

# Discipleship

## Being Known by God (part 3)

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FEBRUARY 21ST, 2016

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### Full Text (for reading on your own)

#### *By Way of Review*

The reality is, if you want to get any truth, you need to hear it multiple times. Repetition is powerful, but nuance is as well. Sometimes when we hear a truth in a different way it helps us to get it in a different, deeper way. Truths are a lot like diamonds. The more facets there are to it, the brighter and more brilliant the truth becomes in our lives. If you are a diamond cutter, you have to work on each facet of the diamond so that it has its full brilliance.

David said *“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”* (Ps. 27:4) David wanted to ask questions of God in His presence. Paul counted all of his self-righteousness rubbish for the sake of one thing - to know Christ! Like David, Paul’s one thing was to know God. We also see the same dynamic with Mary and Martha. When Jesus was over at their house, Martha busied herself with much serving. Mary, on the other hand sits at Jesus’ feet. When Martha complained about her sister’s “inactivity” Jesus responded: *“Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”* (Luke 10:41b-42) To have a relationship, to know Jesus, to know God, that’s the one thing!

One night I was sitting in my rocking chair and honestly told the Lord “God, I want to hear you more.” There have been seasons where I hear the Lord very clearly and hear Him a lot. There have been other seasons where I do not hear Him as much. So I was honestly telling God “I want to hear you more.” In that moment there was the honesty of heart that caused me to be heard. Jesus warned us that we will not be heard because of our many words. It’s our humble, honest words that cause us to be heard. So I got humble and honest before the Lord and said “God, I want to know You. You know I want to know You.” And in that moment, I did hear the Lord speak to me very clearly: “Peter, my silence has been an invitation for *you* to speak.” This started a thought process for me about “what does it mean to be known BY God?”

Once I started searching the scripture about the concept of being known by God I found that there were a lot of scriptures about exactly that. For instance, in Jn. 10:27 Jesus gives the definition of what it means to be a follower of Christ. *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”* So if you are one who follows Christ, there are two central things that you do: you hear His

voice and *He knows you*. When you hear God's words, you Know Him; when God hears your words, He knows you. When we hear His voice, we know Him. You get to know someone by hearing their words. When you hear Jesus' voice you get to know Him. And He knows us. How does He get to know us? By hearing our voice!

There is a relational, two-way street where not only do we know God but He also knows us! For instance, according to the scriptures, Abraham, Moses, and David were all well known by God. How did God know that David was a man after His Own heart? Because He knew David well! Because God knew each of them very well, He was able to empower them to do mighty works. This is intensely practical. God will empower those whom He knows. In the natural we know this as well. We would not give a large loan to someone we don't know; that would be silly because if you give a loan to someone you don't know you don't know if you will get it back. God says if you are faithful with a little you will be given more. When God knows you, then He can give you more so that you can walk in more.

Being known by God not only blesses God (because He died to spend eternity with you), but it also enables God to put a grace on your life to walk in the greater things.

### *How to Be Known by God*

If you want to be known by God, the first thing you should do is to ask Him to know you! We may think "why would I need to do anything to be known by God if He already knows everything?" While reasonable, that line of thinking will actually sabotage our relationship with Him.

Is God omniscient? 100%! Ps. 139 is probably the greatest chapter in scripture on being known by God. The NASB and NKJV refer to it as "God's Omniscience and Omnipresence" and "God's Perfect Knowledge of Man" respectively. And you will see exactly that in Ps. 139. We see at the start of the Psalm "*O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.*" David goes on to declare how God is everywhere "I can't go over here or over there and you still not be with you. I can't lose you, I can't shake you, I can't go somewhere where you are not." Jeremiah 23:24 echoes this when the Lord says He fills heaven and earth. David continues in Ps. 139 to say that God was forming him in his mother's womb and that God knows the days ordained for David ahead of time. So, we see that God knows everything about our times, our places, our words, and our activities. Where we have been, He was there. Where we are going, He is already there! Omniscience? Check! Omnipresence? Check!

