



TO KNOW HIM MORE HE MUST INCREASE

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Philippians 3:10 – “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”

I believe that if you are a child of God...this is what you desire...TO KNOW HIM MORE!

ONE OF MY DAD’S favorite songs was “Oh I Want to Know You More.” And that was my dad’s life long journey...to know Him more.

I believe that most people would add to the phrase, “That I may know Him, like...

- * Kenneth Copeland does.
- * Apostle Callahan does.
- * Pastor Thad, Pastor Mike, Pastor Alisa does.
- * Rick Renner, Jesse Duplantis, etc. does.

We are comparing our lack of knowing him with others who live like they know Him.

Paul’s description of knowing him came down to two things:

a.) Power of His resurrection.

Romans 8:11 – “**But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you**, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

We want that power! To know it!

b.) Fellowship of His suffering.

YOU SAY: Well, let’s stop with the first one...I don’t want this one.

“**Fellowship**” – partnership, Jesus did that part so we could enjoy the benefits.

Isaiah 53:3 – “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

Jesus didn’t live a life of sorrows...He took it on the cross. That was His part of the deal...our part is healing, peace, prosperity, salvation.

AGAIN: That is most like our hearts cry...or it should be! That I may know Him!

I want to know Him more!

We cry out, I wish I knew Him that way!

Here is what the Bible says:

Jeremiah 29:13 – “And ye shall seek me, **and find me**, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

NOTICE: “**all of your heart**” – getting everything else out of the way.

Proverbs 8:17 – “I love them that love me; and **those that seek me early shall find me.**”

“**early**” – set as a priority

Psalms 145:18 (NLT) – “The **LORD is close to all who call on him**, yes, to all who call on him in truth.”

Hebrews 11:6 – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**”

Are you noticing a pattern?

Knowing God isn't an issue with God keeping you from knowing Him, but...

- * a seeking issue...
- * a desire issue...
- * a slowing down issue...
- * a priority issue...
- * a getting everything else out of the way issue.

John 15:15 – “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”

Perhaps connect that with...

James 4:4 – “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

BELOVED: God desires to be known...desires friendship and connection with us...desires to show us secrets...but the issue is a hunger issue, a desire issue!

John the Baptist...the fore-runner of Jesus knew the answer to this predicament.

John 3:30 – “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

HE MUST INCREASE: Spending time with Him...intimacy...more time...nothing else...

WE MUST DECREASE: Our fleshly/carnal desires...our thoughts, our feelings, etc. What we want!

ILLUSTRATION: When we went to MSU with Bonnie...she saw a guy who had a beard and said, “Ry Ry”. Now, she loves her Uncle RyRy...she just hasn't spent much time with him (since he lives in Louisville). She recognizes him by his beard. So, many people who just have a beard become RyRy. She is easy to fool, because she doesn't know him very well.

Well, that is why a lot of people get fooled when it comes to life...we listen for stuff that emphasizes what we want for our own sake.

Even when it comes down to Bible stuff...it actually is us increasing, the way we see things as increasing, not the Word increasing.

- * Tithing isn't something we want to do, so I find someone who says something against it...that increases me...fooled me!
- * Sundays are my day off and I need rest...so I find someone who agrees about not necessarily having to go to church...that increases me...I've been fooled.
- * Living by faith is a lot...so I need to find someone who says faith works, so I don't have to...that increases me...fooled me again.
- * I don't like living righteous, a little sin never hurt anyone...so I need to find someone who teaches goofy grace...that increases me...fooled.
- * I don't want to live by the fruit of the spirit...gonna get fooled.

BELOVED: When our desire is to INCREASE ourselves, we are really easy to fool.

HOWEVER: When we are DECREASING and He is INCREASING we become more dialed in to His Word...His ways...His thoughts...His mind...actually narrowing down OUR OWN DESIRES.

This is how things happen:

Mark 4:16,17

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

We begin down the road to knowing the Word...knowing Him.

We know we've tried it our way...we know we've failed...we need help.

HOWEVER: Battles arise! Trials and hardships show up and mess with us.

The part we are trying to decrease (our flesh) is getting messed with.

- * Bad days.
- * Financial stress.
- * Symptoms in our body.
- * Anxiety.

It is interesting...because you would think you would just dig in or even just quit...but it doesn't work that way.

YOU ACTUALLY become offended. Yep, offense creeps in.

- * Offended at God for not doing it.
- * Offended at others because it is working for them.
- * Offended at others because of perceived hurts.
- * The list goes on...but the result in these battles is offense. Feelings hurt.

UNDERSTAND: Offense comes when we are NOT DECREASING...when our flesh is still too strong. It is a symptom that HE IS NOT INCREASING enough.

