

From Faith to Love

Step #3—Knowing Jesus

2 Peter 1:5-7; Philippians 3:7-14

From Faith to Love



- ▶ We are in a process of transformation (Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 3:17-20)
- ▶ We are fully blessed by God (life and godliness) (2 Peter 1:3-8)
- ▶ We now have a new life with His **divine nature**
- ▶ We embark on a journey of growth toward a deeper **relationship** with God
- ▶ God has given us a roadmap for this journey—**8 steps** from faith to love





BEHOLD

- ▶ From *believing* to *knowing*, then to *loving*—a path for any healthy relationships (ill: lost in the jungle)
- ▶ Faith (**trusting** Jesus)
 - ▶ We need Jesus (Do you believe that?)
 - ▶ First step: acknowledge God as God
 - ▶ Second step: surrender to God's will
- ▶ Goodness (**admiring** Jesus)
 - ▶ It is God's **excellence**, not ours (2 Peter 1:3; 1 Peter 2:9)
 - ▶ By faith we can expect to **see** God's goodness in our daily life—experiencing His **attributes** (Psalm 27:13)
 - ▶ Behold God's beauty (Psalm 27:4) and **think** on it (Phil. 4:8)

Next Step—Knowledge



- To witness God's goodness is wonderful—a **mountain top experience** (we all like that 😊)
- Sadly many Christian growth journeys stop here, then **fall back** to the valley, **rededicate** to God (faith), and **experience** God's goodness once again (goodness), and then we fall back once again...
- The sad thing is that this "mountain top" we experienced is nowhere near the top. God's goodness is far **higher** than our understanding. We should climb higher (Eph. 3:17-20)
- And the next step to climb is **knowledge**—knowing God



Why Don't We Know God More?

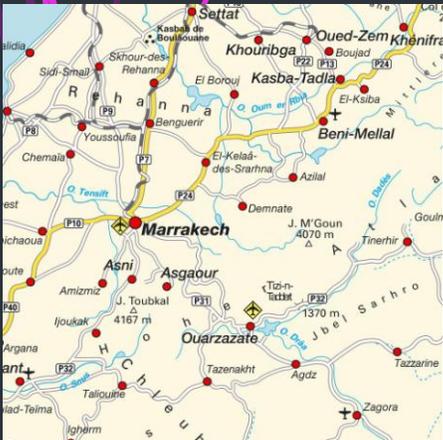


- (Phil. 3:7-14) The **more** we know God, the **more** we experience His goodness
- But why many of us don't take that step?
- (v.12) press on, (v.13) straining forward, (v.14) press on again
- Knowing a person require **work**, I mean lots (ill: sacrifice)
- God is no different (2 Tim. 2:15) The **more** we know ourselves and God, the **deeper** the relationship can become—but who likes to press on?
- Nevertheless, we will not choose to climb higher if we don't think it is necessary...

Faith Without Knowledge



- ▶ Many people settled with what they have already experience about God, and not press on to know more, since they don't see the **need** (ill: 10 lepers)
- ▶ We need Jesus! Sadly, most people don't know the danger of **faith without knowledge** (ill. the Vine)
- ▶ Danger! you may follow the **wrong voice** in the jungle (John 10:14) or even worshiping the **wrong God** (Rom 1:21; Exo 32:1-5)
- ▶ You may have all the faith in the world, you may still be heading to the **wrong direction** (ill: map)





Goodness Without Knowledge

- ▶ Equally dangerous is goodness without knowledge...many says that they have experienced God, but did they really?
- ▶ Many people think they have seen God at work, yet contrary to the truth...(ill: 3 ladies)
- ▶ Note!! Always **take the truth** to interpret experience, never **use your experience** to interpret the truth
- ▶ There is a big difference between **experience** and **truth**. You encounter the goodness of God, but you may not appreciate or comprehend it simply because you don't understand. (ill: shed) Or worse, have something "feels" good and thinking it must be the truth (2 Tim. 2:15)

Growing in Knowledge



- ▶ The **fear** of the Lord in the beginning of **knowledge** (1:7) and of **wisdom** (9:10)
- ▶ Knowledge + wisdom = understanding (Eph. 1:17-18)
- ▶ So **acknowledging God** is not only the beginning of faith, but also the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. Since faith lead to goodness, then knowledge (Prov. 3:5-6)
- ▶ This is the transformation of understanding
- ▶ Please notice: there is **one step between** faith and knowledge: **goodness**. Many of us fail to admire and appreciate God even though they have much theological knowledge...how sad (ill: Pharisees)

How to Know God?

- ▶ **Study** the Bible—the whole reason why God gave us His word
- ▶ **Read** (or listen) to as many good books as possible
- ▶ **Worship service** & Bible class
- ▶ Join a **study group**
- ▶ Do you **believe** that you need to know Jesus?
- ▶ What are you going to **do**?

