

SERMON 2 TITLE: HOW TO KNOW GOD EXPERIENTIALLY

OPENING: How many of you have seen “The Chosen”

Some may like it and some may not. Truthfully, it has its strengths and weaknesses and is certainly nothing more than one man's “OPINION” of the life of Christ.... however, there is something I really enjoy about the series....

Getting a glimpse into what it may possibly be like to LIVE ALONGSIDE JESUS FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS....TO WALK AND TALK WITH HIM....TO HAVE IMMEDIATE ACCESS WITH HIM AND CARRY ON A CONVERSATION WITH HIM....TO DO LIFE WITH HIM.....TO “KNOW HIM EXPERIENTIALLY”!!!!!!

GOD WANTS TO KNOW EACH OF HIS CHILDREN “EXPERIENTIALLY”!

THE APOSTLE JOHN and the other Apostles KNEW JESUS *EXPERIENTIALLY* AND JOHN IS GOING TO TELL US TODAY, THAT YOU AND I AS CHILDREN OF FATHER GOD, CAN NOT ONLY “KNOW JESUS” IN THE SAME WAY AS THE APOSTLES DID.....BUT CAN KNOW FATHER GOD (WHO IS SPIRIT AND WHO LOVES YOU) WITH THE SAME INTIMACY THAT THE APOSTLES HAD WITH OUR PHYSICAL GOD JESUS!!!

It is one thing to know facts about something or someone.....it is something totally different to share things in common, or to know someone in a personal way, to have an experiential intimate relationship with another person and this is what The Apostle John is inviting us into with Father God and His Son, Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit who lives in every believer!

What is even more amazing, is this is the type of relationship God wants to have with YOU!!!!!! It is the same relationship Jesus had with His apostles while on this earth....and John wants to make sure you don't miss out on anything in your relationship with Christ AND Father God.

AS THE LAST LIVING WRITER OF SCRIPTURE John is given the privilege of using Genesis as the Launchpad for his Gospel, AND First John AND THEN USES THE BOOK OF Revelation to tie an amazing bow on the story of God's creation and His redemption of all mankind through His Son, Jesus the Christ! ☺

John will open First John by pointing back to God's plan to create man in His own image, for the purpose of having an *intimate personal relationship with His "human" creation...* John will use some familiar language....

Gen. 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* AND, it is in Genesis we see God's plan of the creation of Mankind, the fall of mankind and separation from God because of sin and God's plan to restore man back into deep fellowship with Himself by paying the price of sin, which is death, by God Himself when Jesus took on human flesh to die on a cross in our place.

AND in the Book of John we find a similar introduction...

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word (Jesus), was with God, and the Word (Jesus), was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

AND in the Letter of *FIRST* John we find John's familiar introduction...

**1John 1:1 *What was from the beginning (IE. GOD)*
*In other Words, THE GOSPEL (Good News) of God predates creation itself!***

John is ALSO mounting His defense against the ANTI-CHRISTS who denied that Jesus Christ was and is God Himself in a physical body!!!

The Greek word rendered “fellowship” or (koinonia in Greek) occurs here and in v.6. It is not easily put into English.

Expositors Bible commentary reads: *It has been translated “fellowship,” “communion,” “participation,” “share a common life,” and “partnership. Hellenistic literature uses it to describe partners in business, joint owners of a piece of property, or shareholders in a common enterprise. In the NT it refers to Christians who share a common faith (Philem 6), who share possessions (Acts 2:44; 4:30), or who are partners in the gospel (Philippians 1:5).*

Koinonia, with its derivatives, occurs over sixty times in the NT in reference to the supernatural life that Christians share. This supernatural life is disclosed in the incarnate Christ. It is the eternal life that comes from the Father and becomes the life shared individually and corporately by the company of believers. **It is what causes the oneness of faith.**

POINT-“Big Idea”: GOD SAVED US, NOT TO BE JUST AN ACQUAINTANCE, BUT FOR US TO BECOME HIS FAMILY and have an intimate personal relationship with Him AS HIS CHILDREN ☺

1 John 1:1 *What was from the beginning*, what we have *heard*, what we have *seen* with our eyes, what we have *looked at* and *touched* with our hands, concerning *the Word of Life* — ² and *the life was manifested*, and we have *seen and testify and proclaim* to you the *eternal life*, which was with the Father and was manifested to us — ³ what we have *seen and heard* we proclaim to you also, *so that you* too may have fellowship (*koinonia=partnership, i.e. (literally social interaction or ONENESS)*) with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ *These things we* write, *so that our* joy may be made complete.

HEBREWS. 1:1 *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the*

exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Story: of instantaneous connection with other believers when you first meet a stranger who is a believer!

JOHN “KNOWS” SOMETHING ABOUT “JOY” Being Made COMPLETE! All believing Apostles were taught TRUE JOY from Jesus himself in Upper Room!

LOOK AT VERSE 4 AGAIN...

⁴ *These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.*

THE “JOY” JOHN SPEAKS OF HERE...THE “FELLOWSHIP” OF ONENESS WITH GOD THE FATHER AND GOD THE SON, Is the same desire and prayer that Jesus prayed in the upper Room before His death in John’s Gospel...It is the ONLY portion of DISCIPLESHIP in JOHN!

John 17:1 *Jesus spoke **these things**; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, **He may give eternal life.** ³ “**This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ “I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ “Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. **John 17:6** “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ “**Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; ⁸ for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I*****

came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. ⁹ "I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; ¹⁰ and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. ¹² "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³ "But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. ¹⁴ "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸ "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. **John 17:20** "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. **John 17:25** "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; ²⁶ and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

ONE "BIG INCLUSIO" OF 1 JOHN can be found in the last verses of this letter-

1John 5:20 And **we** know that the Son of God has come, and has given **us** understanding so that **we** may know **Him** (FATHER GOD) **who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.**

NEITHER JOHN nor JESUS MISSES THE THIRD PERSON OF OUR TRIUNE GOD AND HIS ROLE IN OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD!

JUST BEFORE JESUS' "High Prayer" for His 11 Disciples, LOOK AT THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HE POINTS OUT IN OUR LIFE **That 1 John 3:24 says you were sealed with...God the Holy Spirit!**

John 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, ²⁷ and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning. **John 16:1** "**These things** I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling.....⁷ "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.....¹³ "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. ¹⁵ "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

POINT-"Big Idea": GOD SAVED US, NOT TO BE JUST AN ACQUAINTANCE, BUT FOR US TO BECOME HIS FAMILY!!!!!! 😊

HOW TO ENSURE WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP OR “KOINONEA” WITH GOD

1. **To have fellowship with God**, we have faith in Christ (must be a believer)
2. **To have fellowship with God**, we listen and obey the Holy Spirit living in us
3. **To have fellowship with God**, we must abide in His Word (The Bible)
4. **To have fellowship with God**, we must not put the World above Him (1:6, 8, 10)
5. **To have fellowship with God**, we must not deny sin in our life and make it a practice of confessing our sin to Him (Sin is a barrier between ourselves and God)
6. **To have fellowship with God** requires us to LOVE OTHERS as God loves each of us
7. **To have fellowship with God**, we must engage in REGULAR *fellowship* at a local church WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

In Short, we must be disciples of Jesus, NOT merely a believer....