In verse 1, David says "you have searched me and known me" (past tense). But look at verses 23 and 24 - the last two verses of the psalm: "**Search** me, O God, and know my heart; **Try** me, and **know** my anxious thoughts; and **see** if there is any wicked way in me, and **lead** me in the way everlasting." Notice the tense of these verbs. What is it? Present tense! From the onset of the psalm David says "you have searched me and you have known me" and then details all of that. But here, at the end of the psalm, David says "God, search me. Know me. Try me. See me. Lead me." Why did David

switch to present tense? The reason David was so well known by God was because David had asked God to know Him! He had asked.

God is completely omniscient, but how does that relate to our relationship with Him? We ask Him to exercise that omniscience in our relationship with Him so that He would know us! Consider this parallel example... Is God all powerful? Yes! He made the universe with words. Is that power available to us? Yes! Because of the blood of Jesus all that authority has been given to us as believers! What do we do? We pray. We ask. Ask and you shall receive! It is all available to us but God has given us a freewill so we can decide how much of what He has made available we appropriate. Is God omniscient? Yes! So what do we do? We ask Him to know us! Is He perfectly capable of knowing us? Yes. How do we experience His omniscience in practical terms? We ask Him to know us! Being known by God is not a relational auto-pilot thing.

If we think, subconsciously, in the back of our minds “well God knows everything ...” Of course He does, but if our heart isn’t trying to be found by Him we won’t experience the relational benefit of His omniscience.

Ps. 139 is not the only scripture you can see this in. For instance, Genesis 3 is a classic story. Adam and Eve ate from the tree they should not have eaten from. They were embarrassed, condemned, etc. and they hid. We then see in Genesis 3:9 that “*Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’*” That may need to mess up your theology a bit. “Where are you?”

We just saw in Jer. 23:24 that God not only fills heaven but He also fills the earth. And Ps. 139 says you can’t go to the outermost parts of the sea and “lose God.” Surely Adam and Eve were not capable of going to some part of the garden and losing God. To be clear, if God fills the earth, then as He was walking through the Garden looking for them God was actually where Adam and Eve were hiding. But He asked, didn’t He? So powerful! God asked them where they were! God is a gentleman; He doesn’t override our freewill!

No event that has ever happened on this earth is escaping God’s notice. He knows it all! But as it relates to our relationship with Him, we have to understand that our omniscient Father generally chooses to make Himself dependent upon our invitation to be Known by Him. The reason I emphasize that He “generally” chooses to make Himself dependent upon our invitation to be known by Him is because there is another scripture (Ps. 115:3) that says God “does whatever He pleases.” God can break all of His own “rules!” Have you ever heard of someone getting physically healed without praying? That happens! Likewise some people come into a relationship with Jesus seemingly without having asked to! There is a story of a man from a muslim man who went with his friends to Mecca. As he slept in Mecca that night a man clothed in very bright light came before him (it was Jesus) and put his hand on this man’s chest telling him “I’m Jesus and you’re now saved.” This sort of thing, I understand, is happening all the time in Muslim controlled countries. Jesus will work within the capacity they have. If the message cannot get to them through others, Jesus will just show up to them in the night and people are getting saved. All that to say God can do “whatever He

pleases.” But, as it relates to our responsibility in the matter we should have the mindset that says “we need to invite Him in!” Can God supersede our invitation? Sure! He can do whatever He wants! Does God know everything anyway? Yes! But as it relates to our relationship with Him He generally chooses to make Himself dependent upon our invitation to be known by Him.

James 4:8 is a great New Testament scripture that communicates the exact same principle. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” That leaves some responsibility on us, doesn’t it! Sometimes the greatest form of worship is to let Him in - to invite Him in! Draw near to God and He will draw near to you! The veil between mankind and the presence of God was torn while Jesus hung on the cross. It was torn top to bottom. That means that man did not tear the veil from the bottom in order to get to God, but that God tore it from the top because of His great love for man so that man could come to God. Therefore, God has taken the once-and-for-all, permanently-established first step in order for us to be able to know Him and to be known by Him. In the context of the way that Jesus made for us, now the first step relationally is ours! It is almost as if God has said “let me know if you would ever like to dance because I’m your Man!” In that context all we have to do is approach Him and say “I’d like to dance” and He’s already on the dance floor! Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. It’s a promise. If we draw near to Him He will draw near to us. It’s instantaneous, but He doesn’t just do it on His own without our initiation.

