother's Sacrifice!

On August 16, 1987, Northwest Airlines flight 225 crashed just after taking off from the Detroit airport, killing 155 people. One survived: a four-year-old from Tempe, Arizona, named Cecelia. When rescuers found Cecelia they did not believe she had been on the plane. Investigators first assumed Cecelia had been a passenger in one of the cars on the highway onto which the airliner crashed. But when the passenger register for the flight was checked, there was Cecelia's name.

Cecelia survived because, even as the plane was falling, Cecelia's mother, Paula Cichan, unbuckled her own seat belt, got down on her knees in front of her daughter, wrapped her arms and body around Cecelia, and then would not let her go.

*“Nothing could separate that child from her parent’s love—neither tragedy nor disaster, neither the fall nor the flames that followed, neither height nor depth, neither life nor death.”*

Date:  
November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Knowing

20 twenty one

God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **The Closeness of His  
Love!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:7; Isaiah 43:1-7; Matthew 28:20

*“Nothing could separate that child from her parent’s love – neither tragedy nor disaster, neither the fall nor the flames that followed, neither height nor depth, neither life or death.”* L.A. Times 1987

## **1 – He loves us because He created us as we are.**

### **Verse 1**

- Your Creator and He who formed you!

It becomes very interesting to note how much we do not like ourselves. We are so consumed with our flaws that we cannot appreciate the handiwork of God in us.

What about all the parts that we struggle with and despise within us?

### **Verse 1b**

- Do not fear, I have redeemed you!
- You are mine!

When it comes to Creator/creation issues, value is not placed by the creation.

- Value is placed by the Creator.

## **2 – It is the love of God that walks with us and sustains us.**

### **Verse 2**

There are four words which are used to describe the situations of our life:

1. Waters. Used to depict suddenness of chaos.
2. Rivers. Used to depict difficult swelling of season of life.
3. Fire. Used to depict consuming force.
4. Flame. Used to depict our closeness to destruction.

We see here that these metaphors used are because of the sin of the people. They brought it upon themselves through their own rebellion.

➤ And God commits to them in it!

### **3 – His love produces favor in the midst of sin.**

**Verses 3-4**

- I have given Egypt as your ransom.
- I have given other men in your place.

This heart of love is always in relation to our messing up. Romans 5:20-21

### **4 – His love directs our steps and pathways.**

**Verse 6**

- God literally directs our steps.
- All the situations begin to merge together leading us towards...HIM! Not towards ourselves.

Proverbs 16:9; Psalm 37:23; Proverbs 19:21;  
Proverbs 20:24; Jeremiah 10:23

---

Living it Out →

1 – Take inventory of the very unpleasant situation you may be in. Turn your attention and affection on the words that God speaks over your situation. Read the text aloud.

Date:  
November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Knowing

20 twenty one

God

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: The Forgiveness of His Love!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:7; Numbers 14:1-12;  
Nehemiah 9:16-17

*“God’s grace is magnified and His love more deeply expressed when man is floundering in the midst of sin.”*

Israel turned their back on God.

➤ Not because of hatred towards Him.

But because of: Numbers 14:1-12

1. Deep emotional fear. Verse 1a
2. Uncertainty of the future. Verse 3a
3. Fear of family loss. Verse 3b

\* They were irrational in their logic. In fact, they were devoid of common sense. Verse 4

\* Their rational would pick a wicked leader obsessed with keeping people in bondage. Verse 4

\* They resorted to violence and anarchy. Verse 10

**God declared what they deserve: Verse 12a**

---

**The Forgiveness of God: Nehemiah 9:16-17**

**1 – He is a God of forgiveness. Verse 17c**

- Forgiveness is His very nature.
- Exodus 34:6-7

We often see only His judgement through our own eyes of what we think justification is all about.

- Revelation 3:15-17; Yet he says: verse 20
- Our sin is evil; yet, He wants to come in.

**2 – He is gracious. Verse 17d**

- Gracious stems from the Hebrew word *chanan* which means *to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior. To be moved to favor by petition.*

As we call on God, He is moved to favor us because of the nature of His forgiveness.

