

# BECOMING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST



Over the next few weeks we'll use the topics found on our blog, Following Christ (QR code above). The series will include topics such as Knowing God, the Decision to Follow, Understanding the Bible, and Living in Spiritual Victory, and the Task of Discipleship.

## NOTES

*If you read the Great Commission, you may not realize that it is about world revolution. If you think it is about planting churches, as important as that may be, if you think it is about evangelization, as that is often understood—no, no, it is about a world revolution promised through Abraham, come to life in Jesus and living on in his people up to today. This is what our hearts hunger for, even when we don't know how to approach it or how to go about it.*  
— Dallas Willard, *Living in Christ's Presence* (From the book, *Conversion and Discipleship: You Can't Have One Without the Other* by Bill Hull)

## PART 1 | KNOWING GOD

*Developing the firm foundation of a personal, intimate relationship with Christ. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)*

### **We begin with a very important question, how *can* we know God?**

Becoming a follower **first** begins with a New Birth. (Read John 3:1-21)

Paul's cry in Philippians 3:7-16 ...*That I may know Him and the power of His Resurrection...*

Jeremiah 9:23-24 *This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength, or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD,...*

There is a vast difference between knowing *about* God and knowing *Him* on a deeply personal level. To the Greeks, to know something meant you understood it in your mind. It was an academic process. In contrast, for a Hebrew person to know something meant that he or she experienced it.

Psalms 103:7 states that *He revealed His character to Moses and His deeds to the people of Israel*. Israel saw His acts but Moses knew Him, His ways and personality. God desires to reveal both but invites us to a deeper understanding and participation.

The knowledge of God and His ways is more essential for the believer/follower than anything else. It was the prayer of Jesus in John 17:3 ...*Now*

*this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

**Key thought:** *We experience God in proportion to our knowledge of Him.*

### **In the Old Testament God revealed His character through His Names.**

In the Bible God reveals Himself through His Names. In the Old Testament and parts of the New Testament, names were more than just a name or a title. Instead, it revealed something about the individual's character or purpose.

- **Click the QR code** in the heading and go to lesson 1, *Old Testament Names of God*.

### **In the New Testament He revealed Himself through His Son.**

*Hebrews 1:1-4 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,... who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person,... (See also John 14:7-11)*

### **Knowing God by experience.**

Understand that God pursues a personal relationship with you and invites you to be involved with Him in His work. God's invitation will lead us to a crisis of belief requiring faith and action. Although it is necessary to make major adjustments in our life, that decision will result in our experiencing the very reason for which He created us. Then, you come to know God by experience as you follow and obey Him.

- **Click the QR code** in the heading and go to lesson 1, *Seven Realities for Knowing God*.

### **Practical steps...**

1. Matthew 6:6 — It all begins in the prayer closet. Dedicate a specific time to meet with our Heavenly Father in private. Be sure to leave your cell phone (if possible) and bring a pen and notepad to write what the Spirit is saying.
2. What are a few adjustments you have to make or are making in order to join Him in what He is doing?
3. Take a single small step in obedience to His Voice. Remember this will always be outside of the "comfort zone." Write down what that step is and the result of taking that step.

**Memory verse:** Jeremiah 9:23-24 | **Next week:** The Discipleship Decision