

Newsletter April 2023

From Heaven's Heart

“Easter...The Best Time to Get to Know God”

What does it mean to know God?

To know God means to be loved by the Creator of the world and you are His greatest Creation. You are a child of God and His most prized possession. And you were created with an exciting purpose and plan. To know God is to have at your side the very best friend you will ever have...a friend who will never disappoint you...a friend who will continually bless you with unimaginable blessings, the greatest of which is Easter that offers Eternal Life in Paradise.

The best way to know God or to know Him better is to get close, remain close...and to always be listening as He speaks to you.

How do we get closer to God? How do we remain close to God? The simple answer is to read about Him in His word. From Genesis to Revelation, from His Creation to John's Revelation as the earth as we know it will come to an end with Jesus' second coming and the judgment of the world. We can get to know Him through His Word, His Story of Life and love and His promise of hope that reaches its climax as His plan for saving the world from death and destruction is orchestrated by God Himself coming to earth as the Son, Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins, Then, after spending three days in a tomb, God breathed life back into a dead Man, Jesus as proof God has a plan for eternal life and His plans include all who chose to believe. Every story in the Bible leads us to Easter, to Jesus. As we see Jesus, we see God Himself.

What does it mean to know God? It means we can have all the things He promises. Jesus said, I came that you might have life and have it in abundance. Getting to know God means we learn how to experience life here on earth in a way that can be satisfying, joy filled, productive, with God's power living in and through us and knowing when this life ends, real life is just beginning in Heaven.

And we can pray. Prayer is God's invitation for us to talk with Him about everything we have on our hearts and minds. He already knows everything we are thinking and experiencing but He wants us to open up and talk with Him about everything so we can hear from Him as His Holy Spirit offers us what we need. What we always need is truth, the truth He desires for us to apply to our life, for direction, for comfort, and for our

confidence in Him to grow stronger and stronger each day until we know Him so well that we stop wondering or doubting. We go to Him first hoping He will give us what we need. As we get closer, we learn He is all we need. May I repeat this. This is the answer to why we need to know God...because as we know Him better, we begin to hunger and thirst to get closer and closer because we soon discover, He is ALL we need.

Easter, when Jesus said just before He took His last breath on the cross, "It is finished". But God did not stop speaking to us. Jesus came back to life and while with His friends, He said, "I'm leaving but I am not leaving you alone. God will send His Holy Spirit to live in you, to comfort you, to advise and guide you, to give you My power and equip you for life. So follow Me. Go wherever I direct you and share the story of My life, the Good News of the Gospel with the world". God spoke to the world on Easter and He's still speaking today. What is He saying to you right now?

If you want to know God's will and hear the voice of God, you must devote time and effort to cultivate a love relationship with Him. Begin reading His word. A daily devotional is a good way to start. Prayer is a wonderful way for your relationship to grow deeper with more meaning. And let church become a priority that will add life-changing truth and meaning to your life.

Easter was that time God spoke to the world and said, "Look how much I love you. Look at what I was willing to do for you, to sacrifice for you, to draw you into that deep, loving, all powerful, eternal relationship with you. I love you. I always have and I always will. Will you love me back? You'll be so glad you did because I offer you life. Real life. I offer you a life filled with joy and peace. You can hear from Me anytime. Practice what you hear Me say and watch as your life becomes more than you ever dreamed it could be."

With the deepest love for my brothers and sisters in Christ,

Pastor Steve