

Knowing God

Sunday 5th April 2020 (livestream)



LIVING
WORD
CHURCH

Introduction

Well we are in a slightly different period than before all this happened. So it has interrupted some of our plans, including our teaching plans. So today, in the light of what is going on, I want to share with you something that has been stirring in my heart over the last few days.

A scripture has come to mind.

Daniel 11:32 - He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.

I realised that the knowing God came before the doing exploits. This priority of knowing God at the moment was pressed even more upon me when someone reminded me this week of the scripture to be still and know that I am God.

Know here in the Hebrew language is the word yada and it means more than just information about. It is a personal knowledge of. I have become acquainted with this person.

So I read Psalm 46 and felt that it would be great to look at this today. There are 3 sections to the psalm each marked with the word selah.

Selah = Think about it, meditate, consider.

So we are going to look at the psalm in these three sections and think about what has been said and apply each one to our lives. I think that this is a good way because, the be still (in verse 10 below) means to pause, sink into – There is a sense of immersing yourself in the knowing who God is. I believe you will be blessed and encouraged.

Verses 1-3

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives

way,

though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

³*though its waters roar and foam,*

though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

1. This starts with who God is and Not with what the problem, challenge or circumstance is.

a Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God

– Eternal perspective

b God = Elohim – speaks of trinity

c Being still and knowing God starts with putting God back in first place, He comes before all the other things

d Matthew 6:33 – Seeking first the kingdom, must relate not only to principles but knowing the king better as well. There is no kingdom without the king (E. Stanley Jones' book- 'The unshakeable kingdom and the unchanging person').

e Many people in a crisis start asking questions about their own life and purpose. Very valid but the first question is about who God is. Who is Jesus?

f Matt 16: Peter receives a revelation of the Christ and his name is changed. When you see Jesus for who he is, you can walk into the destiny God has for your life.

2. The psalmist reveals SOME things about God here

a Refuge – hiding place – keeping us safe
– Psalm 91

b Strength – Might – enabling us to overcome

c Helper – coming alongside – wisdom and help

3. As this is true for those who belong to God, we can say then that during all these issues – we shall not fear

a If God is for us who can be against us (Romans 8:28)

b No weapon that is formed against us shall

prosper (Isaiah 54:17)

c Perfect Love drives out all fear.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

God will help her when morning dawns.

⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Whilst we have been looking at things in an individual perspective, now we see that God is good in His corporate community.

1 God dwells with His people.

a The city of God is his people (revelation 21 – bride and city are interchangeable)

b As the body of Christ, we are Called the temple of the Holy Spirit – (our bodies individually but also our life as the church.) We must, therefore, give ourselves to what is good and Holy.

c John 7:37-39 – Jesus talks about the river of life as the holy Spirit that flows out from us. He dwells in us by His Holy Spirit.

d Be full of the Holy Spirit today (Ephesians 5:18-21)

e Let the river of His life flow from us to those around us.

2. We are to draw close to each other as well as to the Lord -

3. God is revealed here not only as God but as the LORD (YHWH)

a The covenant keeping God

b He is the commander of heavens armies and he makes us glad and looks after us.

4. He is the true Lord when kingdoms totter or the earth melts. In fact, His greatness means that he can make the earth shake. But HE is with us!

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God.

*I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”*

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

We are now to shift our eyes to the dealings of God to the track record of His work in our lives.

1. Behold the works of His hands

a Behold = to see with understanding. See the hand of God at work

b Acts 8 – scattered Christians still end up going through Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria etc – fulfilling the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20). (romans 8:28 – all things working together for good – for His goodness)

c Realise God is at work today, remember the works of His hands and the way He has moved in your life up until now. (providential dealings). Let His track record in your life build faith in you.

2. Prophetic declaration

a He will be exalted in the nations and in the earth

b There is a certainty

c All the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14)

3. Be still and know I am God

a Sink into, meditate upon

b Return to the Lord – Jesus first

c We have an opportunity to seek the Lord, to wait upon him. Let’s not let the distraction build up at home.

d John 14:6 - Jesus said that he is the only way to the Father; He is the way we can know God. If you have not believed on Him, now is the time to do that.

Conclusion

1. Start with God, who He is and not the situation – repent, return to God, make sure He is number 1

2. Be filled up with the Holy Spirit afresh

3. Draw close to each other – may take some effort, but grow together.

4. Be strengthened by His track record – let faith rise

5. Know that God is going to be exalted, not the current circumstances or situations