

# Humility: The Freedom that Comes When Pride Goes

Part 2: Our Father's Terms of Connection

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## Full Text (for reading on your own)

### *Conflict is not Bad!*

We are supposed to correct children. That's how they get trained-up. There's a whole lot of "non-correction" that's been happening in the body of Christ.

I'll say it again, there's a whole lot of non-correction that's been happening in the body of Christ and because of that we've got a bunch of babies walking around. The reproofs of wisdom are not "a" way of life; they are THE way of life. If you can't say "amen" say "oh, man!"

In the last days they will gather up teachers according to their own lusts to tickle their ears. You will know the truth and the truth will set you free. Lies will not set you free. Not knowing with the truth will not set you free either. How will you hear unless someone preaches.

I'm telling you there has been a lot of non-correction in the body of Christ and the fact that it is remotely uncomfortable in a church family setting for there to be any correction is evidence that we haven't matured into a family like we are supposed to walk in.

Many people are not really comfortable with conflict. One time, I was talking with someone and asked them "do you think you're ever going to have to have conflict in public?" "I'm worried about exactly that" they responded.

If we think that conflict is inherently bad, it is actually not conflict we are avoiding. It's actually the anger that most people put on conflict that we think is bad. Conflict is not a problem; all of the disfunction most people have around conflict is a problem.

Most people manage conflict with anger because of their pride and unwillingness to repent about something that's wrong. As a result, they get angry at you and blow up in order to end the conversation before repentance could be required of them.

If you get trained in that long enough around the people that you are close to, now what you've learned is "conflict is terrible; avoid it at all costs ... let me walk on eggshells around here."

Do you know what the real issue is? Anger! The anger of man never produces the righteousness of God. Conflict is not a problem. Conflict is NOT a problem.

What would we say conflict is scripturally? “Iron sharpening iron.” Conflict is two seeming truths coming into contact with each other and the one that is closest to being the diamond of the Word (the sharpest truth) will actually abrade the other one into conformity to that truth.

In an open forum, truth always wins. Therefore, being a liar, the enemy must always seek to reduce the openness of the forum in order for a lie to persist. You have to suffocate the ability for the truth to be spoken in order for a lie to hold water, because in direct, side-by-side comparison, truth always wins. Truth in an open economy always wins.

This is why the world has been trying to get believers to shut-up. If we can't do conflict with the body of Christ, how are we going to do conflict with the world?

You're supposed to be a light on the stand. A city on a hill. You are supposed to be the salt of the earth. Why? Because the earth is rotting. You need to preserve it. Remember this is the world God SO LOVED - that's the heart of it. We actually need to preserve a rotting world until they'd come to Christ.

### *“He just wants you to invite Him in”*

He wants you to just invite Him in.

I had this difficult area of my life and I was thinking about it in prayer one time a year or two ago and I heard the Lord clear as day “I just want to be in the room with you when you think about that.”

He just wants to be in the room with you.

It may seem like a small thing, but it actually gets at the core of our understanding of who He is as our Father - and how He is as our Father.

There are two modes of life. The one mode of life puts things together and then goes to Him. The other mode of life says “I just want You to be in the room with me.” That's the message I want to develop a little bit here.

Don't hesitate to linger here. I feel the presence of the Lord so strong here that I don't doubt some one will be ministered to even in lingering over this simple phrase. “I just want to be in the room with you.”

Father, we acknowledge you. We bless what You are doing right now. He just wants you to invite Him in.

Do you know the place where His love wants to go the most? The place of caution tape in your heart. Remember, last time I said that if you invite Him in (or “go to that place with Him” would be another way to say it), do you know what you are going to be met by? Love!

You will only be met by love.

Many believers are living fractured lives. Part of their heart is given over to God and the other part has never talked to God. I’m not saying they are not saved, I’m just saying the other part of their heart has never talked with God. “I can’t talk with Him about that.” “I can’t go there with Him.”

I’m telling you that when you let Him in, you are only going to be met by love. You’re only going to be met by love.

### *Grace and Humility*

Overall, we’re talking about pride and humility within the theme of grace. Why would we talk about pride and humility within the theme of grace?

