



Our faith is not intended to be unchanging or theoretical but transformational, actionably expressed in our daily lives. Developing a *dynamic* faith that consistently brings life transformation and displays God's Kingdom to those around us is our God-assignment. Fulfilling this assignment involves a daily set of decisions that will help us walk out of spiritual darkness and into spiritual freedom. We need to know how to navigate through places and seasons of obvious darkness, and there are some strategic navigational tools that include essential spiritual fundamentals—disciplines such as fasting, reading God's Word, praying, and yielding to God truth. Church, we want to please God, and He is honored when we desire the knowledge of Him and diligently endeavor to walk out of spiritual darkness by walking in this light of the truth that we know.

### I. FUNDAMENTALS

- A. Fasting—abstaining from food for spiritual purposes
- B. Prayer Watch (watch & pray)—missing sleep to pray and seek the Lord
- C. Obedience

1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NASB®) <sup>22</sup> *Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in **obeying the voice of the LORD?** Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.*

<sup>23</sup> *"For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And **insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king."*

Isaiah 1:19 *If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land.*

**What are some practical ways you can demonstrate obedience to God in your daily lives? How does a willing obedience relate to spiritual growth and maturity?**

- D. Scripture:

Psalm 119:105 *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

**What benefits have you experienced from studying and reading the Bible? How would you encourage others to do the same?**

### II. SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

Micah 7:18 *Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but **delight to show mercy.***

Daniel 5:26-28 (NASB®) "This is the interpretation of the message:

'MENE'—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.

'TEKEL'—**you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.**

'PERES'—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians."

**How has God's mercy shaped your understanding of Him and His sovereignty?**

- A. The Diagnosis—Laid Aside The "Knowledge of God"

Hosea 4:1-3 (NASB®) <sup>1</sup> Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, Because there is no faithfulness or kindness **Or knowledge of God in the land.** <sup>2</sup> *There is* swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. <sup>3</sup> Therefore the land mourns, And everyone who lives in it languishes Along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky, And also the fish of the sea disappear.

- B. The Resolution —Desire The "Knowledge of God" (About Me, Not Someone Else)

1 Corinthians 15:34 (NKJV®) *Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for **some do not have the knowledge of God.** I speak *this* to your shame.*

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 <sup>4</sup>The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that **sets itself up against the knowledge of God**, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

**\*What are some common, pretentious ideas people have toward God (thinking we can fully understand God's nature, believing we have all the answers, etc.)?**

Romans 11:33-36 <sup>33</sup> Oh, **the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!** How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! <sup>34</sup> "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" <sup>35</sup> "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" <sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Colossians 1:10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, **growing in the knowledge of God**.

Proverbs 2:1-9

<sup>1</sup> My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,

<sup>2</sup> turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,

<sup>3</sup> and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,

<sup>4</sup> and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,

<sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

<sup>7</sup> He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

<sup>8</sup> for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

<sup>9</sup> Then you will understand what is right and just and fair--every good path.

1) **accept** my words

2) **store up** my commands

3) **turn** your ear to wisdom

4) **apply** your heart to understanding

5) **call out** for insight

6) **cry aloud** for understanding

7) **look for it** as silver and

**search for it** as for hidden treasure

**THEN, you will understand the fear of the Lord & find the knowledge of God.**

**\*How can wisdom and knowledge of God help Christians navigate life's challenges and make good decisions?**

C. Our Response

**What have we learned? How have we changed?**

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

**\*Share some ways we can better train our children to respect God, His Word, His people, and the Sabbath.**

Ephesians 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

**\*Jesus made a sacrifice for us. What sacrifice can you make in response, as an expression of appreciation? Would you consider an Easter season reset (i.e. fasting, prayer, obedience, reading Scripture)?**

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word—for its truth and authority—and for Your grace, love, mercy, and kindness. We acknowledge Jesus as Lord of our lives and establish Him as King. Father, we want to honor You in our lives and behaviors. Forgive us for when we've been indifferent toward You, embarrassed, or desired the approval of those who have spurned Your counsel. We want to walk uprightly before You. Holy Spirit, help us and awaken us to see and hear as You do. May God's love be more real to us than any challenge we face or any deficit before us. Thank You that fear is not our master because we have been delivered through the blood of Jesus and the authority of His name, and we can walk confidently and boldly in the fear and reverence of our God. Thank You for Your mercy, grace, and power that surrounds us. In Jesus' name, amen.