

A Gospel Community has Joy Knowing and Experiencing Jesus, and Sharing it Within and Outside the Body
Christ Fellowship Church – Jan 28, 2024

First, John is telling us to know what is true (the Person of Jesus)

1 John 1:1-2a That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life- the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it

Then John is joyfully telling us his experience of knowing Jesus so that we could know and experience Jesus in the same way and have fellowship. (with Jesus, John, each other)

2b-4 and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

What I'm asking you to do as a result of our training tonight is to

- Keep learning and growing in your knowledge of God through His Word,
- Keep seeking to have joyful experiences with Him through His word, and then
- Keep Sharing with others this joyful fellowship you have with Jesus so that your joy can increase
- Keep doing that until you come into his presence forever

Learn and Grow in Your knowledge of God through His word by:

1. Have both a high view and high use of the Word (it's easier to have a high view, but low use)

1 Pet 2:2 like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, (NASB)

- Root yourself in the truth of the Word and commit as much of it to memory as you can so the Holy Spirit can bring it to mind when you need it
- Learn how to cultivate your desire for the Word

2. Spend time in the word when you feel like it and when you don't (Learn how and why)

John 6:67-68 So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"

It's more important how you finish time in the Word than how you start it, and Who's guiding the time

Be aware of opposition (World – 1 John 2:15-17, Flesh- Gal. 5:16-17 , Sin – Gen 4:7, Devil – 1 Pet 5:8-9)

3. Regularly Put yourself in situations where you have to learn or teach the word

2 Tim. 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth

This is the Best way to develop the G.L.U.E. habit/method of knowing scripture

G – Get what you need

L – Learn what you have

U – Use what you have

E – Evaluate how you used it

“People mostly follow through on something because they have to, not because it's a good idea”

Learn to Grow in Experiencing Christ Through His Word by:

1. Pausing and Listening to God as you meditate on Scripture

- **Ask God “is there anything in my life right now you want me to know or do based on this passage?”**
- **God will never lead you to believe or do anything contradictory to the rest of His Word**
John Piper “Let me just give you an example of how this works in my own life. As I was coming to the end of the year and reading the final pages of the Old Testament in the Minor Prophets, I was moved by Micah 7:18. It is the foundation of a favorite hymn of mine, "Who Is a Pardoning God Like Thee?" by Samuel Davies. So I memorized it and carried it around on the front burner of my mind for several days. It says, "Who is a God like thee, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever because he delights in steadfast love." One of the insights that I discovered and tasted with tremendous pleasure was that God does choose to be angry, but his anger is limited. Why? Because he "delights in steadfast love." This means that anger is not God's favorite emotion. He "delights" in love. This has huge implications - practical ones -about my life and my own anger and love as I rest in him. And theological ones, as I ponder the levels of willing in God: willing to be angry in his holiness at sin, and yet not delighting to be angry the way he delights to show steadfast love. I was fed by this text for several days before I moved on to another front-burner text.”

2. Envision an objective truth from the word in a subjective first-person dialogue

Ephesians 1:3-14 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

1 Peter 5:6-7 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you*