

FEARLESS FAITH
EXPERIENCING GOD EVERY DAY!

FEARLESS FAITH

Experiencing God every day!

God is Lord!

Deuteronomy 15:12-17

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on August 18, 2018



Pastor Rick Lancaster

God is Lord!

Deuteronomy 15:12-17

Opening Comments

- Today we continue a series that comes from the theme from the retreat: **FEARLESS FAITH – Experiencing God every day!!**
- The Men’s Life Groups are going through the book Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby – Knowing and doing the will of God
- We come to know God’s will by getting to know God better
- Our goal through this series of messages is to help you to know God better so that you can do His will, and do it fearlessly
- Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to do something radical in our hearts
- **Pray**

Teaching

- Turn to **Genesis 2**
- One of the titles for God is “Lord”
- The phrase ‘Lord God’ is used 553 times in the Bible and the word ‘lord’ is found almost 10,000 times
- In the Old Testament there are two Hebrew words that are translated as ‘lord’
- The first occurrence of Lord is here is the second chapter of the Bible
- **Genesis 2:4**
- This is the Hebrew word that represents the name of God
- It was so holy that they wouldn’t write it out, left out the vowels - YHWH – Yahweh or Jehovah = the self-existent or eternal One
- Notice how it is written in your Bible – Upper-case L and smaller upper-case ord = YHWH
- Turn to **Genesis 18**
- The second Hebrew word translated into the English word ‘lord’ is ‘adonai’
- Here in Genesis 18 the LORD tells Abram that he will have a son through Sarai in their old age – she is skeptical
- **Genesis 18:12**

- Notice ‘lord’ is all in lower-case = ‘adon’ = master, ruler, or sovereign
 - This term can also be used for God
 - **Genesis 18:26-27**
 - First ‘LORD’ = YHWH – second = ‘adonai’
 - Turn to **Matthew 1**
 - There is basically one Greek word translated to ‘Lord’ – ‘kyriou’
 - It is used for God the Father
 - **Matthew 1:20**
 - Turn to **Matthew 7**
 - Here Jesus uses it to refer to Himself
 - **Matthew 7:21**
 - 34 times = ‘Lord Jesus’ and 85 times = ‘Lord Jesus Christ’
 - Lord (kyriou) = ruler, master, one who exercises authority over
 - When used for God = supernatural master over all
 - God is Lord! Jesus is Lord! – supernatural master over all
 - ‘all’ refers to all of everything, nothing excluded
 - That’s what the Bible says, but what does it mean to us?
 - If God is Lord/Master over all, then what are we in relation to Him?
 - The words that might come to mind are ‘slave’ or ‘servant’
 - Not everyone sees it that way – for most of the world rejects God as Lord/Master – they are ‘spectators’ **Romans 1:20-21**
- For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**
- Believers are either slaves or servants of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - Turn to **Deuteronomy 15**
 - There is a difference between a slave and a servant
 - We get a picture of that here in Deuteronomy 15
 - **Deuteronomy 15:12**
 - This was Israel’s welfare system – if someone became so poor that they couldn’t provide for themselves, they could sell themselves as slaves to other Jews

- But after six years, they had to be set free – but not empty-handed
- **Deuteronomy 15:13-15**
- Everyone comes to Jesus because of spiritual poverty – we owe a debt of sin to God that we cannot repay – Jesus pays our debt **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- The price was the life of God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ
- Many Christians are like these Jews, they have been rescued from their poverty, but they are doing only what they have to, and taking whatever they can from God – they are God's slaves – but their eyes are still on the world and what it can offer them

- Others relate to God differently

- **Deuteronomy 15:16**

- They realize that their lives are far better with the Master than, without Him

- Their relationship with the Master is motivated by love
- These servants were given a mark to show to the world that they chose not to be free to themselves

- **Deuteronomy 15:17**

- This wasn't just an extension of their contract – it was a life-long commitment

- Their life was no longer their own

- For the rest of their lives their Master would rule over their entire lives

- Not because they must, but because they want to, because of love for the Master

- In exchange, the Master was responsible for the life of the servant – provision, protection, cared for them, assigned them tasks and duties, trained them to do those things, disciplined them if they needed it

- God is Master! Jesus is Lord! But is He your Lord and Master?

- We don't bear marks on our bodies that prove we are Christ's servants, so how do we prove it **Luke 6:46**

But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?

- The outward mark of a true servant of the Lord Jesus Christ is obedience
- A slave obeys the master to avoid punishment or to receive reward
- A servant obeys “because he loves you (Master) and your house (the church), since he prospers with you (thankful)”
- The book *Experiencing God* has the subtitle ‘Knowing and doing the will of God’
- God didn’t create you simply to exist and suck up oxygen
- God created you to know Him and experience Him **1 John 2:3-4**
Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
- Our God is not a distant, disinterested deity – He is a passionately involved presence in our lives
- God wants an intimate, active love relationship with us
- Because of Christ’s death on the cross, we are God’s children – He is ‘Our Father in heaven’
- But we are also called to be servants of Lord God Almighty
- There is a quote I highlighted in the book **Experiencing God**
You are to relate to God, respond to Him, and adjust your life to Him so He will do what He wants through you.
- In that sentence I see three things I can do to experience God more in my life
- The degree to which we do these things will determine just how much we experience God in our lives
- That is also not a bad explanation of fearless faith
- First thing – **Relate to God**
- Jesus told the Samaritan woman how to relate to God **John 4:23-24**
But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.
- We must relate to God in spirit and truth
- Here is a practical illustration of that truth – I am married, Kelly is my wife
- I don’t relate to her as her brother, or as a stranger, or as her God, but as her husband

- As Christian men, we are brothers
- I don't relate to you as if you were my children, but as brothers
- To relate to God in spirit and truth – get to know God, get to know myself, learn about how the relationship should function – the Bible is my source for that
- First thing – **Relate to God** – Second – **Respond to Him**
- God speaks to us through His Word, by His Spirit, through prayer, and through His people
- The better we relate to God in spirit and truth, the better we will hear Him
- When we hear, we are to respond
- This could be in humility, in repentance, in obedience, in thanksgiving, or in worship
- For example, as you relate to God, you become aware that there is someone who has offended you – and then you read **Matthew 6:14-15**
For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- How should you respond to God? Forgive the person who offended you, right?
- **Relate to God – Respond to Him - Third – Adjust your life to Him**
- God is constantly seeking to shape us to be like His Son Jesus
- This is hard because we live in a world that is attempting to conform us into its image **Romans 12:2**
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- To do the perfect will of God, we must be willing to adjust our life
- For example, as you were working on forgiving that person, you realize that you have an anger issue
- Jesus doesn't have an anger issue, so to do God's will I need to adjust my life in that area
- Not anger management classes – must get to the root of what causes my anger – a past hurt or hurts, abuse, pride, or wrong ideas about God and life
- Relate to God, respond to Him, and adjust your life to Him

- The book Experiencing God tells us what the result of doing that is, “He (God) will do what He wants through you.”
- As you grow in those three things, you will find your faith growing and becoming more fearless
- From my personal experience, in those times when I sense God doing His will through me, I am much bolder, more courageous, fearless
- As I walk in this love relationship with my Lord Jesus Christ, I realize He is the hand in the glove of my life
- The better I relate to Him, respond to Him, and adjust my life to Him, the more of Him that fills my life and does His will through me
- And when it is Him working through me, there is no fear
- He is Lord, and this is what He expects of me, and anyone else who is one of His children
- Today would be a good day to let Jesus fill you more, relate to Him as Lord, respond to Him in love and obedience, and adjust your life to Him, then watch what He does through you
- **Prayer**