

**I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

- A. As we have discussed in our previous briefings, we are living in an hour that requires long loving meditation as well as diligent study on the word of God. Giving ourselves to this will set our hearts to respond in bold tenderness and truth to those individuals and systems, which will accuse our beloved Jesus.
- B. Familiarity with the story of redemption will cause our minds to marvel at the wisdom of God through all the ages and our hearts to be filled with adoration for our Father and His Beloved Son. We will be amazed at how they managed to pull it off using the least amount of severity to touch the most amount of people at the deepest level without violating anyone choice.
- C. Through trials and persecutions, loneliness and tribulation the story of God's redemption and faithfulness will anchor our souls.
- D. The reality is that no one is going to take a bullet for a set of principles or beliefs. However for the beautiful Jesus to whom we have been joined and in whom we live and move and for whom we burn with passion, we will have confidence to echo the words of the apostle Paul: my desire is to depart and be with Christ which is far better! To die is my gain and glory!
- E. Standing for truth in that day and even as we approach that day, is a lot easier when we gain the living understanding that the truth for which we stand is a person: a Jewish Man from Nazareth, whose name is Jesus.
- F. As the intense things begin to happen in the earth, many people will lose their perspective and objectivity in seeing God's love and His wisdom as He begins to shake the earth. Those who know their God and understand the love and wisdom He is expressing will have set their hearts beforehand. They will be steady and resolved to participate with the Lord in His purposes instead of resisting or neglecting them in fear, confusion and offense.
- G. The earth is not prepared for the soon coming confrontation with Jesus' identity and His zeal for righteousness. But the friends of the bridegroom will be. I want to take our Tuesday briefings and do an overview of the story God has been scripting from the beginning of creation and of which we are a integral part. In order that the earth will have a faithful witness of who He is, what He is doing and why He's doing it.

***He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. (Jn. 3:29)***

***Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7)***

***"And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering.***

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## CASTING THE VISION

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*For who has stood in the counsel of the Lord, and has perceived and heard His word and heard it? Behold a whirlwind of the Lord has gone forth in fury- a violent whirlwind It will fall violently upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the Lord will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly... 22 If they had stood in MY counsel, and had caused my people to hear MY words, then they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings. (Jer. 23:18-20, 22)*

## II. THE MESSAGE

A. The task of the forerunner is to take the time to search out the word of God and get to know Him in intimate friendship and communion with His Holy Spirit. Again, the issue at the end of the age will not be how well we know facts, but rather how well we know *a person*.

B. There are three major questions that the multitudes will be asking as we approach the coming of the Lord:

### 1. Who is God? (His Personality)

What has God revealed about Himself in the scripture, what is His nature and character like?

### 2. What is God doing? (His Plans)

What is God up to? What has He done in history? What is He doing now and what is He going to do?

### 3. Why is God doing it? (His Purposes)

What's going on in His heart? What's the point? Where is the wisdom in all of this?

C. Studying the Redemptive Story will enable us to answer these questions.

## III. STANDING IN HIS COUNSEL

*For this reason we do not cease to pray for you that you would be filled with the knowledge of His will is all WISDOM and SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING. That you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. (Col. 1:9-11)*

*And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. (Luke 10:39)*

*'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.' (Jer. 33:3)*

A. The pursuit of the knowledge of God and of truth requires that we take time to sit at the Lord's feet in intimacy and dialogue with the Holy Spirit. This is what it means to stand in the counsel of the Lord.

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- B. At the end of the age the truth of the scripture will be confronted and the name of Jesus will be blasphemed. All over the globe there will be mass confusion, mockery and scrutiny concerning the person and work of Jesus.
- C. Jesus, Paul, Peter, John and Jude tell us that a wave of delusion is coming to the entire earth and that it will be in the form of false teachers that seduce the body of Christ and cause them to get into error. Most of the error will be around the subject of Christ.
- D. The great falling away is such a massive event and has such significance at the end of the age that Paul refers to it as a sign of the Lord's return that is on par with the revealing of the antichrist.
- Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition (2 Thes. 2:3)*
- ...And then many will be offended, will betray one another and will hate one another. Then many false apostles will rise up and will deceive many and because lawless will abound the love of many will grow cold, but he that endures to the end will be saved. (Matt. 24:10)*
- For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!*
- E. Those who stay close to the Lord's heart like Mary will be some of the most powerful and prophetic proclaimers. The Spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. Mary was the only one who discerned the hour and anointed Jesus for burial, though He had told His disciples several times what awaited Him in Jerusalem.
- F. The principle is simple, you cannot convince me that my closest friend enjoys something they do not enjoy any more than you can convince Jesus' closest friends that He is someone other than they have come to know Him to be (in and through the Word).
- G. As a movement toward cultural relevance emerges in the church in the west, at the end of the age true relevance will come forth in those who have searched the word of God and have clarity. In that day, those who know Jesus and proclaim truth will be the most relevant.
- H. Though it may seem archaic and unpopular in our day and in our time, His desire is that we would sit before Him like Mary of Bethany. It is wisdom to feed on His word so that we have relevance in the great and terrible day of the Lord.