**3 – He is compassionate. Verse 17e**

- The compassion of God is always moved as *timely action* on the events (both in our control and out of our control) of our life.
- Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 20:32-34; Mark 1:40-42; 6:34; 8:2-3;

**4 – He is slow to anger. Verse 17f**

- 2 Peter 3:9-15

*“What we deem as God’s uninterest in the situations of our life from our idea of unanswered requests; Peter declares it is the salvation of God.”*

**5 – He abounds in love. Verse 17g**

- The word abound is the same understanding as the word abundant in John 10:10. It means to increase or multiply tens of thousands. Psalm 139:17-18

**6 – He did not forsake them. Verse 17h**

- He did not leave them to their own ways and own consequences.

---

Living it Out 

Let us sit in the forgiveness of God for a moment and thank Him by releasing our stubbornness.

Date:  
November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Knowing

20 twenty one

God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Our Display of Love!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:7; Philippians 2:1-11

*“The closeness of Christ is revealed through our closeness to other in the Body of Christ.”* Matthew 25:37-40

**The questions in verse 1 have a resounded YES!**

**1 – Our closeness to Christ is evident through the challenge of being of the same mind.**

**Verse 2a**

- To have the same mind essentially equates to *personal opinion fleshing itself out in action.*
- *This combines the visceral and cognitive aspects of thinking.*

We often do not have any problem fleshing out our personal opinion in action. Yet, the text is demanding that our personal opinion become changed to the opinion of Christ.

We must determine to become of the same mind in and through the Church. The same through our:

- \*Political Viewpoint,      \*Relational Viewpoint,
- \*Moral Viewpoint,      \*Self-serving Viewpoint.

All of these are founded by examining the Word of God and making the difficult decision to break the stronghold of self-proclamation.

## **2 – Our closeness to Christ is evident through the way we maintain the same love. Verse 2b**

- *Maintain* is the GK Word *echo* and means *to have and to hold*.

It is one thing to have something. But to hold it is to maintain fervor in the commitment of it. It is:

- \*Faithfulness,      \*Passion,      \*Protectivity,
- \*Growth in,      \*Time in,      \*Joy in.

## **3 – Our closeness to Christ is evident through the way we are united in Spirit. Verse 2c/d**

- People sharing the same identity because they are in Christ.
- To be united in Spirit means *mutually supporting what God reveals through faith*.

We will never *know* what God reveals through faith if we do not push ourselves to participate with each other through faith.

## **4 – Our closeness to Christ is evident through the way we set importance. Verse 3**

- The importance is simply others before self.

This takes humility of mind as opposed to pride of personal justification in every situation.

## **5 – Our closeness to Christ is evident through the way we pursue the interests of others.**

**Verse 4**

We can live powerfully when we look out to fulfil the interests of others in the family of God.

- There is a bonding unity in this love which magnifies the closeness of Jesus.

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Living it **Out** 

Living the week thankful by serving one another.



Date:  
November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Knowing

20 twenty one

God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: **Our Display of  
Forgiveness!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:7; 2 Corinthians 2:4-11

*“Forgiveness doesn’t mean “I didn’t really mind” or “it didn’t really matter.” I did mind and it did matter, otherwise there wouldn’t be anything to forgive at all, merely something to adjust my attitudes about. We hear a lot today about people needing to adjust their attitudes to things they formerly thought were wrong; but that’s not forgiveness. If I have a wrong attitude toward someone, and if I need to adjust my attitude, if anything, it’s me who needs forgiveness, for my misguided earlier stance. Nor is forgiveness the same as saying, “Let’s pretend it didn’t really happen.” This is a little trickier because part of the point of forgiveness is that I am committing myself to work toward the point where I can behave as if it hadn’t happen. But it did happen, and forgiveness isn’t pretending that it didn’t; forgiveness is looking hard at the fact that it did and making a conscious choice; a decision of the moral will; to set aside so that it doesn’t come as a barrier between us.”* N.T. Wright

**1 – Our expression of God’s forgiveness is to be done with a comforting attitude. Verse 7**

- Many of us hardly ever forgive with this attitude in mind.

It is easier to forgive and not bring comfort to the offender. But God’s way is different.

*Comfort is the Greek word *parakaleo* and means to encourage and console. To make a call from being close-up and personal.*

Jesus uses this word to describe the promise of the Holy Spirit. John 14:16; John 14:26; John 15:26

The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is so valuable because of :

1. His Closeness, John 14:16
2. His Reminder, John 14:26
3. His Truth. John 15:26

These attributes are the same we must produce in our expression of Godly forgiveness.

