

## **NCC Roots Class-Experiencing God Session #1 9-2-2020**

- I want to begin by thanking each of you for taking this amazing journey to see if it's really possible to experience God, to know and do His will.
- This is the number one question I have been asked in my ministry...how can I know God's will for my life.
- This study is actually for believers and the reason I say that is this....unbelievers will never get it...until you become a believer.

### **1 Corinthians 2:14 (NLT2)**

<sup>14</sup> But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

- Christianity is different from all the other world religions in this way. Christianity is not a religion, it's a relationship.

### **John 17:3 (NLT2)**

<sup>3</sup> And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.

- How many of you have noticed that NCC's slogan "Seeking God's Will...God's Way" aligns itself with this study?
- The authors of this study recommend that it be done in small groups of 10 max, but we're going to do it in a large group of maybe 200...why?
- Let's get started with a fundamental thought. If I could learn how to daily walk with Jesus, I would always be in the right place at the right time. This would in itself be the answer to that number one question that people ask me in my ministry.
- But how can we do that? Is it even possible to walk with Jesus day by day? Before I read it to you, let me say that I have found this to be the ultimate freedom from burden and stress in my own life.

### **John 15:5 (NLT2)**

<sup>5</sup> "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

### **Matthew 6:33-34 (NLT2)**

<sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. <sup>34</sup> "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

- Abraham is referred to as the father of our faith and did you notice how much long range information God DIDN'T give Abraham?

### **Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT2)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make

you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

- Abraham began a day by day journey with God into the future. Abraham was experiencing God by walking in the will of God day by day.
- That story of Abraham recorded in Scripture reveals the ways of God. We cannot trust our emotions or personal experiences to reveal the way of God. Everything must be tested by the Word of God.
- Without knowledge of the Word, we will all naturally turn to methods (it worked for that church) to experience and serve God.
- The Bible reveals Jesus as our model to serving God. Does God call people to follow Him without giving them all the details in advance?

### **Matthew 4:18-20 (NLT2)**

<sup>18</sup> One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living.

<sup>19</sup> Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!”

<sup>20</sup> And they left their nets at once and followed him.

### **Matthew 9:9 (NLT2)**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

- What if I told you that the number one question that people have asked me in ministry is actually the wrong question? The question should be: What is God will? After I know God’s will, I can adjust my life to Him...stop making it about us.
- This is the pattern of Jesus. Jesus always knew the will of the Father and always adjusted His life to the Father’s will...yes, even the cross.

### **John 5:17 (NLT2)**

<sup>17</sup> But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so am I.”

### **John 5:19-20 (NLT2)**

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished.

- This is not a method. This is based on individual relationships and callings of God. A method could never replace the divine and personal will of God. That is the summary of day’s one and two and I ask this question. Do you really want to know God’s will?
- Day 3 addresses the idea that we must learn the meaning of becoming a servant of God. Jesus came to serve and not to be served. Jesus is our pattern.

### **Matthew 20:25-28 (NLT2)**

<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their

people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. <sup>26</sup> **But among you it will be different.** Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you **must become your slave.** <sup>28</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but **to serve others** and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

### **Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT2)**

<sup>5</sup> **You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.** <sup>6</sup> Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; **he took the humble position of a slave** and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

- We naturally define servant as one who works for a human master. But God, however, works through His servants. God connects Himself to His servants and uses them as an extension of his will/work.
- The only way this God servant thing works is, #1 you must be willing to place your life in the Master’s hands to be molded and changed and then #2 you must remain in the Master’s hands or you will be unable to complete the calling as servant to the Master on your own.

### **John 5:19 (NLT2)**

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus explained, **“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.”**

### **John 15:5 (NLT2)**

<sup>5</sup> **“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”**

- The story of Elijah and the 850 false prophets is a great example of this connection that produces powerful results. This showdown on the mountain was NOT Elijah’s idea. He will serving the plan of God and supernatural results followed Elijah’s abiding moment.
- Have you ever heard or felt like this: “Don’t just stand there, do something”? When it comes to following God, that’s a terrible idea. Instead: Don’t just do something, stand there”.
- God can do anything through me.
- When I find out where the Master is working, then I know that is where I need to be.
- I come to know God by experience, and I obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through me.
- God works through His servants (day 4-5). This session reveals an error in much of our Church thinking today.
- We often act as though God tells us what He wants us to do and then sends us off by ourselves to try to do it. Then anytime we need Him, we can call on Him and He comes to help us.
- Be honest, that’s how many of us think, but it’s not the biblical pattern at all (7 Realities of Experiencing God):
  1. God is always at work around us.
  2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with us that is real and personal.
  3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
  4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit, through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways.

5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads us to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. We must make major adjustments in our life to join God in what He is doing.
7. We come to know God by experience as we obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through us.
  - This is the heart of this 12-week study...When God calls a person to join Him, God must move that person from where he is to where God is to accomplish the plan of God. God doesn't adjust to us, we must adjust to God. It's called faith.
  - Some of you might feel a bit overwhelmed at this part of the study, but I want you to notice something revealed in the Scriptures.
    1. When God spoke, they knew it was God.
    2. They knew what God was saying.
    3. They knew what they were to do in response.
  - I can't find one example in the Bible where people, called by God had to guess what God had called them to do.
  - Let's use Moses as an example of the 7 Realities:
    1. **God is always at work around you**...God was watching and planning the deliverance of Israel even before He revealed Himself to Moses.
    2. **God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal**...God wanted Moses to know Him and love Him...showing Moses His glory.
    3. **God invites you to become involved with Him in His work**...God was going to use Moses' life as a conduit through which He would reveal His glory and plan to deliver Israel from bondage.
    4. **God speaks by the Holy Spirit, through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways**...God speaks clearly to Moses at the burning bush and many other times so that Moses would clearly understand the plan and purpose of God.
    5. **God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action**..."Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"
    6. **You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing**...<sup>24</sup> It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup> He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup> He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward. <sup>27</sup> It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible. <sup>28</sup> It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons. Hebrews 11:24-28 (NLT2)
    7. **You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you**...<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving! <sup>16</sup> Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground. Exodus 14:15-16 (NLT2)

- Did Moses experience God...know and do the will of God?
- You must understand that none of this was Moses' idea. In fact, Moses tried to run away from it (crisis of belief).

### **Deuteronomy 34:10-12 (NLT2)**

<sup>10</sup> There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD sent him to perform all the miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, and all his servants, and his entire land. <sup>12</sup> With mighty power, Moses performed terrifying acts in the sight of all Israel.

- Do you think God still works like this today....revealing Himself to His prophets (spiritual leaders) in advance so that people can join Him?

### **Amos 3:7 (NLT2)**

<sup>7</sup> Indeed, the Sovereign LORD never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets.

### **2 Corinthians 3:12-13 (NLT2)**

<sup>12</sup> Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. <sup>13</sup> We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away.

- Don't try to figure out God's ways with your human mind...you will just become frustrated.
- The prophet Isaiah reveals that God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not like ours.
- That's why we must seek His Will...His Way. We adjust to Him. We don't ask God to adjust to us.
- Example...Jesus said that of all men born of women, none was greater than John the Baptist and yet it appears that His public ministry may have lasted about 6 months. God can do more in your life in one day than you could accomplish in a lifetime. And everything that God does is eternal.

### **John 15:5-8 (NLT2)**

<sup>5</sup> "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!

<sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

- God delights in seeing ordinary people do extraordinary things for the glory of God.

### **1 Corinthians 1:26-27 (NLT2)**

<sup>26</sup> Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. <sup>27</sup> Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.