



RENEWING THE MIND

RENEWING THE MIND - PART 5

The title of this resource is, "The mind that knows **OF** not **ABOUT**." Two very small words which hold a significant difference to the way we are able to live out our lives on earth.

Do we only know **about** God or do we know **of** God personally?

Do we only carry an informational knowledge about God or have we taken hold of the revelational knowledge of God?

Jesus confronted Philip in John 14:9 with this very reality when He said;

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

It was fully possible to be with Christ physically as Philip was and have Christ say to you that you don't know who He is. Wow, how offensive is that?

Or, is it how life giving?

Wouldn't you want to know if for the entire time you were walking with Jesus, seeing Him do miracles, listening to the Father's teaching through him, serving Him and people, feeding the 5000 etc. that you didn't actually know who He truly was? Yes, or No?

I get a sense Jesus is saying the same thing today to many in His body. How long have you been a Christian? How long have you been going to Sunday services? How long have you been doing all the good Christian activities in My name and yet you still don't know Me in the way that transforms you?

Do we know Him in the way He has predestined us to know Him? Do we know Him the way Paul declared in Philippians 3:7-8 when He said?

"But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ".

This knowing I am describing is the knowing "of" Jesus, as opposed to the knowing "about" Jesus. The knowing about Jesus is informational knowledge. It's not wrong and it can even be good, but it's not Living transformational knowledge. The knowing about Jesus is acquired through human learning, while the knowing of Jesus only comes via revelation by the Spirit.

We are either receiving our knowledge from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which ultimately puffs us up with pride or we are receiving our knowledge from the tree of revelation, which empowers us to lose our lives and lay them down as our spiritual act of worship.



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1 Corinthians 2:12-13 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

There it is for all to see in plain language. Unless the Spirit is teaching us, we are not learning and receiving a knowledge “of” Jesus which makes us free. If the Spirit is not the One teaching us then we are, and the Spirit’s role becomes null and void and futile, and this would be nothing short of spiritual suicide for this church.

It’s the true knowing ‘of’ God that empowers the true loving ‘of’ God. One can not love God from a knowledge ‘about’ God. This is what 1 John 2:3-6 is all about. Only those who hold the knowledge ‘of’ God can keep the greatest commandments, the commandments of love, to which the Law and Prophets depend upon for their fulfilment. The inability to love God this way means we are unable to keep and be faithful to the marriage covenant we are in with Him. We live lives unworthy of this covenant when all we have is a knowledge ‘about’ God, as opposed to the One who is able and faithful to keep the marriage covenant, because of the knowledge they hold ‘of’ God.

It’s the role of the Holy Spirit alone to lead and guide us into the living knowledge ‘of’ Christ and it is upon this knowledge ‘of’ Jesus, that Jesus builds His church. Let’s press on towards this living knowledge with all we are, letting go of all our man made ways that lead us into a knowledge ‘about’ God, for a living knowledge ‘of’ God.

QUESTIONS:

1. In your own words try to describe how Philip may have felt after hearing the words of Jesus, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip?”
2. How do you think you would feel if Jesus turned up and said this to you today?
3. Describe in your own words the difference between the knowledge ‘of’ and the knowledge ‘about’ God?
4. There were 2 trees in the garden of Eden. The tree of good and evil and the tree of life. Which one would you say you are eating from and why?
5. Give living testimony to what it is like to be taught by the Spirit Himself and not man!

ACTION POINT: What action point do we need to take away from tonight?