*The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:17)*

#### IV. GETTING A VISION FOR TRUTH

*The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:17)*

*We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. (1 John 5:19)*

*...and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. (1 John 4:3)*

- A. God desires that His people know Him and that His people be like Him. The Lord is light and in Him there is no darkness, He hates wickedness and loves righteousness. So must we. He will not compromise truth because He is truth, and neither can we. At this time in history, the Lord is beginning to call us out from the midst of our perverse and wicked generation.
- B. We must ask the Holy Spirit to help us recognize the **subtle agreements** we have made with the spirit of this age, which is the spirit of the antichrist, and break our agreements with and to reveal the Knowledge of God to our hearts and to keep us in the way of life.
- C. A few things that are essential for us to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal:
  - 1. Our Difficulty in Receiving the Love of the Truth :
    - a. We are not born into a society that loves the light and thus we have to ask the Lord to help us break agreement with lies and teach us the truth. We are naturally hindered.
      - (1) **Spiritual Hindrances:** 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 2:1-3; Eph. 6:12-13
        - 1. **Spiritual Darkness:** *Before we were saved the devil was deliberately blinding our minds so that we could not come to truth. Because of the propensity of our hearts, we were enemies of God in our minds and dead in our sins. We have to actively pursue truth; we are not automatically lovers of truth when we get saved but we must actively fill ourselves with it and renew our minds with it.*
        - 2. **Spiritual Battle:** *Satan does not want believers to know who they are in the truth of the word and so he attempts to bring confusion, division and boredom with the word of God, which is the primary way the Lord reveals His heart and His truth to us.*
      - (2) **Cultural Hindrances:** Jn. 14:16-18; 15:18-19, 2 Pet. 2:20; Rom. 12:1-2; Luke 21:34, Heb. 3:12-14

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**1. Current:** *Everything that we are bombarded with in our culture as we go about our days is subtly leading us into drunkenness and delusion. What appears neutral is actually a fierce current that is sweeping us into illusion and fogginess concerning reality and truth. We have to remember that the whole world lies underneath the sway of the evil one.*

**2. Empty Hearts:** *Without asking or being told, we have been indoctrinated from our youth with ideas about who we are, what we should desire, what will make us happy, why we exist, what is right and what is wrong and ideas concerning the world in general. Most of what was shaping our hearts and minds is the poison of secular media. Day after day we drank in its answers to our longing for love, purpose and worth. As a result we have layers and layers of false conceptions that we don't even know about. The process of renewing our minds is like waking up out of a dream we didn't know that we were in.*

**3. Sin Nature:** *We are each prone to distortion and unbelief and because of sin there is a natural fog around our minds that causes us to see dimly. When we continue in sin our hearts become more and more weighed down and we are more vulnerable to delusion.*

2. The Knowledge of God: Jeremiah: 9:24, 29:12; Proverbs 2, 4:7, 25:2; 1 Cor. 2:9-10

- a. The Holy Spirit is our guide into truth and the one who reveals Jesus to our hearts. We have to ask Him to give us the knowledge of God. There are two main characteristics of the Knowledge of God:

**Accessible:** *God's desire: God wants to be known and promises to be found by those who search for Him with all of their hearts. Our requirement is to ask and seek and knock and the Lord will answer us. He is the one who said He would raise up forerunners, He will be faithful to equip us.*

**Protected:** *God protects His word so that only those who approach it humbly, diligently, soberly and prayerfully will be able to have clarity and deep, rich understanding. It is the glory of God to hide and it is our glory and task to search Him out.*

3. Grace to Understand:

- a. *Our Hope is that our God is for us and will continue to lead us and guide us into all truth. He has given us His Spirit and His word and a window of time to search Him out and that is what we are going to do!*

***Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen. (Jude 1:24)***

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