

**FEARLESS FAITH**  
EXPERIENCING GOD EVERY DAY!

# FEARLESS FAITH

Experiencing God every day!

**God is knowable!**

**John 17:3**

Men's Breakfast

**Sermon given on June 16, 2018**



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# God is knowable!

## *John 17:3*

### Opening Comments

- This question came to mind as I was preparing, “What if the reason some people struggle in life is not the one they think it is?”
- This year at our annual Men’s Retreat our theme was: FEAR NOT! Walking fearlessly in His presence!
- We witnessed God doing serious work in the hearts of men
- Many men discovered that the root of many of their issues was fear
- That is something that is hard for men to accept – that there is fear in their heart
- Today we begin a new series that continues the theme from the retreat: **FEARLESS FAITH – Experiencing God every day!!**
- A recurring statement in the teachings at the retreat was that fearlessness is associated with our knowledge of God
- The better we know God, the more fearless we become
- The inverse is also true – if there is fear in your life, it means your knowledge of God is lacking in some way
- Back to the question I opened with, “What if the reason some people struggle in life is not the one they think it is?”
- If you are trying to deal with the reason you are struggling, but you are focused on the wrong reason, not only will you continue to struggle, but it is likely to get worse
- It is like going to the doctor and telling him you have a problem with your feet. He looks down and sees you are wearing your wife’s shoes. The problem is not your feet – it’s that you are weird!
- Our goal with this series is to help you focus on the one thing that will help you walk fearlessly in this life
- After all, that is the kind of life that Jesus came to give us **John 10:10** **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**
- It should make sense to us that an abundant life is marked by fearlessness
- Unfortunately, it is not as simple as saying that
- The first part of **John 10:10** says

**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.**

- The hater of our soul is relentless in his efforts to steal, kill, or destroy the abundant life Jesus promised us
- And he has one primary tactic that he uses – Jesus speaking to the religious Jews - **John 8:44**

**You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.**

- Fear exists in our heart, either because we have allowed a lie from the devil to take root, or there is something about God that we do not know or believe enough to drive out the fear
- Guys, it is time for us to take off our wife's shoes, stand up, and walk fearlessly in His presence in the abundant life that Jesus promised us and then died to make available to us
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to do something radical in our hearts

- **Pray**

### **Teaching**

- Turn to **John 17**
- There is a verse in the Old testament that speaks loudly to our generation **Hosea 4:6**  
**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.**
- We live in a time when knowledge is increasing exponentially, and yet people's lives are not getting better
- In fact, it is safe to say that their lives are getting worse
- 'lack of knowledge' is referring to God, His ways, and His Word
- One of the foundational verses for the book the Men's Ministry is using this year, Experiencing God is:
  - **John 17:3**
  - 'That they may know You, the only true God'
  - The title of this morning's message is: **God is knowable!**
  - The more I grow in my own faith, the more convinced I am that this is of paramount importance

- To walk fearlessly in the abundant life Jesus promised, I need to know God
- Turn to **Jeremiah 9**
- What does it even mean ‘to know God’
- If you are here or listening or watching, then you probably are aware that God exists, and you hopefully believe in Him and His Son Jesus
- Listen to what God says through the prophet Jeremiah
- **Jeremiah 9:23-24**
- ‘understand and know’ – there is a difference
- And that difference is why some people struggle in this life and their faith
- The word ‘understand’ involves the intellect
- There are people who understand things about God and His word
- They can quote you chapter and verse out of the Bible, but it doesn’t seem to be affecting their lives
- The other word ‘know’ is interesting and has many different uses in the Bible but one is relevant **Genesis 4:1**  
Now Adam **knew** Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the LORD.”
- The word ‘knew’ there is the same Hebrew word as in Jeremiah 9
- It is obvious that it is not saying that Adam had an intellectual awareness of the reality of his wife Eve
- Turn back to **John 17**
- Adam had real-time, practical experience interacting with his wife
- In that context it was through physical intimacy
- In John 17 Jesus tells us that knowing God is a big deal
- **John 17:3**
- There are a couple of words in Greek that we translate as ‘know’
- In this case Jesus uses the word ‘ginosko’ - the general idea of this word is a knowledge that is active
- Bible dictionary says, “...implies an active relation between the one who ‘knows’ and the person or thing ‘known’.”
- Is it possible to know the Bible and not know the God that the Bible tells us about?