So far, in terms of “how” to be known by God, we have discussed:

1. Ask God to Know you
2. Don’t hide from God like Adam and Eve. If you’ve messed up, go be found by Him!
3. Be Humble. It’s humble and honest words that cause us to be heard.
4. Draw Near to God. Take that first step. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Isn’t it amazing that God wants to know you?!? Ps. 18 says it perfectly “what’s man that you regard him?” Considering the heavens He made it is amazing that he even thinks about us! But Ps. 139 makes it clear that His thoughts for you are more numerous than the sands of the sea!

### *The Tent of Meeting*

Let’s look at the story of Moses, Joshua, the Israelites, and a place called the Tent of Meeting. The back story is the Israelites are in the wilderness and Moses pitches a tent outside the camp where people can go to meet with God.

*“Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people*

*rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud (i.e., the glory of God!) descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.” (Ex. 33:11-17)*

### *Go on Dates with God*

The 5th point in “how to be known by God” is to go on dates with God. What constitutes a date in the natural? Special time. Special place. No interruptions. That’s a date. God wants to have special time with you. God does not want your dates with Him to look just like everybody else’s special time with Him. For instance, every healthy marriage has a slightly different way of relating to each other. It would be odd for a couple to only try to copy everybody else’s favorite dates. You might get some good ideas from others, but you don’t need to have dates with the Lord that look the same as everybody else’s. Some people I know almost cannot pray if they are sitting down - it works really well with them to walk and talk with the Lord. I’ve heard that John Wimber used to enjoy having time with God while eating ice cream! Married couples come to love certain places, times of the day etc. that work well for them to talk and connect.

If we are committed to having a time with the Lord we will do something like Moses did. He went outside the city. Outside the people. Outside the day-to-day. Business was still continuing as usual amongst the Israelites but Moses drew away to meet with God. That was brave of Moses - remember how badly the Israelites messed things up when Moses went up on Mt. Sinai to receive the 10 Commandments? There was probably plenty for Moses to be watching over, tending to, problem solve, etc. within the camp. Moses had even needed to appoint 70 elders to manage all the different things that were going on amongst the Israelites. Moses was a busy guy. Moses left business behind. Life didn’t stop when he left, but he left it anyway and went out into a tent of meeting. Special time. Special place. No interruptions. The presence of God came to that place and Moses talked with God face-to-face as a friend. So was Moses well known by God? Absolutely! They talked as friends face-to-face. Moses had an AMAZING relationship with God. He was able to convince God to change His mind once and God said Moses was the meekest man on the face of the whole earth!

If you pray about a time and a place to get set aside with God, He will fulfill that prayer! Some of us have to be a little bit creative. Some days my young boys wake up at 5:45am. You have to get up really early to beat that! What about your car ride to work if you turn off the radio? What about your car ride home from work? The shower can be a great place to talk with God. Find those times that work for you. Maybe it’s when you are washing the dishes. When you make a decision to set aside a certain, specific time / place to commune with God, the cues become really helpful. The clock says a certain time and you think “time to be with God.” Your hands get soapy in the

dishwater and you think “let me commune with my Father.” You turn your car on and you think “no radio, just You Holy Spirit.”

That’s point 5 in “how to be known by God.” Find a time, find a place, set things aside so that you can spend time with the Lord.

### *Have your Own Thing with God*

There is another major takeaway that we can glean from the story of the tent of meeting. Moses is face-to-face with God and Joshua is there too. But where’s everybody else? At their own tents. There’s a tent of meeting where they were supposed to go to meet with God. If you wanted to meet with God that’s where you went. Joshua and Moses are in the tent of meeting to meet with God. The Israelites are back at their own tents.

Here’s the take-away: I’m sure that we all know that in the natural there are unfortunately some men that don’t believe they can have an intimacy of their own so they watch the intimacy of others. Let it not be so with us and God.