1. We must come close to the person needing forgiveness.
2. We must remind ourselves and them of the words of Jesus. It is only in His words do we redeem a situation.
3. We must declare the truth of Jesus in the situation before we declare our own version of truth.

## **2 – Our expression of God’s forgiveness is to be done through our reaffirmation of love.**

**Verse 8**

- To reaffirm our expression of love is to make valid and confirm publicly.

In our public expression of forgiveness and love, we break and shine the light of Jesus on any lingering and hidden motives of darkness.

## **3 – Our expression of God’s forgiveness is power-filled because we understand the schemes of the devil.**

**Verse 11**

- Forgiving those near to us and especially those of the household of faith, significantly turns the advantage of the devil to our advantage as Believers.

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Living it Out 

1 – Make an out loud, public reaffirmation of forgiveness! The Presence of Jesus is near!

Knowing

20 twenty one  
God

December

*experiencing His Presence in each situation*

For if these qualities are yours... they do not make you useless nor unproductive in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the one who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted.

2 Peter 1:8-9

## Monthly Message Direction:

December 5<sup>th</sup>

Sight

December 12<sup>th</sup>

Long-Distance Vision

December 19<sup>th</sup>

Remembrance

December 26<sup>th</sup>

Righteousness

Date:  
December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Sight!

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Text: 2 Peter 1:8-11

*“The only way the corporate Body of Christ will fulfill the mission Christ has given it is for individual Christians to have a vision for fulfilling that mission personally.”*

David Jeremiah

We become useful and productive through having:

1. Sight, (blind *antonym*)
2. Long-distance vision, (short-sighted *antonym*)
3. A remembering heart, (forgotten *antonym*)
4. Active righteousness. (former sins *antonym*)

**1 – Through growth this year, we must begin to see Jesus in every situation. Verse 10**

- Regardless of what we think or feel about our life, Christ has chosen us and specifically called us.

Making certain about His calling and choosing:

- To make certain is to release upon *that which is fully dependable.*

Depending upon the work of Jesus through our knowledge of Him entails:

1. Activity through the mundane of life showing trust in Him.

Is Jesus evident through our speech with others?

Is Jesus evident in our work?

Is Jesus evident in the goals we have planned?

Is Jesus evident in the relationships of our lives?  
Is He our every day, every moment Jesus?

2. Worship of Jesus through all that leaves our body?

Are we proving our worship through our words, affections with people, thinking patterns, our finances, and our frustrations?

## **2 – Seeing Jesus causes our life to possess the unfailing supply of His eternal kingdom.**

### **Verse 11**

We live the blessing of our eternal inheritance in part – not yet in full...but nonetheless in part!

1. The closeness of Jesus remains evident.
2. The work of His power through us for His purpose never falters.
3. His love towards us unbreakable.

Matthew 28:20, Ephesians 3:20, Romans 8:35-39

## **3 – Living through His supply causes us to live complete no matter what our life looks like.**

### **Verses 13-14**

Peter's condition was dramatic. Yet, he was able to work through his situation knowing the control of Christ was at work through him.

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Living it Out 

1 – Bring Jesus purposefully into an area of your life in which He is not currently visible. Let the power of God flow as you lift Jesus higher.

Date:  
December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup>  
God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Papparatti

Sermon Title: Long-Distance Vision!

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Text: 2 Peter 1:8-11

*“Give us clear vision that we may know where to stand and what to stand for, because unless we stand for something, we shall fall for anything.”* Peter Marshall

**1 – Through growth in the knowledge of Jesus, we gain the assurance that God is in our tomorrow. Verse 9b**

- This is far more than just *knowing* God is there.
- It is knowing that He has a plan and purpose for what we are walking through as His children.

Peter is not just talking about knowing that God is. He is urging the Church to step into the plan that has always been established for them.

In this plan is: fulfillment, happiness, peace, assurance, and wholeness.

In John 21:18-22, Jesus made it very clear that He wanted Peter to follow Him.

To follow someone, leaves a strong implication that the one leading:

1. Has a specific plan and purpose (John 21:15-17),
2. Knows the specifics of the struggle ahead (John 21:18-19),

3. Is interested in individuality and personal relationship throughout the journey (John 21:22).

*“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds my future. And life is worth the living, just because He lives.”* Bill Gaither

## **2 – Through growth and knowledge of Jesus, the long-distance vision prevents us from stumbling. Verse 10b**

- The text is not only speaking about daily struggles and sins.
- It is speaking about the greater scope and wearing down of this life.