James 4:6 *“God resists the proud, But gives **grace** to the **humble**.”*

1 Peter 5:5 (It is interesting that 5 is the number of grace, so this verse is chapter 5, verse 5). *“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives **grace** to the **humble**.”*

Humility is the key to receiving grace.

We’re on a theme of grace. The first message within this theme was “Why Grace.” The second message was “Established in Righteousness.” The key to being established in righteousness, is that is not your obedience, it is HIS obedience (Rom. 5:19) that has made you righteous!

By the way, do you remember Matthew 6:33? *“But seek first the kingdom of God and **His** righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* Let me ask you WHO’s righteousness you are supposed to seek? It’s not your righteousness! We’ve had that verse for a lot of years but many of us have probably read it like this “But seek first the kingdom of God and your righteous behavior, and because of your obedience all these things shall be added to you.” Or we read it “seek first the kingdom of God and acting rightly, and then all these things will be added to you.” No!

Seek first His Kingdom and LABOR to ENTER HIS REST (Hebrews 4) - the rest that comes from realizing that He’s the One who became sin that you might become the righteousness of God in Him! Seek first HIS righteousness!

So, it makes sense to talk about pride and humility as part of the theme of grace because you can’t receive grace apart from humility!

## What does Pride Look Like?

Matthew 11:28-30 gives us a picture of pride and humility. *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am **gentle** and **lowly in heart**, and you will find **rest for your souls**. For My yoke is easy and My **burden** is light.”*

What is Jesus’ yoke? His yoke is humility! “I am gentle and lowly in heart.” Come to Me because I am gentle and lowly in heart. Take My yoke (gentleness, being lowly in heart - humility) upon you, and you will find rest for your souls.

The first evidence of pride is unrest in your soul. A heart that is not rest is the #1 evidence of pride in our lives.

When I stub my toe, I know that God says He will keep me from stumbling and keep me from dashing my foot against a stone (Ps. 91). So I command the pain to go and usually the pain goes instantly. However, I know that it is helpful to have pain receptors. Why do we want to have pain receptors? So we know that stove is hot! They tell us “that’s sharp, stop cutting yourself!”

Likewise, you have a pain receptor in your heart. It’s called “unrest in your soul” and it’s indicating “there’s something unhealthy here. This is hurting you. Stop.”

Pride is THE disease of the heart.

Now let’s look at Psalm 131, which is an entire Psalm (that’s only 3 verses) about pride and humility.

I meditated on Psalm 131 for years. I don’t think I even knew what I was meditating on but it was still doing a work in my heart. You don’t need understanding in your mind for the Word of God to work. Mark 4 says the farmer doesn’t even know how the seed is coming up and sprouting! He just knows that it does! When you start reading the Word of God over your life, you are planting it in your heart and you are going to reap a harvest of righteousness if you don’t give up planting the Word. You don’t need to understand it!

For years I was reading Psalm 131 and I didn’t even know it was about pride and humility. You could have asked me “what’s it about?” “What it says ...” Basically I could have just read it back to you. That’s the best I could have done - which is good enough! But now, I am showing you that this Psalm is a psalm about pride and humility.

*“Lord, **my heart is not haughty**. Nor my **eyes lofty**. Neither do I **concern myself with great matters**, Nor with **things too profound for me**. Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the Lord From this time forth and forever.”*

Haughty hearts produce lofty eyes. *“Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me.”* I’ve met believers before that are dis-quieted in their soul because they’ve taken it upon themselves to analyze political happenings and they actually don’t have a grace for it.

David, a king we discuss about 3000 years later, was surely one of the most important / highest impact men that has ever lived. He was a guy who stood in front of 2 nations and boldly declared that the will of God would be done now through some stones!

(By the way, David did not have Saul’s armor. A lot of believers are trying to work through the armor, the strength of the flesh. What did David have? 5 smooth stones! What are the stones? The Word of God! Jesus is the Rock. He is the Word. The stones were taken out of the Rock. Why were they smooth stones? They were well-worn, representing truths David had meditated on in his heart. Why were there 5 stones? Because 5 is the number of grace! What was the giant accuser of Israel killed by? The Word of Grace being thrown at him, which takes down the accuser in your life!)

*“Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me.”* Have you ever noticed that when you are doing what God has called you to do, that it’s not that hard to think it through? When you’re in what God’s called you to do, there is a grace for it. When you are outside of what God’s called you to do, there’s a toil with it. I know that sometimes you have to press in and work hard during a harvest - yes. BUT, some people are thinking thoughts that are not their’s to think.

