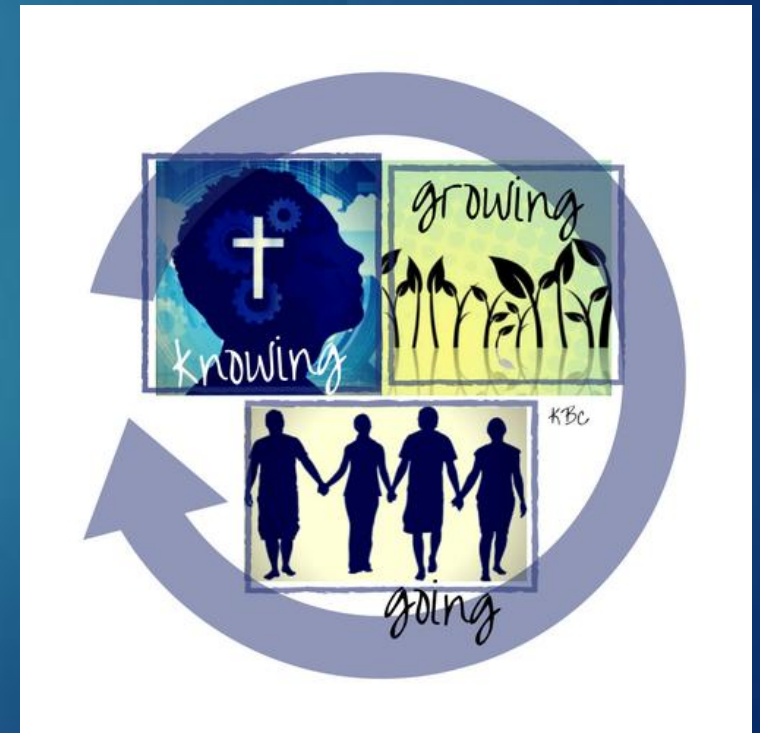


On the Foundation of Apostles & Prophets

THE FINAL STEP IN OUR DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

PART #1 (EPHESIANS 2:19-22; 4:15-16)



2 focus in our worship: knowing Jesus and the Bible

The Greatest Commandment (building up in love)



3 things we do as we gather in small group: Bible, prayer, & share

Knowing
God—our
**worship
service**

Growing
in Christ—
**fellowship
groups**

Going to
Serve—
??

Now let us look at the final step in our discipleship process

Unbelievers

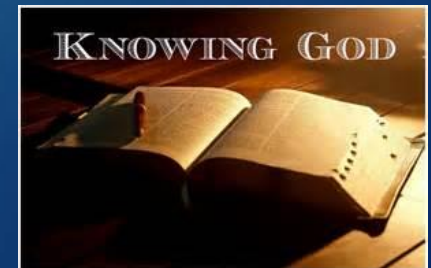
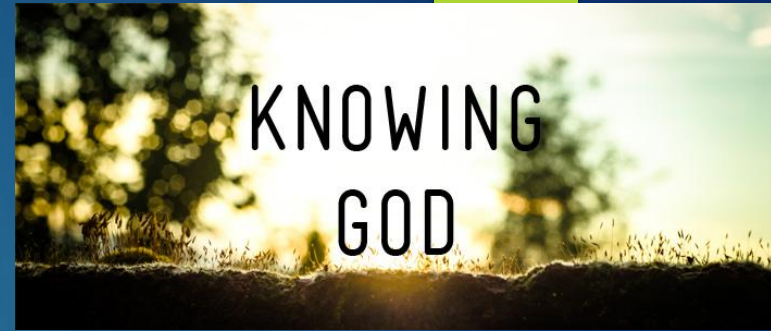
New Believers

Mature Believer

The Great Commission (equipping the saints)

Continue on Ephesians Ch. 2

- ▶ (v.19) **Stranger**—they don't know you
- ▶ (v.19) **Alien**—you don't know them
- ▶ In either case it is knowledge and relationship that are lacking
- ▶ Are you still a stranger and alien to Jesus Christ? Do you know Him as your personal savior?
- ▶ Our first step—you need come to know Jesus as your personal savior, and to come to **know** Him more and more everyday. (2 Peter 1:5)



Know Your New Identity



We as **believers** are no longer alien (v.1-3) and the enemies of God if you humble before Him and have received his *love, mercy, and grace* (v.4-10)

1. We are now **citizens** (Eph. 1:11-14; Phil 3:20)
2. We are also **saints** (Eph. 1:15, 18; 4:11-12)
3. We are **family members** (Eph. 1:5; 1 John 3:1)



Beside knowing who God is, clearly Paul wants us to know who we are in Christ, since he repeatedly tells us.

