



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“EXPERIENCING GOD”

(Part 2 Relationship Series)

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God is a personal God and He wants to be personal with us. He wants us to have the power of personal testimony, a personal encounter with Him, and a personal confession of who He is in our lives. We are confronted with a thousand clamoring voices that we hear every day; since our life on earth is short, we should make sure we are listening to the right voice and spending our time right. Thus, as God’s people, we must discover God’s thoughts and His priorities (Isa. 55:6-9).

1. What does God consider most important?

1.1 God desires an intimate relationship with us.

He is a relational God. We can fully experience life if we are willing to respond to God’s invitation to an intimate love relationship with Him (Jn. 10:10). An intimate relationship with God is having mutual trust. There is closeness, desire, and freedom to share our thoughts and feelings with God, our pains, and our joy. We can have an intimate relationship with God by:

- Spending time communicating and listening to Him in our hearts and confirming the messages through the Scriptures.
- Remaining strong in faith and continuing to do great things with or without our prayers being answered.
- Being devoted to reading the Bible (Ps.119:105)
- Submitting to God’s guidance (Prov. 16).
- Asking God what we did wrong and begging His forgiveness.
- Being obedient to Him. Worshipping Him.
- Being available when we are called to serve.

- Doing everything for Him without grumbling (Phil. 2:12-16).

1.2 God desires that we know Jesus Christ whom He has sent. Knowing God does not come through a program or a method. We can know about Him through the Bible. We can start to distinguish His voice by putting ourselves in the Scriptures, and spending time reading and studying the Bible daily (Hos. 4:6). When we identify His purposes and make them our own, we can rest assured that our lives will count for eternity.

1.3 God desires that we know Him personally (Mt. 16:15). Just knowing about Him is not enough. We can only truly say we know God when we have discovered His passion, feelings, likes, objects of desire, and deep interests.

1.4 God desires that we love Him above all else and obey Him (Mt. 22:37). The most fearful weapon that Satan can use against us is our disobedience.

1.5 Every man’s life has three components: great affection, great sorrow, and great trial. God uses our affections, sorrows and trials to develop us into His prize instruments who will glorify Him (Gen 22). When we change for the better, God is glorified.

Conclusion: Too often, we assume that our priority is the same as that of God’s. But, His thoughts and ways are higher than ours (Isa. 55:6-9). Indeed, we should respond to God’s invitation to have an intimate relationship with Him to discover His passion, desires and deep interests (Rom. 8:28).

Reflection:

1. Do you love God at all costs?
2. Are you willing to slay everything that God calls for you to relinquish?
3. What did you do with what God has given you?

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