

Guys, the world is crazy right now. We're living in unprecedented times, and lucky for us we've gotten to hear a lot of great lessons recently about how to capitalize on this time! But if you're anything like me, it can be hard to connect to God through a computer screen.

Let's see what God has to say about connection:

John 14:6-7

I know I can have quiet times, maybe reading and praying or even listening to worship music, and I'll feel really good in the moment, but start to wonder over time, "why don't I feel as close to God as I have been before?" We've been given an opportunity but I don't quite know how to take advantage of it. Well, Jesus outlines pretty simply here what that problem is: to get to God we have to go through him! There's no other way around—no shortcut or "easy" out.

I think we have this misconception that things should be easier just because life is a little slower. In reality, nowhere in the Bible does it promise that it will be easy, but there are many other promises and teachings to inspire us through the difficulty of following Christ.

Mark 4:10-12

Here is yet another example of a non-easy teaching. Why does the Bible have to be unclear? Well, there's an explanation for that, too. Look at the very beginning of verse 12, Jesus gives us the answer. He spoke in parables "so that" people will see but not perceive, and "so that" they will hear but not understand, because "otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" Read that again.... what? Why in the world would Jesus be opposed to people turning and being forgiven? This almost doesn't make sense, but let's think about who God is and who his followers are:

God wants the people who want him. If you were Jesus, why would you want to extend salvation to someone unwilling to lift even a finger to find you?

Personally, this terrifies me while motivating me as well. I want God to say to me "well done good and faithful servant," not "away from me, I never knew you!" (**Matthew 25:23, 7:23**)

So how can we know God?

Matthew 6:33, 7:8

We already talked about how the Son is the only way to the Father, but what does that mean in practice? I found a simple one-word answer within Jesus' most famous sermon:

Seek. We are called to seek first the kingdom. There are many things we could be seeking right now: an education, a career, relationships, money, and even just the internet. All these things demand our time, and none are outright wrong. But what are you seeking *first*?

Luckily, we know that when we do seek God first, it is not in vain. He promises that when we seek in the right way, we will find him. That missing piece I talked about earlier—God has held this answer for centuries.

I encourage you to seek God on your own and go deeper in whatever way he is calling you. A suggestion is to read Psalm 78 on your own, now or later tonight. It's long, but it walks through a lot of the Israelites' own journey to seek God, and shows God's perspective throughout that saga. All we ever see is our own feelings, but God has a lot going on from his side, too!

Let's go deep y'all and find true connection with God and the gospel!