What's next?

- ▶ God has given us a **building project** (v.20-22)
- ▶ Before we **build upward** (growing), we first need to pay attention to our **foundation** (ill: Pisa)
- ▶ And on this project we have 2 foundations:
- ▶ First it was on the apostles and prophets
- ▶ It is referring to the New and Old Testament in this context—the **Bible**
- ▶ Notice: this foundation is already laid (no 2nd Opinion 😊)



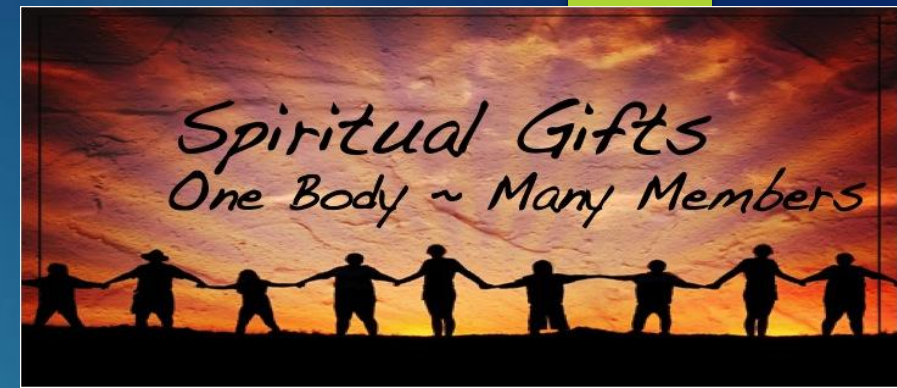
Jesus Christ as our Cornerstone

- ▶ Second, Christ is our **cornerstone** (not a restaurant)
- ▶ This temple cannot only build on doctrines alone. Its foundation is a **person**—our Lord Jesus. It is all about our relationship with Him
- ▶ As a church do we line all things to **our relationship with Jesus?** (the greatest commandment)
- ▶ As we grow in our understanding of the **Scripture** and draw closer in our trust and appreciation of **Jesus**, we grow together as a building



How shall we Build?

- ▶ We are asked to do 2 things:
- ▶ We are asked to join together (1 Cor. 12:20-27; Rom. 12:3-8)
- ▶ Are we exercising our spiritual gift? (1 Peter 4:10)
- ▶ We are also asked to grow together (Eph. 4:15-16)
- ▶ A building that do not grow upward is just a foundation!! We are called to grow together
- ▶ Notice we are to grow into a temple of the Lord. This is growth—that God be glorified (1 Peter 4:10-11)



Grow and Go Together

- ▶ Also notice: we must do this **together**
- ▶ You can never fulfill this project on your own!!!!
- ▶ You may not like the person next to you...but you are called to **love** that person and **work** with that person to build God's temple. Moreover, this is the very path of our personal growth (2 John 1:4-6; 2 Peter 1:7)
- ▶ Are you a team player? (ill: football) or you value your opinion far more than the kingdom of God?

Finally, it is God's Project

- ▶ “being built together” This is **God's doing** (1 Cor. 3:9) He is responsible for the actual growth.
- ▶ we are responsible to join and grow together. But ultimately it is God's church. We are called to be a **responsible steward**, nevertheless at the end both unity and growth are in God's hand
- ▶ Question: Are we a house of God where Jesus lives and can be glorified in here?

2 foundations: the Bible and Jesus

The Greatest Commandment (building up in love)



Before we go and serve, we must join together and grow together

Knowing
God—our
worship
service

Growing
in Christ—
fellowship
groups

Going to
Serve—
ministry
teams

We shall introduce how ministry teams work in the coming weeks

Unbelievers

New Believers

Mature Believer

The Great Commission (equipping the saints)