We live in the most privileged era in Christian history. We can access the best sermons from the best teachers in the entire world instantaneously. You can watch the most anointed live worship sets from many places. And you can access all of that 24/7. But please, brothers and sisters, let us not be lulled into some sort of complacency through living vicariously through someone else’s intimacy with the Lord.

You may think “wow, that’s a weird connection to make” and I did too when the Lord showed it to me. But God often referred to “an adulterous people.” He does not want you to have a relationship with Him through someone else. Your High Priest is in place. He’s Jesus. There’s no one else that you need to go through.

Does that mean that we don’t listen to great sermons from other people or watch worship and find ourselves ignited with a passion and fire for God? Of course not! Enjoy those resources! Ride on their coattails for a while if you have to but then do your own thing with God! Don’t let that become the “it.” You’ve got to have your own thing with God! He made you to know you. If He doesn’t get to know you personally He is missing out and He hates it. He wants to know us.

There is movement in the body of Christ (speaking a bit globally now) where everyone “gets to play.” One person we can thank for that are John and Carol Wimber who in the 70’s and 80’s emphasized a more universal participation in the miraculous realm of God (as opposed to John doing “all the healing” from the stage). Carol had been adamant with John that he could not be the superstar on the stage that everyone else looks up to and wants to be like, but no one else gets to play ball. John championed that mindset of everyone playing ball! And we do too.

It is easy sometimes when you hear someone sharing the word to think “wow that revelation is so good, I wish I could get revelation like that.” Do you know what? God wants you to get revelation

like that! You may see someone worshiping and find yourself thinking “man I wish I could give myself to the Lord like that!” Do you know what? God wants you to give yourself to Him like that! He wants you to have all of that with Him! He does not want you to somehow become vicariously satisfied in living through someone else’s intimacy with Him. It’s inappropriate. It’s inappropriate!

And we need to be careful as leaders in the body of Christ that we don’t share all of the intimacies that we have with the Lord.

### *Develop your History with God*

It’s too easy to look up to someone who has something with God and think “if I could just be like that!” and you end up never going after the thing they have for yourself. And that is the great example of Joshua in this story. Notice that Joshua went to the tent of meeting as well. The result of it? Joshua gets put in charge of the Israelites after Moses. Why? Because God knew his heart.

But Joshua stayed in the tent longer than Moses. May I suggest to you that Joshua staying in the tent longer than Moses was not necessarily a “better than Moses” situation. I’ve heard that teaching that Joshua had a “better thing” with God because Moses left and Joshua stayed in the presence, but I would propose that what was going on was that Joshua was a young man and he was needing to develop his relationship with God. He was a young man. He was developing with God what Moses already had.

Consider a young marriage. What happens in a young marriage? You spend hours talking every night because you don’t know each other and everything is new! It’s necessary! But then you see a beautifully mature marriage and a look across the room can say it all.

*“I write to you young men ...”* In 1 Jn 2 we see that there is a season for breakthrough and new territories and fighting to win new ground and advancement, but then we see that there is another place with God as well *“I write to you fathers because you know Him who is from the beginning.”* There’s that steadying that happens in maturity where that relationship just becomes established. That’s what happens in a marriage . . . it gets to the point that a look says it all. Do you not go on dates any more at that point? Of course not! You still go to the tent of meeting - that’s exactly what Moses was doing in Ex. 33. But the idea that Joshua was more holy or seeking God because He stayed longer than Moses may very well be erroneous because Joshua was a YOUNG MAN.

Moses was the one that went to pharaoh and said “let my people go.” That’s a history that Moses had with God. Moses was the one that said “stand still and see the salvation of your Lord this day” and the Red Sea parted! Moses was the one that dealt with the people in the wilderness. Moses was the one that received the 10 Commandments on the mountain. It was MOSES. That was his history with God. And all of that was after he was 80! He had already waited himself for 40 years in the wilderness after growing up for 40 years in Pharaoh’s household. That was Moses’ history with God!