Do you know a sure-fire way to get your soul disquieted? Start trying to figure what some leader that you are under is supposed to do, because God’s not going to talk to you about it. You’re only talking to yourself about it.

*“Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the Lord From this time forth and forever.”* A haughty heart inherently does not hope in God. A haughty heart always produces a dis-quieted and un-calmed soul. Lofty eyes produce a dis-quieted and un-calmed soul.

Now, listen ... humility is NOT thinking less of ourselves. Humility is thinking of ourselves correctly. As children of God, the world is awaiting the revealing of YOU! (Rom. 8:19). Your world, your sphere of influence is awaiting the revealing of the mature sons of God! So, this is not about thinking less of yourself, it’s about thinking of yourself accurately. Humility is not to think less of yourself; it’s to think of yourself accurately.

You could say it like this “humility is to think exactly what God thinks about you - nothing more, nothing less.”

One night, kneeling next to my bed in prayer, I believe the Lord gave me this definition “humility is identity *in* God.” Pride is “identity *apart from* God.”

If Bill Gates says “I would like to fund the solving of Malaria in sub-Saharan Africa” is he thinking to highly? Nope. Why? Because he probably can choose to fund that! Humility is not a negative view, but an accurate view of ourselves.

We’ve got to be very careful that we don’t misinterpret what humility is. There are people that will talk about knowing famous people because they want to seem like they know famous people and they will present someone who they have met once as though they were a best friend. There are other people that will talk about knowing famous people and they are just being accurate to the reality of who they know.

“*Like a weaned child is my soul within me.*” What’s a weaned child know? This is a child that’s not nursing anymore. This is a child that has been weaned. This is a child that has been perfectly provided for out of place of relationship and intimacy for a period of time. Now, when that child is with his or her mother, how does that child feel? Absolutely at rest. Absolutely covered. Absolutely provided for. Absolutely safe. That’s what humility will do for you.

OK, that’s a couple scriptures.

So, what’s pride look like? A dis-quieted soul, an un-calmed soul, being heavy laden, lacking rest, being burdened. These are evidences of pride.

Oxford’s definition of pride is “a feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements ...” I hope you are starting to see the connection between grace and humility/pride. I left the last series on being established in righteousness with teaching “the flesh profits nothing.” What’s the flesh? Your power, your ability, your strength, your obedience. It’s the Spirit that gives life - to walk in the Spirit is to focus on what HE’S done! So now we are looking at pride and humililty. Do you see how it’s almost the same thing we looked at in the flesh and the Spirit. It’s just a different facet of the same diamond.

Pride is “a feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived **from one's own achievements ...**” whereas I’m saying humility is to just think exactly what God thinks about you.

The Lord has been speaking to me about pride for a couple years. I don’t know what He talked with me about it, since I didn’t need to hear about it! :)

Pride looks like boasting.

Pride looks like anxiety. You know, a lot of what’s being treated as anxiety and depression is pride. I say that not to condemn but to liberate someone. If you don’t know what the root is, it’s *really* tough

to deal with it. Really tough. The enemy is a master of disguising the cycle that's actually happening so that you can never get to the root of the thing. A lot of what's being treated by psychiatrists is actually pride. Again, not being harsh.

Pride looks like being heavy laden.

Have you ever met someone who engages in a lot of self-analysis? That is a proud person. Overly analyzing yourself is rooted in pride. I've done it. Did it for years. My wife led me out of it, praise God! She used to tell me "I'm not going to your pity party." Do you know what self-pity is rooted in? Pride.

(I like this comedian, JP Sears, he satirically talks about how to become gluten intolerant even if you are not gluten intolerant and as part of that spoof he jokes about how once you start reading all of these books on gluten you'll realize EVERYTHING is caused by gluten intolerance - cancer, etc., etc. caused by gluten intolerance. So I want to be careful not to over-emphasize what it is that pride causes but I would propose to you that pride has existed since Genesis 3. When man fell, he fell into pride. So I don't think I am overemphasizing how big of a deal pride is and how much is stemming from pride.

