

Sunday April 18, 2021
More of God

GOD IS GREAT AND INFINITE

Job 36:26 (MSG)

***“Take a long, hard look. See how great he is—infinite,
greater than anything you could ever imagine or figure out!***

Psalm 145:3

***3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
And His greatness is unsearchable.***

WE CAN HAVE MORE OF HIM

God has chosen to give of Himself to man. We receive Him through the redemptive work of Jesus on the Cross. When we receive Jesus as our savior, all of God is made available to us by way of the new covenant.

As a child of God, each one of us is designed to experience all that God has for us.

While we cherish our walk with God, the encounters, the breakthroughs, the revelation, the wisdom, the power and so much more we have experienced over the years, we can keep moving into more of God in every new season. Example: Moses (Ex 33:18), Jacob (Gen 32:26)

As believers, we are invited to experience more of God.

1. More of God’s love - Eph 3:18-19, 1 Cor 13, 1 John 4:18
2. More of God’s grace - Romans 5:17, James 4:6
3. More wisdom – Romans 11:33
4. More understanding – Psalm 147:5, Isaiah 40:28
5. More strength – Isaiah 40:31

HOW CAN WE HAVE MORE OF GOD?

Our pursuit of God determines how much of God we can experience.

While our salvation is not bought by works (Eph 2:8,9), our attitudes and actions do determine how far we go with God or how much of Him we experience in our lives (Phil 2:12).

Example: Luke 10:38-42

I would like to invite us to come higher and deeper in the pursuit of God.

Ezekiel 47:1-6

Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. ² He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side.

³ And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. ⁴ Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. ⁵ Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. ⁶ He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river.

Ezekiel's vision - A life giving river flows out of the millennial temple of Jerusalem. Ezekiel had a vision of this river. On the east side of the temple, the river flows into the Dead Sea, healing the salty waters transforming an arid, barren and desolate land into a lush green and fruitful land. The river represents the work of the Holy Spirit.

The angel led Ezekiel along the riverbank, measuring the waters. It starts out very shallow but gets deeper and fuller along its course. At every 1,750 feet (1,000 cubits) the waters become ankle-deep, then knee-deep, waist-deep and finally so deep that the only option left would be for a person to swim in the waters.

Our experience of God can be similar to Ezekiel's experience of the river –

- Ankle deep
- Knee deep
- Waist deep
- **IMMERSED AND MOVED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE FLOWING RIVER!**

PURSUIT OF GOD

An active and deep pursuit of God, pleases Him.

Jer 29:13

13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

We can pursue God in at least 4 ways.

#1. Pursue the knowledge of God

To grow in our knowledge and understanding of God is more than an intellectual exercise, rather an experiential one.

John 17:3

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

As God is infinite, we must learn to make this an ongoing pursuit (2 Peter 3:18, Phil 3:8-10)

#2. Pursue the presence of God

Hebrews 10:22

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

In the structure of the earthly tabernacle there were three areas representing the way we must approach the presence of God. The earthly tabernacle was the shadow of the true heavenly tabernacle (Hebrews 8:2)

The Outer court was meant to clean or sanctify oneself. The inner court depicted a place of fellowship, relationship and communion with God.

The Holy of Holies is the place where the presence of God was so overwhelming that His very nature could be experienced, and one just needed to take it all in by being 'still'.

Similarly, as we enter the presence of God, depending on our desire, we could move in as far as we would like. We can have our sins washed, or experience fellowship through prayer & intercession with God and leave (Outer & Inner court experience). We bring in spiritual sacrifices such as our praise, worship, good deeds, giving and offering up our bodies to God for worship (1 Peter 2:5, Hebrews 13:15-16, Romans 12:1-2)

Or we can move all the way into the Holy of Holies to experience much more of God's presence and glory.

#3. Pursue the glory of God

The glory of God refers to who God is and what He does.

Jesus manifested the glory through the signs, wonders and miracles that He did (John 2:11, John 10:38). Then the disciples were empowered by the Spirit to demonstrate the same.

Jesus said that every believer would do His works and greater works than what He did (Mark 16:17-18, John 14:12).

God is able to do this through the church by the power of His Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 2:17

**17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.**

As we minister by the Spirit of God, we can expect to see the goodness of God manifest in the lives of people as healings, deliverances, answers to prayer, life transformation, turn-around and incredible things that we can never imagine.