We think “oh Joshua is more holy because he is spending more time.” No - Joshua needed more time! He needs more time! We can do this in our work place too thinking our boss doesn't work that hard because they don't work as many hours as many of the employees. Maybe they are just a lot better than the other people!?! And maybe that came from 25 years of experience! We see the product of people's lives but we don't know what their process was. We have to have our own thing with God. And part of that is to not live vicariously through someone else's intimacy with Him, but part of it is to MAKE OUR OWN HISTORY with God!

If you want to get encouraged by an anointed teacher, worship leader, business leader, homemaker or married couple, I want you to study their process. Study their process! Be more interested in what they are saying about their process than the product. You've seen the product - the fruit's good. Check! If the fruit's good, now look at the root! Study the roots. Where are those roots coming from? How have they grown?

For example, Reinhard Bonnke's ministry has led more than 70 million people to the Lord in the last 10 years. He has preached to more than 1 million people at a time! Imagine all of those people walking for miles or even days to huge field where some of the biggest audio speakers in the world are set up so that one man can share what he calls “the ABC's of the Gospel” so that millions are saved! The result is that local police departments become flooded with returned, stolen goods from those who repented of their previous theft(s) after receiving Jesus! The result is piled of crutches from those who were healed miraculously by the power of God at the preaching of His Word. You see people raised from the dead. One such instance is even recorded in a video on YouTube in which a pastor had been dead for 4 days and by faith his wife took him into the basement below a Reinhard Bonnke meeting where he came back to life in the presence of God that was there. More than 70 million people in the last 10 years. He has even been invited to speak to parliaments of African countries and had half of the members of parliament receive the Lord on the spot! All of these things together make me think of what Jesus said “greater works than these will you do.” We're starting to see the “greater works” I believe!

If you want to read about Reinhard Bonnke's ministry get his autobiography: *Living a Life of Fire*. But amidst all the wonderful stories and testimonies in his autobiography, I believe the thing that is most powerful about it is that it shows his decision making process as an 18 year old novice minister. It shows his decision making process as a newly wed trying to make enough money and still being a minister. It shows his decision making process when he first moved to South Africa and struggled for some years under an oppressive missionary system that he was part of. It shows him riding bicycles around rural South Africa in order to share the gospel. It shows the decision making process when he was slighted by his ministry partner. It shows the decision making process of building a 34,000 person tent (biggest tent the world had ever known) only to see it blow down in a storm. The point is this, amidst all the wonderful stories of victories, amidst all the wonderful fruit of his ministry, the real gem of Mr. Bonnke's autobiography is being able to see his process. It is not a coincidence that his shadow (so-to-speak) is seeing someone raised from the dead. It is not a



coincidence that he is being put before parliaments and half of them are getting saved. Not a coincidence that there are piled of crutches. Not a coincidence that blind eyes are being opened. Not a coincidence that 70 or 80 million people have been led to the Lord by His word. Not a coincidence that 1 or 2 million people will walk up to days to stand in rain and hear this man speak. Not a coincidence. The “greater works” that we are seeing in his ministry on some level are not a coincidence -they are because of a series of historical decisions that he’s made day-in and day-out.

“I don’t know what to do here so I am seeking the Lord . . . OK, I’m going to do this.” “I don’t know what to do here so I am seeking the Lord . . . OK, I’m going to do that.” “I don’t know what to do here so I am seeking the Lord . . . Thank God that prophet called; I’m going to do that.” Day-in and day-out. Year-in and year-out. It’s a history he has with God!

It’s easy to read a book like this and say “man I wish I could stand in front of 2 million!” And I am telling you, you can! Right at the end of the book he says “here’s the baton, run with it!” That’s the idea; we have to run with it! We have to have our own thing with God. We have to make our own history with God. We can’t assume that we don’t have the anointing available to us that someone else has. I can guarantee they developed it through a history they have with God. A history of faithfulness. More has been given to them because they were faithful with little.

