

Discipleship 101 Chapter 2 Seeking God

Opening prayer and comments on what God has been doing in your life in last week.

The whole premise of the relationship to God by faith is that we are spiritual creatures. We are not consciously aware of this aspect of ourselves. We exist as a spiritual creation as well as 'flesh and blood'. There will be many references to our spirit within. This can be thought of as a hand fitting into a glove. The glove being our 'flesh and blood' body or natural body and the hand being our true spiritual self. The glove is animated by the hand and is nothing without it. The natural body dies after a time and returns to dust but the spiritual body is eternal in nature and moves on.

Comment on any testimony you may have heard or read of someone in hospital having a near-death experience that shows evidence of this reality.

"If there is a real God, would he not have made a way to know him?" I was challenged by this statement very early on as I began seeking God. Comment on this statement.

The question will arise; "How do you know that the bible, written by man, is accurate and trustworthy?" There is a whole study on authenticity of the 'Books of the Bible' written by different authors over a span of centuries and yet what they say and foretell fits together flawlessly with Christ's appearing. The events around Christ himself and others were written of by many authors who were witness to the events themselves. There have been recent finds such as 'Dead Sea Scrolls' in the 1900's that show the translation we have today has not been altered from early transcripts found. The original 'inspired' words of God have not been lost.

Comment on this concept.

2 Peter 1:20, 21 Above all you must understand that no prophecy of scripture came about by the prophets own interpretation. For prophecy never had it's origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Comment on what this means to you today. A later study will look at prophecy.

2 Timothy 3:16 (memory) All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

A portion of scripture is 'prophecy' and the rest is 'God-breathed' or inspired. The difference could be looked at this way; Let's say some important events took place in a small village back in this time. The villagers were witness to the events. The leader wants to send a message to the next town to let them know about events. He has 2 choices unless he goes himself. One is to get a reliable man to memorize word for word a message he dictates (prophecy) and the other is to get a reliable witness to give an account of what he saw (inspired). There is a factor in here called the Holy Spirit that enables this.

Discuss this concept above as it pertains to scripture.

Romans 2:7, 8 To those by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Discuss this as it pertains to those who seek God. (A different set of circumstances apply to those who never had a chance to learn of God in this way) That is beyond the scope of this study.

Psalms 119:105 (memory) Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Navigating through life is difficult. Deciding on the best direction to take in life is hard. Wouldn't it be good if there was someone who knew the outcome guiding you in that decision? Trying to find God's will has been compared to a man in the dark feeling his way around.

Comment on this in 'light' of last scripture.

I was in a conversation once with a man who had a spiritual gift of prophecy (later study). He had prayed at one point asking the Lord what the purpose of this gift was and how it was to be used. He had a brief dream shortly after with an understanding of what it meant. The dream showed a man in a dark place trying to feel his way around. A flashlight held by a hand briefly came on ahead of him showing the direction to look in. It was not to show everything, just the direction to look in.

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophecy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Discuss this scripture as it pertains to previous conversation.

Matthew 15:17-20 (Jesus) Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart and these make a man 'unclean'. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean'.

"God is looking at what we do and say according to the motives of our heart, and not so much outward actions and words." Comment on this statement and above scripture. What is righteousness?

The objective of this study is to help guide you in the right direction so that God will reveal himself to you. I am laying out insights to you that I have learned on my journey in knowing God. When I was seeking God many years ago, the Lord gave a prophecy that; "he would teach me his ways and I would teach others". God has inspired this study and as a group you will have results as you take this journey together.

Consider what your shortcomings are as you see them from the study today. Take time to pray regarding them while they are fresh in your mind.