The experience of the work of the Holy Spirit is limitless.

John 7:37-39

³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

#4. Pursue personal sanctification

Sanctify is hagiázō in Greek, which means to make holy, purify or consecrate.

Sin is a hindrance to our experience of God. When we consistently examine our lives and overcome sin, we can enjoy God's presence in a rich way.

Genuine pursuit of God will bring about a real transformation of the inner person.

The more we see Him, the more we will be like Him (Romans 8:29, 2 Cor 3:18, Galatians 5:22-23).

We must walk in the Spirit to represent Jesus well (Gal 5:16). As we do this, we will be chiselled into His character, His attitudes and respond the way He would to any life situation.

The extent to which we are transformed into the image of Jesus, depends on our walk of obedience with God, the work of the Word & the Holy Spirit in our lives.

IMPORTANT KEYS TO EXPERIENCE MORE OF GOD

1. **Strong desire**

A strong desire or hunger for something drives us to have more of that.

In the same way, hunger in the pursuit of God is very important.

Psalm 42:1-2

**42 As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So pants my soul for You, O God.
2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?**

Desire God with the soul and body.

Psalm 63:1

**63 O God, You are my God;
Early will I seek You;
My soul thirsts for You;
My flesh longs for You
In a dry and thirsty land
Where there is no water.**

God responds to our hunger and thirst for Him (Mat 5:6).

Isaiah 44:3

**³ For I will pour water on him who is thirsty,
And floods on the dry ground;
I will pour My Spirit on your descendants,
And My blessing on your offspring;**

A big appetite for God, His presence and glory reveals the value we place on God.

Hunger causes us to seek out more of God!

A hungry worshipper touches the heart of God.

True worship is an expression of our hunger for God.

Hunger is a requirement at an individual level and at a community level (Acts 2:1). Many revivals in history were birthed through the hunger of individuals and communities pursuing God. Repentance was a precursor to such a hunger.

To hunger for more of God is also to expect more from God or have greater faith in Him.

Check the impediments to hunger –

1. Unbelief (Mathew 13:58) vs Faith (Luke 8:45)
2. Sin, unforgiveness, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17)
3. Hindrances to hunger from the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, and Luke 8:1-15)

2. Focus

Make God the 'one thing' that we are going after (Psalm 27:4)

Focus will keep passion stirred up (Mathew 22:37)

God desires 'red hotness' in our pursuit of Him. He resents complacency in the things of God. (Revelation 3:14-22)

Put God first (Mat 6:33)

3. Unity

The pattern of the early church (Acts 2:42-47)

Where brothers dwell in unity, God commands a blessing. (Psalm 133)

SUMMARY

God is great and infinite.

As children of God, we have the invitation to experience more of Him. We can experience more of His love grace, understanding, wisdom and all of Him.

Our pursuit of God determines how much of God we can experience. As Ezekiel moved deeper into the millennial river, we too can move deeper to an extent where we are surrendered to His leading. Our active and deeper pursuit pleases God.

We can pursue God in the following 4 ways:

- 1, the knowledge of God
- 2, the presence of God
- 3, the glory of God
- 4, personal sanctification

We can experience more of God through the following keys:

- 1, strong desire
- 2, focus
- 3, unity

SALVATION CALL

The GOSPEL (Good News) in brief.

Here is how we RECEIVE the Good News for our personal lives.

We make it a simple A,B,C,D. We must:

ACKNOWLEDGE: our sin, the consequences of our sin, and our need for a Savior

BELIEVE: in Jesus Christ, in who He is and what He has done on the Cross, personally

CONFESS: Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of our lives

DECIDE: to follow Jesus Christ as His disciple for the rest of our lives

MINISTRY TIME



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE



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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Job 36:26, Eph 3:18-19, Jer 29:13, John 17:3, Acts 2:17, Psalm 42:1-2, Psalm 63:1, Isaiah 44:3*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1) Discuss the pursuit of God in the following 4 ways

1, the knowledge of God

2, the presence of God

3, the glory of God

4, personal sanctification

2) *How can we experience more of God? Discuss some of the keys talked about in the sermon*

1, *strong desire*

2, *focus*

3, *unity*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey.

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another.

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, *families to be protected and strengthened.*

2, *a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

3, *for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>