If you want revelation from scripture, start sharing the revelation that you have with anyone that will listen! Start sharing. Find someone to teach. Say “Lord, give me someone to disciple.” As soon as you give away one revelation, the Lord will bring more! You wonder how certain preachers can give 5 or 6 messages in one weekend at a conference. I can’t do that yet. But they can. You know how? Years and years of ministering the word! They are not able to do that because they have a file cabinet of pre-written sermons. They are able to do that because they have a heart that is so filled with revelation from the Word of God because they’ve given it away and given it away and given it away! And God has given them more and more and more!

And if you want to have more experience with the power and presence of God during worship, do it in your bedroom. Seek the Lord in your car. Worship Him in the shower. It’s all available to all of us! The question is “will we build the history with God in order to walk in those things?”

There is not secret to it. We have to have our own thing with God and Joshua is a prime example in the tent with Moses. He’s in there longer in my opinion because he needed it! Joshua was developing his history with God and then God empowered Him.

I have heard Bill Johnson mention that conference-goers will often come up to him and ask him to impart the anointing he has to them. The prayer of impartation is a very real thing and Hebrews 5 even refers to the “laying on of hands” as a foundational teaching. He will often respond to the request by saying “I will pray for you to receive more of His anointing, but I cannot give you my history with God.” Many people will even ask him to pray for them to receive double of what he has. He responds to them “I would like double what I have too!” There’s more too it than that. We need to develop our own personal history with God!

Young people who are gung-ho for ministry (whether in their church or their career) can often become discouraged when their vision does not come to pass immediately. As Bill Johnson has also taught, we need to realize that sometimes we do not have the favor for our vision yet. It's true. Jesus increased in favor with both God and man. What does that mean? He developed a history with God. We sometimes want the favor pre-maturely but the favor comes through faithfulness.

So far, we've looked at multiple ways to pro-actively be known by God:

1. Ask Him to know you
2. Don't hide from Him
3. Be Humble
4. Draw near to Him
5. Go on dates with Him
6. Develop your OWN thing with Him

### *Take the Time to Draw Near to Him*

Joshua needed more time than Moses. For many of us, we need some extra time with God in order to break through some of the layers we have on our hearts. It may take us talking around and around about a thing with Him before we "get there." He's patient. Keep talking. Get to the root of it with Him. He's listening. Sometimes there is an inertia in our relationship with the Lord. Things build up, layers build up, there's an inertia (the opposite of momentum). The way you break through inertia is you keep pushing on it. Be pro-active. Talk with the Lord. He wants to have a special thing with you!

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## Text Summary (for reading as a group)

David said *“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”* (Ps. 27:4) To have a relationship, to know Jesus, to know God, that’s the one thing! But what does it mean to be known BY God?” In Jn. 10:27 Jesus gives the definition of what it means to be a follower of Christ. *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”* So if you are one who follows Christ, there are two central things that you do: you hear His voice and *He knows you*. When you hear God’s words, you Know Him; when God hears your words, He knows you.

If you want to be known by God, the first thing you should do is to ask Him to know you! We may think “why would I need to do anything to be known by God if He already knows everything?” Great question! Ps. 139 makes it clear that God knows everything about our times, our places, our words, and our activities. Where we have been, He was there. Where we are going, He is already there! That said, note that while David says verse 1 of Ps. 139 “you have searched me and known me” (past tense), in the last two verses of the psalm David switches to a present tense invitation to the Lord: *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”* The reason David was so well known by God was because David had *asked* God to know Him!

Is God all powerful? Yes! He made the universe with words. Is that power available to us? Yes! Because of the blood of Jesus all that authority has been given to us as believers! What do we do? We pray. We ask. Ask and you shall receive! Is God omniscient? Yes! So what do we do? We ask Him to know us! Is He perfectly capable of knowing us? Yes. How do we experience His omniscience in practical terms? We ask Him to know us! Being known by God is not a relational auto-pilot experience it’s a two-way partnership in which we play a pro-active role with a very willing and very loving partner! James 4:8 is a great New Testament scripture that communicates the exact same principle. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” We have some responsibility for our intimacy with God! The veil between mankind and the presence of God was torn while Jesus hung on the cross. It was torn top to bottom. That means that man did not tear the veil from the bottom in order to get to God, but that God tore it from the top because of His great love for man so that man could come to God. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