There are literally 2 systems in life: there's God's system and then there is the pride system. In Romans 12:2 we are admonished to not be conformed to this world but to instead be transformed by renewing our minds. What's the world look like? Read the next verse, v. 3, "*For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly ...***" The world is swimming in pride, and we don't want to be conformed to that system.)

## Quiet Time Breakthrough

You can never get to the depths, or the bottom, of the Word of God. If you are bored with the Word of God, can I give you a hint?

This is going to be your quiet time breakthrough. If you don't need it now, you will need it in the future. This is 1 of 3 things I teach about a quiet time breakthrough, but I'll just give you the 1 here. "Only read out of hunger."

Only read out of hunger. Now, you might say "well I'm not hungry." Well the answer to that is to start reading. Bill Johnson says the more you eat of the Word the hungrier you get. But what I am saying, in terms of WHAT you read and HOW you read it, only read out of hunger.

What's that look like? This past Fall I kept feeling like "Father, I've got to know how You are! I need to know YOU!" What did I do? I read the gospels over and over! Why? Jesus is the perfect expression

of the Father (“If you’ve seen Me, you’ve seen the Father.”) I know that so I figured if I am hungry to see the Father for Who He is I need to read the gospels over and over and see “how was Jesus, how did He talk, how did He act, what did He do, what were His mannerisms, what was His thought process, how was He?” and that was feeding my soul about Who the Father is to me.

Now, after I don’t know, 3 or 4 times through the gospels like this, I was in Luke and felt “man, it’s a little dry.” And what I’ve learned is this “don’t stop your plan just because one day feels dry.”

If this impacts your ability to be in the Word, this part of the message will have more impact than my message can have impact because the mature believers are supposed to feed themselves. In 1 Corinthians 11, when Paul was addressing a problem that was going on, he said “don’t you all have food at your house?!” “You’re coming together and you are clamoring to steal the food before other people get the food? Don’t you all have food at your house?!” There’s a spiritual corollary. If every time you get together with the body of Christ you are looking to be fed because you haven’t fed yourself, you are not operating in maturity. I do personally expect to be encouraged and fed when I get together with the body because everyone can have “*psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*” (Col. 3:16) But don’t you all have food at your house?!?

You have to read out of a place of hunger! If you start to feel like it’s dry, don’t stop! Don’t stop! You’ve got to persist because some days it feels like it’s dry but “do not grow weary in doing good, for in due time you’ll reap a harvest if you don’t give up!”

However, a week and a half later it was still feeling dry ...

Do not demand Holy Spirit to always work with you the same way. Do not demand Him to always work with you the same way. He’s relying on your connection to Him to lead you into what He has for your life. He is not relying on what He told you yesterday to lead you into your future. Holy Spirit is relying on your active connection to Him. Daily manna! Daily manna! Daily manna!

I feel right now that the Lord is going to jump start the daily manna in some of your lives. I pray a jumpstarting of the daily manna in Jesus’ Name ... that you would eat daily the fresh manna from Heaven!

So when I noticed, a week and half in that it still felt dry, do you know what that tells me? Listen: if I keep doing what I’ve been doing - even though it feels dry now - I am choosing now to not eat fresh bread that God has for me. I am now reading the Word out of obligation instead of out of hunger and I’ve stepped into religion and it will not produce the same results.

Now, you can’t get around the Word of God and it not have some impact on you, so you will still get some fringe benefit, but God says “taste and see that I’m GOOD!” He says (Isaiah 55) “*Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come,*



*buy wine and milk Without money and without price ... Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance!*" My Word is what satisfies says the Lord! If His Word is not satisfying a hunger inside of you, you are coming to Him out of religion, not out of relationship. Taste and see that He is good!

So, what did I start doing? I asked myself a question: "what am I hungry for in the Lord?" Do you know what I was hungry for? "God I need to know how to lead a church! These are Your people! How do I do this?" So what am I hungry for? I'm hungry for the letters. The letters to Timothy and Titus. I'm hungry for all the letters to the churches.

Watch this: previously, in the Fall, I was reading for coverage. Just reading, reading, reading - bathing myself in Who Jesus is and therefore Who our Father is.

But when I realized my hunger had shifted to studying the letters, it felt different: "I feel like I need to take notes." So I am doing something really weird to me, I am reading the letters on my computer because it let's me copy and paste things and pull Greek definitions from the concordance easily, and take notes more easily. This is SO FEEDING MY SOUL! This study is on fire for me!

