

## **SEVEN REALITIES OF EXPERIENCING GOD**

Jesus said, "And this is the way to have eternal life--to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the One You sent to earth" (John 17:3). The heart of eternal life and the heart of this study is for you to KNOW GOD and to KNOW JESUS CHRIST whom He has sent. Knowing God does not come through a program or a method. It is an intimate relationship with a person (Jesus Christ). It is an intimate love relationship with God. Through this relationship, God reveals His will and invites you to join Him where He is already at work. As you follow Jesus one day at a time, He will keep you right in the center of God's will. When you obey, God accomplishes through you something only He can do. Then you come to KNOW GOD in a more intimate way by EXPERIENCING GOD at work through you.

### **Reality #1: God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.**

#### **1. God created humanity for a love relationship with Himself.**

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Mark 12:30

This is the most important truth in knowing and experiencing God. If your love relationship is right, everything else can be right. If your love relationship is wrong, nothing else can be right! More than anything else, God wants us to love Him with all that we are.

#### **2. God always takes the initiative in this love relationship.**

God pursues us! He began with the sending of His Son, Jesus. He clearly demonstrated how important the love relationship was to Him when He permitted Jesus to die to make it possible. In our natural human state, we do not seek God on our own initiative. You cannot know the activity of God unless He takes the initiative to reveal it to you.

#### **3. This love relationship with God is real and personal.**

A person cannot love without another *someone* to love. A love relationship with God takes place between two real beings. Do you sense, as you read the Scripture, that God became real and personal to people?

### **Reality #2: God is always at work around me.**

John 5:17

#### **Four Considerations of God's Work Around Me**

#### **1. Knowing that God is always at work around me affects my focus.**

John 12:23-25

God can only accomplish His purposes through us when we die to self-centeredness. To "be saved," you must "die to self" and commit to a God-centered life! To live a God-centered life, you must focus your life on God's

purposes not your own plans. You must seek to see from God's perspective rather than from your own distorted human perspective.

**2. You never find God asking people to dream up what they want to do for Him.**

John 15:5

God is always at work around us. He has a purpose, and His purpose determines the ultimate outcome regardless of what we might want to do.

**3. There are some things only God can do.**

**Six Things Only God Can Do**

- A. God draws people to Himself. John 6:44
- B. God causes people to seek after Him. John 14:15-17
- C. God reveals spiritual truth. John 14:26
- D. God convicts the world of guilt regarding sin. John 16:7-8a
- E. God convicts the world of righteousness. John 16:8b
- F. God convicts the world of judgement. John 16:8c

**4. God's will is always best.** John 3:16; I John 3:16; I John 4:16

**Reality #3: God invites you to join Him in what He is doing.** John 14:21

**1. God takes the initiative to involve people in His work.** Amos 3:7

Because God loves you, He wants to involve you in His work. So, God invites you to go to work with Him, so He can draw you to love Him more.

**2. God's revelation is your invitation to join Him.**

When God takes the initiative to open your spiritual eyes, so you can see what He is doing, that is your invitation to join Him.

**3. God speaks when He is about to accomplish His purposes.**

When God reveals to you what He is doing, that is when you need to respond. He speaks when He is about to accomplish His purposes.

**4. What God initiates, He completes.** Isaiah 46:11

What God speaks; He stands to guarantee that it will come to pass. You may disagree with that statement but be sure you always base your understanding of God on Scripture, not on opinion or experience alone.