ILLUSTRATION: If you are living life...having fun...all the sudden you start feeling dizziness, headache, nail-splinting, pain in body, tiredness, etc. (a lot more)...

You go to the doctor and he says...you are dehydrated. You say NO...I drink water...He says you are dehydrated. You say NO...I went to the sink and poured a glass of water. He says you are dehydrated.

IN OTHER WORDS: The symptoms on the outside are telling you what you are NOT DOING.

That is the way it is with OFFENSE...it doesn't just happen...it happens because you have too much FLESH (you are not decreasing)...therefore, He is not INCREASING the way He should.

NOW: We know that John the Baptist knew the importance of decreasing. He said it, he preached it.

MIKE TYSON: Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face.

Well, John the Baptist got punched in the face.

He had spent his whole life INCREASING and PUBLISHING Jesus...but he got arrested for preaching against Herod...for preaching Jesus...for standing up for right...and THAT is not how this was supposed to go down.

Matthew 11:1-6

1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

HE KNEW the answer was yes.

HOWEVER: It seemed like Jesus was taking His time...being slow.

John was in jail...Jesus was not. Jesus was not coming to his rescue...what's up with that?

4 Jesus answered and said unto them, **Go and shew** John again those things which ye do hear and see:

5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

6 **And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.**

Jesus throws in at the end of this statement...by the way, John, don't get offended, don't let offense creep in!

QUESTION: Why no offense? Because the wrong thing is INCREASING.

John the Baptist knew that he must decrease...knew it, but battles got his flesh revved up and stupid OFFENSE came in!

NOTE: He started questioning what he knew of Jesus. He started saying, "I sure wish I knew Jesus for sure." That I may know him.

END OF THE STORY? He lost his head.

Mark 6:1-5

- 1 And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.
- 2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, ***From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?***
- 3 ***Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.***
- 4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.
- 5 And ***he could there do no mighty work***, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

Notice what happened in this story:

- * They thought they knew Him.
- * But they refused to INCREASE in knowing Him.
- * Jesus was just a little guy...never increased.
- * They didn't like Him coming and teaching or being THE GUY, so they got offended at Him.
- * They needed His blessings...but they didn't get His blessings.

Luke 4:17-22

- 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,
 - 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,
 - 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.
 - 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, ***and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.***
- NOTE:** He sat in the chair that was reserved for the Messiah...not the teacher's chair.
- 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.
 - 22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. ***And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?***

NOW: When you read on vs. 28-30...you find out they were INDEED offended. They got angry at Him and tried to kill him. He would always be Joseph's son and NOTHING MORE! No INCREASE. He had just told them the Spirit of the Lord was on him to heal and more...they got none of it. The next thing He does? He goes and heals!

BELOVED: Don't miss out on what God wants to do in your life!
Let offense or hurt feelings be your guide to decreasing!
Increase Him.

1 Peter 5:6 – "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"

Decrease yourself and increase Him and HE WILL EXALT YOU.
Stick with it.

How to Decrease Me and Increase Him

I just want to take the few closing minutes to give you a few keys to seeing yourself decrease and Him increase in your life.

1.) Recognize your need for a Savior.

Not just for heaven...but for RIGHT NOW.

You've tried it your way and it didn't work...you need help.

The most important thing you **will do is to MAKE UP YOUR MIND** that you must decrease BE CAUSE punches WILL come and try to make you change your mind.

ILLUSTRATION: When we kinda tithed...punches would make us change our mind. But when we decided WE GONNA DO IT NO MATTER WHAT...punches didn't affect us the same way.

I will promise you that when we were affected negatively because of a punch...we got more punches (because it worked)...just enough to keep you in emergency mode.

When you make a decision you will also keep getting punched, but you have all of heavens forces on your side to fight your battles.

2.) Get in the Word.

Read it...listen to trusted teachers...meditate on it.

If it says something...QUIT QUESTIONING IT. Just do it.

That is what humbling yourself in 1 Peter 5:6 is all about!

3.) Prioritize Time with Him.

Alone time...no one else...planned time...prioritized time.

NOTE: I am not going to spend a lot of time on this point, newsletter coming this week...feed on it.

4.) Set your FOCUS on others...not just yourself.

NOTE: According the 1 Corinthians 11 how we treat the Body of Christ reflects how we are treating Jesus.

When we are focused on serving others...God is increasing!

Zig Ziglar: You can have anything in life that you want, if you just help enough other people get what they want.

Also called sowing and reaping.

5.) Set a Guard on your Heart and Mouth.

Proverbs 4:23 – “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

Don't let offense in. Don't constantly talk about what others have done...don't get hurt feelings.

Use those feelings as an identifier...I NEED TO DRINK MORE WATER!

Matthew 15:11 – “Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.”

Offense will tell on you. If you start getting overly sensitive...watch out!