When the Israelites were in the wilderness Moses pitched a tent outside the camp where people could go to meet with God. This is a key point in knowing “how to be known by God”: go on dates with God. What constitutes a date? Special time. Special place. No interruptions. That’s a date. God wants to have special time with you. God does not need your dates with Him to look just like everybody else’s special time with Him. If we are committed to having a time with the Lord we will do something like Moses did. Moses was a busy guy. Life didn’t stop when he went to meet with God, but he went out into a tent of meeting anyway. Special time. Special place. No interruptions. The presence of God came to that place and Moses talked with God face-to-face as a friend. Moses

had an AMAZING relationship with God. If we pray for a time and a place to be with God, He will fulfill that prayer!

There is another major takeaway that we can glean from the story of the tent of meeting. Moses is face-to-face with God and Joshua is there too. But where's everybody else? At their own tents. There's a tent of meeting where they were supposed to go to meet with God but the Israelites were back at their own tents. Here's the take-away: I'm sure that we all know that in the natural there are unfortunately some men that don't believe they can have an intimacy of their own so they watch the intimacy of others. Let it not be so with us and God.

We live in the most privileged era in Christian history. We can access the best sermons from the best teachers in the entire world instantaneously. You can watch the most anointed live worship sets from many places. But please, brothers and sisters, let us not be lulled into some sort of complacency through living vicariously through someone else's intimacy with the Lord. Your High Priest is in place. He's Jesus. There's no one else that you need to go through. You may see someone worshiping and find yourself thinking "man I wish I could give myself to the Lord like that!" Do you know what? God wants you to give yourself to Him like that! He wants you to have all of that with Him! He does not want you to somehow become vicariously satisfied in living through someone else's intimacy with Him. It's inappropriate.

It's too easy to look up to someone who has something with God and think "if I could just be like that!" and you end up never going after the thing they have for yourself. And that is the great example of Joshua in the story of the tent of meeting - Joshua stayed in the tent longer than Moses. Joshua was a young man and he was needing to develop his relationship with God. The idea that Joshua was more holy or seeking God more because He stayed longer than Moses may very well be erroneous because Joshua was a YOUNG MAN. Moses was the one that went to pharaoh and said "let my people go." That's a history that Moses had with God. Moses was the one that said "stand still and see the salvation of your Lord this day" and the Red Sea parted! Moses was the one that dealt with the people in the wilderness. Moses was the one that received the 10 Commandments on the mountain. That was all Moses' history with God! We think "oh Joshua is more holy because he is spending more time." No - Joshua needed more time! We have to make our own history with God and it takes time to make history!

If you want to get encouraged by an anointed leader in the body of Christ, study their process. If the fruit's good, now look at the root! Study the roots. Where are those roots coming from? How have they grown? For example, Reinhard Bonnke's ministry has led more than 70 million people to the Lord in the last 10 years. Amazing fruit! But the "greater works" that we are seeing in his ministry are not a coincidence -they are because of a series of historical decisions that he's made day-in and day-out. We have to make our own history with God. We can't assume that we don't have the anointing available to us that someone else has. They developed it through the history they have with God. If you want revelation from scripture, start sharing the revelation that you have with anyone that will listen! If you want to have more experience with the power and presence of God

during worship, do it in your bedroom! When we are faithful with little we are given more! It's all available to all of us! The question is "will we build the history with God in order to walk in those things?" Jesus increased in favor with both God and man. What does that mean? He developed a history with God. We sometimes want the favor pre-maturely but the favor comes through faithfulness. God wants to know you personally Be pro-active. Talk with the Lord. He wants to make history with you!

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### Points to Ponder . . .

- What scriptures show us that our responsibility in being known by God is perhaps more pro-active than we've thought before?
- Special time, special place, no interruptions . . . what works best for you?
- What can we learn from the Israelites in Ex. 33 who stayed at their own tents instead of going to the tent of meeting themselves?
- What can we learn from Joshua, a young man, about what it means to develop our own history with God?