- Absolutely! There are pastors and seminary professors who know more about the Bible than I ever will who don't know God
- They know about Him and about His Word, they might be 'good men', but they do not have an active relationship with the living God
- Guys, if we want to live the abundant life fearlessly, we must know God – we must be in an active relationship with Him
- Let's talk about what an active relationship looks like
- Because it is something most men can relate to – I will use marriage as an illustration
- To be in an active relationship with my wife, do I need to be in her presence? No!
- What I do when I am apart from her is a part of my relationship with her
- Because she is my wife, I don't look at other women, nor have intimate relations with them
- My relationship with my wife affects every other aspect of my life
- The same is true in my relationship with God
- If I have an active relationship with God, it is affecting every facet of my life – it is factored into my decisions and choices
- If you are like most men, you are wondering, 'Okay, how do I do that?'
- I am going to share five things with you that will help you to know God better and better – to experience Him every day
- You super-spiritual guys might put these in a different order, but my experience with men over the years tells me this is how they need to approach it
- The first thing is **Community/Connection**
- The best way to practice our relationship with God is by exercising it in community with others **Matthew 22:36-40**  
**Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."**
- Great Commandment – Love God and love others – doing one teaches us how to do the other

- To maintain an active relationship with God, you need an active community of believers around you
- Showing up at church is good, but it is not enough – if you were active with your wife an hour and a half each week, wouldn't be much of a relationship
- Connection is vital – Men's Life Groups are a great place to do that
- The more connected you are, the faster your faith will grow
- Here's my challenge to each of you – make one new connection in the next month for the purpose of developing an active relationship
- Meet and have coffee or breakfast or lunch – get to know this man
- We were made to be in community – it is one of the ways we learn how to be in an active relationship with God
- Second thing – **The Bible**
- You cannot have an active relationship with God and not be active with His Word
- The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to mankind **Hebrews 4:12**  
**For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**
- The Bible teaches us how to know and experience God
- Before you read, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see God more clearly
- If you want to experience God daily – read your Bible daily – One-year Bible
- If you are doing that – is it enough – memorize Scripture – meditate on something you read
- Many years ago, God called to do more than just read – started writing devotionals – Planter's Perspective
- God gave us His Word so that we could know Him and experience Him every day
- Third thing – **Prayer**
- We might be tempted to put that one first
- For you experienced guys, that makes sense, but to someone who doesn't know God very well, prayer is exceptionally hard
- Prayer is simply talking to God
- In the beginning, prayer is like talking to a complete stranger

- Don't get me wrong, prayer is absolutely vital to your relationship with God, but it becomes easier to pray as you develop a community of believers around and learn to pray with them
- Prayer becomes more intimate as we grow in knowledge of who God is through His Word
- Praying is not that easy for most men
- They will start, and then their mind wanders or goes blank
- Here is a tip: throughout your day you will probably think of things that you should talk to God about in prayer – make a list
- If you make a habit of that, you will soon discover how much life there is in prayer
- The fourth thing – **Volunteering/Serving**
- As Christians, our great example of all these things is Christ, who, being God, became a Man, lived a life for us to imitate, and then died on the cross to make it possible that we can walk fearlessly in God's presence every day
- Jesus modeled a life of volunteering Himself to meet the needs of others **Mark 10:45**  
**For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**
- You can do that anywhere, but the church is a good place to start
- If you aren't serving now, look around, there is a place for you
- And you guys who are serving, look around for guys who aren't connected in serving and invite them to join you
- Some of the closest relationships I have in my life are with men who I have served with in the church
- They have taught me about God in ways that I could never learn any other way
- Jesus stepped down out of the perfection and comfort of heaven to serve
- If we want to know God in a way that is similar to how He knew God, we need to step out of our place of comfort and serve
- The fifth and last thing – **Give**
- Some might question why this one is in here
- Giving is in the very nature of God **John 3:16**

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

- Everything we have was given to us by God
- By being generous with what God has given us, we reflect His nature
- Of course, giving to the work of God in the church is a part of giving, but it is so much more than that
- As we grow in our faith we grow to realize that everything that God has given us is potentially something we can give to meet the needs of others – time, talent, treasures
- One quick thought and then we will close
- Guys, God made you to be in communion fellowship with Him
- He created you to walk with Him fearlessly in the abundant life
- This is important – God doesn't walk with us – we are called to walk with Him
- Don't get me wrong – God is always with us
- But the idea of 'walking with' implies agreement **Amos 3:3**  
**Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?**
- To walk fearlessly in His presence, you have to walk His way
- You can't live any way you want to and then invite God to join you
- When you are walking with God, you will know His presence, you will experience Him every day and your faith will grow, and you will fearlessly face whatever this world and life brings your way
- If you are not experiencing God every day, might not be walking with Him, might be on your own path
- Turn to Him right now, and start doing things that will teach you how to walk with Him
- **Prayer**