We will never stumble, because we are running a completely different race than the rest of the world.

This world runs to see the benefits that this world has to offer. We run to see and know Jesus Christ and our plan is for eternity.

*“If Jesus becomes our every focus, we develop completely different views, strategies, and purposes in this life. We possess different skills. Spiritual skills which are manifested in divine power through broken flesh to accomplish the purpose of Jesus in our life. We do not live this life. Jesus lives through us until we are home in eternity.”*

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## Living it Out

Live the day for Christ in every aspect. Pray multiple times through the day. Pick up the Word of God multiple times through the day. Declare you love and purpose out loud multiple times through the day. You will begin to see the plan for your life is quite different than all you are worried for.

Date:  
December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Knowing

20 twenty one

God

Speaker:  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Remembrance!

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Text: 2 Peter 1:8-11

*“The issue of remembrance is not that we mentally forget what Jesus did as to we do not use and apply to our life and situation that which He did.”*

Remembering triggers our:

- Emotions;
- The motivation of our mind; and
- Becomes the thrust of our actions.

**1 – Living in remembrance is living surrounded by the forgiveness of Jesus. Verse 9b-10**

- Living in forgiveness is different than being an outsider and asking God for help.
- Living in forgiveness is accepting our adoption and living as a child that cannot be rejected.

The forgiveness of Jesus is not only that He forgives the wrong that we have done; His forgiveness is that He accepts us as His own.

- His forgiveness is automatic as love towards children.

The enemy of our soul desires that we do not live as who we are. His purpose is to remind us of who we are before our adoption.

- Ephesians 2:12-13; 5:8



How to live in His forgiveness as children:

1. Knowing Him through **love**. Loving Christ for His ultimate sacrifice.
2. Knowing Him through **desire** for **direction**. Desiring to release our future to Him.
3. Knowing Him through **developing** family **characteristics**. Representing family.
4. Knowing Him through **reshaped purpose**. Wanting to do His work.

## **2 – Living in remembrance is living focused on our freedom and not our fleshly limitations.**

### **Verse 10b**

- We often think of *practice* as discipline to stay away from what is evil; yet the liberties we have in Christ call for practice of fulfilling our giftings.

1. Freedom of loving and worshipping Christ. If there is hesitation or buffeting in this, then there must be power for fulfillment in it.

2. Freedom for releasing our direction to Him. This comes with time in His presence. Much time...multiple times through our day.

3. Freedom in the practice of His characteristics.

As we mimic the Lord, we develop His heart and experience His power which is the greatest aspect of being made whole.

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Living it **Out** →

Live out of the freedom that God has given you. Practice your freedom instead of looking at what you think you are prohibited from doing.



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Text: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38;  
Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-11; 13-15

### **1 – The coming of Jesus caused inconvenience.**

- Inconvenience for Mary and Josephs **lifestyle**. It became a strained engagement.
- Inconvenience for the magi which came to see Him. It caused a frustrating journey and run in with evil leaders.
- Inconvenience for Herod who feared Him. Jesus' birth threatened the powers at work in this world.
- Inconvenience for the very world He created and now came into. The status of the world was shaken.

### **2 – The coming of Jesus caused adjustment.**

- Adjustment to the way of life Mary and Joseph **thought** they would have. Not all our

- plans come to fruition. Our ideals are often dwarfed in light of God's plan for us.
- Adjustment in the **comfort** of having a baby in the right environment. Not in a stable. Jesus was born in the very lowest of lows. There was no **convenience**. We find it in our life as well. Our convenience is often sacrificed.
- Adjustment in the **lifestyle** of Mary and Joseph. They had to flee from everything they knew and hide in Egypt.

**Newness because of hardship does not mean forsakenness!**

**Newness in hardship means deliverance and salvation!**

- Adjustment to the **plan** of God, receiving both joy and hardship in the fulfillment of God's plan.

**3 – The coming of Jesus highlighted the greatest weaknesses in all who were involved.**

- Weakness of Mary being a **virgin teen with child**.
- Weakness of Joseph being a **disgraced righteous finance**.
- Weakness of shepherds becoming the **choice for this great news**. Shepherds were the lowest in a society that was eager to boom.