And it's what I'm going to do the rest of my life.

Did you get it? I'm being tongue-in-cheek. Read out of hunger. Read out of hunger! Be free to read out of hunger.

### *What does Pride Look Like (continued)?*

Pride looks like self-analysis. Pride looks like self-pity.

Pride looks like condemnation. Pride + Failure = Condemnation. Remember I taught Romans 8:1 "*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*" The spiritual reality is that those who are in Christ Jesus will never be condemned. But to actually walk in that reality you have to get the rest of the verse "*who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*" The flesh is YOUR ability, YOUR power, YOUR might, YOUR performance. The Spirit what HE'S accomplished on your behalf. It's the Spirit who gives life. The flesh profits nothing. Another way you could see that is pride vs. humility. It's the same. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk in humility - in other words, who walk in what God's saying about them, instead of trusting in their performance."

Pride looks like entitlement instead of thankfulness.

Pride looks like strife in relationships.

Pride looks like disunity in organizations.

Pride looks like being a workaholic - vain toil, and a lack of rest.

Pride looks like difficulty receiving mentorship or constructive critique from trustworthy individuals.

Pride looks like anger when others serving you or representing you fail.

Pride looks like delighting in being self-made.

Does that hit home?

### *What's the Heart of the Father in Addressing Pride?*

Now, what's the heart of the Father? Why would our Father address pride?

Let's look at the last verse in 1 John. This is pretty amazing. John has written a whole book (letter) about the love of God and right at the end of the book, he says this: "*Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.*" (1 Jn. 5:21) That's always felt a little weird to me. "Way to end it on a positive note, John."

Why would John end there? John, the beloved, a true elder in the faith ... why would he end there - on idols? Because idols will produce bondage in your life. It's out of his love for the children of God that John is saying "keep yourself from bondage; keep yourself from idols."

Now, do you know what pride produces in your life? Idols. The idol will be the result of an area of pride. Let me give you an example:

This is a hypothetical example. Let's say I grew up with a dad who is a pastor. He loves God. The message my Dad always talked with me about is "we have to be obedient to God. Obedient to God."

(Now, let me just make this clear, obedience is a big thing. It is. But let me say this, obedience is a FRUIT, it is not a ROOT. Do you know what obedience is? The actions coming from repentance. The actions coming from a changed heart = obedience. What is it that leads us to changing our heart? What is it that leads us to repentance? The goodness of God!

It's the goodness of God, it's a revelation of Who He is and who He says we are, that is the ROOT that leads to repentance which leads to obedience from the heart! Obedience is a FRUIT, it is not a ROOT.)

But that teaching I just gave you right there, is not going to work for a whole lot of people.

Why?

For a whole lot of people, they think that God's core value is their obedience. They think that the terms of connection that their heavenly Father has with them is their obedience.

Every family has terms of connection. And if you are parenting like we're parenting, I would encourage you to question "what are the terms of connection in our household?" "At what point do I turn the kids away?" "At what point does my heart harden?" "At what point do I create separation?" Because right there, you've found what the terms of connection are in your family.

I am saying, the terms of connection of our family can be redeemed to be like the Father towards us, but how are you going to be like the Father? We love because HE first loved us. So I am trying to address "how is His love with us?"

What are the terms of His connection with us?

Many believers are going to struggle with what I just said (that obedience is a FRUIT, not the ROOT). Do you know why? Because they are thinking "No! The terms of my Heavenly Father's connection with me is my obedience. So if you go and tell me that obedience is not the root and it's the fruit, what you are telling me is I might lose relationship with my Daddy because if you take that bondage off me, WHO KNOWS what I might do!"

Now, what you have, is you've grown up, and someone who is teaching you spiritual things is telling you "obedience matters, obedience matters, obedience matters" and all you figure out is "obedience is the terms of the Father's connection with you." When you are obedient, you've got a good relationship with Him. When you are not obedient, get IT fixed, so that you can come to Him.

So then, someone has to preach to you, and say "just let Him in the room." Or the Father has to tell me "I just want to be in the room with you when you are thinking about that."

"See, you don't understand. When you're struggling, I don't remove Myself from you, I draw closer to you!"

Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more!

If your expectation of God is not that His grace wants to abound more in your area of struggle, you are NOT knowing the Father.

He draws closer, not further. But we shun Him. We say "no, no, no, You can't see this." And He says "I already saw it. I put it on My Son. I've got no problem ... what if there's no problem right now? What if everything's OK right now? Won't you just let Me in the room right now? Just let me into that now."

Caution tape is about to come down.

Do you know the Father's core value for connection? What are His terms of connection? It would be really good to know what the contract is! What are His terms of connection?

They asked Jesus "what must we do to do the works of God?" Jesus replied "believe in the One Whom He sent." Period.

We think that God has a 27 page terms of connection, or a 2000 page terms of connection. "What's the contract God?!"

One word: Agape.

The terms of His connection with you is self-sacrificial love FOR you and TO you. That's the terms of His connection with you. You want to know what it takes to be in relationship with God? You've got to receive. That's the only term of connection.

So much of where we've stalled out in certain areas of our walk and we say "why have I plateaued there? Why have I not gotten on further there?" is because you are trying to get by performance what God will not give to you by performance because He will not exacerbate and perpetuate your expectation of Him thinking you can only come to Him according to your performance.

THIS IS WHY He opposes pride ... so that He can give grace to you.

God is actively opposing the proud - not out of spite, oh, no - because His love says "I only want to have a grace-based relationship with them." "Please, please humble yourself. You don't have to perform. I just want to give you grace."

And in that instant where you say "God I invite you in actually. I'm done with the performance in that area. I invite you in." In that instant, you'll find out a spiritual principle: Grace is magnetically attracted to humility. He had it (grace) stored up for you the whole time and in the instant where you change your heart to say "wait a second, why am I approaching our relationship as though my performance was the terms of connection?"

Do you remember the covenant of peace from Isaiah 54? *"For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the Lord, who has mercy on you.* He shall not remove His covenant of peace with you *"For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you."* The covenant God made with Noah, represented by the rainbow, was an unconditional covenant. People have been sinning a long time and we still see rainbows. God's covenant of peace with you, Him being at peace with you has NOTHING! to do with your performance.

Why does our Father oppose pride? So that you would receive grace and relationship.

The older son in Luke 15 says *“these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time ...”* and the Father says, “oh, buddy, you don’t know the nature of who I am. You are always with Me (connection) and all that I have is yours (provision). There’s no other terms here.”

Let’s look at one last section of scripture. Romans 10:1-4 *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but **not according to knowledge**. For they **being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own** righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”*

“But not according to knowledge.” Now, watch. Knowledge in the Bible is always experiential. Religion asks you to ascent to knowledge that you expect no experience for. That is actually the fruit of a spirit that is trying to brainwash you not a fruit of Holy Spirit.

God said “taste and see” that I am good. The truth is a person. I am the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus tells the Phrisees “you all have been reading the scriptures and memorizing all these sorts of things and I AM the Word of God and I’m standing in front of you and you don’t KNOW me.” The truth is a person.

Start reading the Word like this. As you read about knowledge, ask God “is this one of those situations where I need to see this as a much more relational thing?” Because the way that most believers are thinking about knowledge is according to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When you try to do knowledge out of separation from God, you are perpetuating pride and that’s the knowledge that puffs up - it doesn’t build up!

*“For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but **not according to knowledge**.”* They have a zeal for God, but not according to actually knowing Him (knowledge). It’s not according to actually knowing the Father. They have a zeal for God but it’s not according to actually knowing Him.

Watch what that produces in them in the next verse, because like I said, someone has learned that God’s terms of connection are obedience, right? But actually, no, that person may have a zeal for God but they don’t actually know God. I am not saying they are not saved. I’m just saying they don’t know Who He is; they don’t see Him clearly.

*“For they **being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own** righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”*

Seeking to establish their own ... Here’s my commission to you. In that hardest area or in that area where you need a breakthrough the Father’s saying “ask Me. Just invite Me in.” My commission to

you is this: stop seeking to establish your own thing. Stop trying to fix it yourself. I know that you're probably doing that out of a zeal for God, but it's not according to knowing Who He is.

Who's the Father? He's the One Who's terms of connection are "I want to be with you, and I want to provide for you." That's it. That's who He is.