- Weakness of **place in life**. Stable. Back shed! Alone and isolated.
  - Weakness of **position**. Away from family during birth.
  - Weakness of **society**. Hiding for fear of death. Herod's decree.
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Jesus coming brought:

1. Inconvenience,
2. Adjustment, and
3. Highlighted weakness.

**He will do the same in our very own life.**

**With inconvenience we receive:**

1. Directive,
2. Empowerment, and
3. Freedom.

**With adjustment we receive:**

1. Supply for every need,
2. Closeness of His presence and
3. Completion in His purpose.

Nothing could stand in the way of His purpose being accomplished in and through us. Philippians 1:6.

**With highlighted weakness we receive:**

1. Strength to magnify God through the weakness
2. Power to live in wholeness because our weaknesses magnifies His strength.

**Because He is strong, my weakness is only a platform for His miraculous intervention. My life becomes the glitter of His window display.**

Date:  
December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Knowing <sup>20 twenty one</sup> God

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Sermon Title: Righteousness!**

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Text: 2 Peter 1:8-11

## **January**

**Job 42:3**

1 – Our lack of understanding does not determine God's ability.

- It only determines our level of trust in God who never changes.

It is ok to confess our own lack, but not lack in God.

Mark 9:24

## **February**

**John 21:22**

2 – Emotional stability is not about the removal of difficulty, but about the complete and unobstructed view of following Jesus.

- This must have been extremely difficult for Peter.
- Note: Jesus does not remove this burden from his experience.
- Jesus redirects his attention.

## **March**

**1 Timothy 3:16**

3 – Godliness and contentment in our life's situations in all wrapped up in the person of Jesus Christ.

- There can be no true contentment without a relationship with Jesus.

## April

## 2 Peter 1:4b

4 – The promise of divine nature is realized in our life by our choice.

- It is about living a “partaker-style” life.

Through prayer, we receive the **conviction** to use the characteristics of the divine nature.

By our own choosing we use the **characteristics** of the divine nature.

By God’s divine power they take **affect** once we choose them.

*“When we choose the promise of access to the divine nature, through holy loving, we live life in the very manifestation of Christ through us. His power for our every situation.”*

## May

## Judges 16:4

5 – When allowed to take root, we eventually justify immorality.

- Samson *loved!*

Samson used his feelings as the emotional justification for what he was doing wrong.

- How we feel can never be the basis for our morality.

## June

## Acts 2:42

6 – We cannot bypass the handbook that God has given to us and expect to know Him in some other way.

- His Word must be first.

*“The only god we can know in our own way, is the one we make in our own image – and that is idolatry!”*

**July**

**1 Samuel 24:4**

7 – Self-Control removes emotion from hijacking the right decisions in complex situations.

- David’s men were appealing to his frustration of being victimized.

Experiencing victimization

1. Never validates vengeance,
2. Never approves rebellion, and
3. Never condones self-depreciation.

It is dangerous to use God as the excuse for our emotions to run rampant.

**August**

**James 1:12b**

8 – There is always a spiritual objective in the perseverance of a Believer.

- He will receive the crown of life.

Perseverance through trials produces in us a spiritual reward that Jesus gives to those who endure.

**September**

**Acts 14:21-23**

9 – The Church used prayer as a discipline regarding communication with God more valuable than deliverance.

There was no direct “word from God” yet, they prayed and fasted with the knowledge that tribulations lay ahead of them.



- Prayer becomes the stronghold of our strength in Christ.

The more sacrifice we make to pray and seek Him, the more we crave the power that He gives to live a faithful life.

**October**

**2 Timothy 1:17a**

10 – Onesiphorus did not wait to be confronted with a need to meet...he searched for one.

There are times when we are faced with needs and are given the opportunity to meet them. We mustn't miss these. Yet...

- If we live a life that continually looks for needs to meet,
- We increase the opportunity to be used by God, which brings the power of God,
- which causes us to live a life filled with blessed reaping.

**November**

**Isaiah 43:3-4**

11 – His love produces favor in the midst of sin.

This heart of love is always in relation to our messing up. Romans 5:20-21

**December**

**2 Peter 1:10b**

12 – Living in remembrance is living focused on our freedom and not our fleshly limitations.

As we mimic the Lord, we develop His heart and experience His power which is the greatest aspect of being made whole.

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Living it Out 

Yes...Live it Out!