

# EXPERIENCING GOD



Knowing & Doing the Will of God

1. The Bible is your guide for faith and practice.
2. Jesus is your Way.
3. To be a servant of God, you must be moldable and remain in the hand of the Master.
4. To know God, you must experience Him.
5. God is love. His will is always best.
6. God is all-knowing. His directions are always right.
7. God is all-powerful. He can enable you to do His will.



# REALITY 1

## GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK AROUND YOU.

“My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working. I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does” (John 5:17,19-20).

### Jesus' Example

- The Father has been working right up to now.
- Now God has Me working.
- I do nothing on My own initiative.
- I do what I see the Father is already doing.
- The Father loves Me.
- He shows Me everything that He Himself is doing.



# REALITY 1

(CONTINUED)

How Do We Follow and Serve God?

1. Find out where the Master is; that is where you need to be.
2. Watch to see where God is working and join Him.
3. The right question is, What is God's will?



# REALITY 2

## **GOD PURSUES A CONTINUING LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU THAT IS REAL AND PERSONAL.**

God pursues ...

“The Lord appeared to us in the past saying:  
‘I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
I have drawn you with loving-kindness’ ”  
(Jer. 31:3).

... a love relationship

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your mind.  
This is the first and greatest commandment”  
(Matt. 22:37-38).

Can you describe your relationship with  
God by sincerely saying, “I love You with  
all my heart”?



# REALITY 2

(CONTINUED)

- Everything in your Christian life, everything about knowing Him and experiencing Him, everything about knowing His will depends on the quality of your love relationship.
- A love relationship with God is more important than any other single factor in your life.
- God created you for a love relationship that is real and personal.
- God's constant presence is the most practical part of your life and ministry.
- God created you not for time but for eternity.
- Let your present be molded and shaped by what you are to become in Christ, not by your past.
- Your character is more important to God than what you do. God develops character to match the assignment.



# LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Know Him

Love Him

Believe Him

Trust Him

Obey Him

We are called to a love relationship before we are called to any form of ministry or service. The quality of my love relationship will determine the effectiveness of any kind of ministry.

Love Relationship = Usefulness to God



# REALITY 3

## **GOD INVITES YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH HIM IN HIS WORK.**

- You never find God asking persons to dream up what they want to do for Him. He takes the initiative.
- Understanding what God is about to do where you are is more important than telling God what you want to do for Him.
- God's revelation of His activity is an invitation for you to join Him.
- You cannot know the activity of God unless He takes the initiative to reveal it to you.
- There are some things only God can do. When you see one of these things happening, you can know God is at work.



# REALITY 3

(CONTINUED)

## Things Only God Can Do

- God draws people to Himself.
- God causes people to seek Him.
- God reveals spiritual truth.
- God convicts the world of guilt about sin.
- God convicts the world of righteousness.
- God convicts the world of judgment.





# REALITY 3

(CONTINUED)

When you want to know what God  
is doing around you ...

1. Pray and watch to see what God does next.
2. Make the connection between your prayer and what happens next.
3. Find out what God is already doing.
4. Ask probing questions.
  - How can I pray for you?
  - What can I pray for you?
  - Do you want to talk?
  - What do you see as the greatest challenge in your life?
  - What is the most significant thing happening in your life right now?
  - Would you tell me what God is doing in your life?
  - What is God bringing to the surface in your life?
  - What particular burden has God given you?
5. Listen.
6. Be ready to make the necessary adjustments in order to join God in what He is doing.



# REALITY 4

**GOD SPEAKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH  
THE BIBLE, PRAYER, CIRCUMSTANCES,  
AND THE CHURCH TO REVEAL HIMSELF,  
HIS PURPOSES, AND HIS WAYS.**

“He who belongs to God hears what God says.  
The reason you do not hear is that you do not  
belong to God” (John 8:47).

1. In the Old Testament God spoke in many ways.  
That God spoke is the most important factor,  
not how He spoke.
  - a. When God spoke, it was usually unique  
to that individual.
  - b. When God spoke, the person was sure  
God was speaking.
  - c. When God spoke, the person knew what  
God said.
  - d. When God spoke, that was the encounter  
with God.



# REALITY 4

(CONTINUED)

2. In the Gospels God spoke by His Son.
3. In Acts and to the present God speaks by the Holy Spirit.
4. Knowing God's voice comes from an intimate love relationship with Him.
5. God speaks when He has a purpose in mind for your life.
6. The moment God speaks to you is God's timing.



# REALITY 4

(CONTINUED)

7. You never discover truth. Truth is revealed.
8. God reveals Himself to increase your faith.
9. God reveals His purposes so that you will do His work.
10. God reveals His ways so that you can accomplish His purposes.



# REALITY 4

(CONTINUED)

## GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE BIBLE

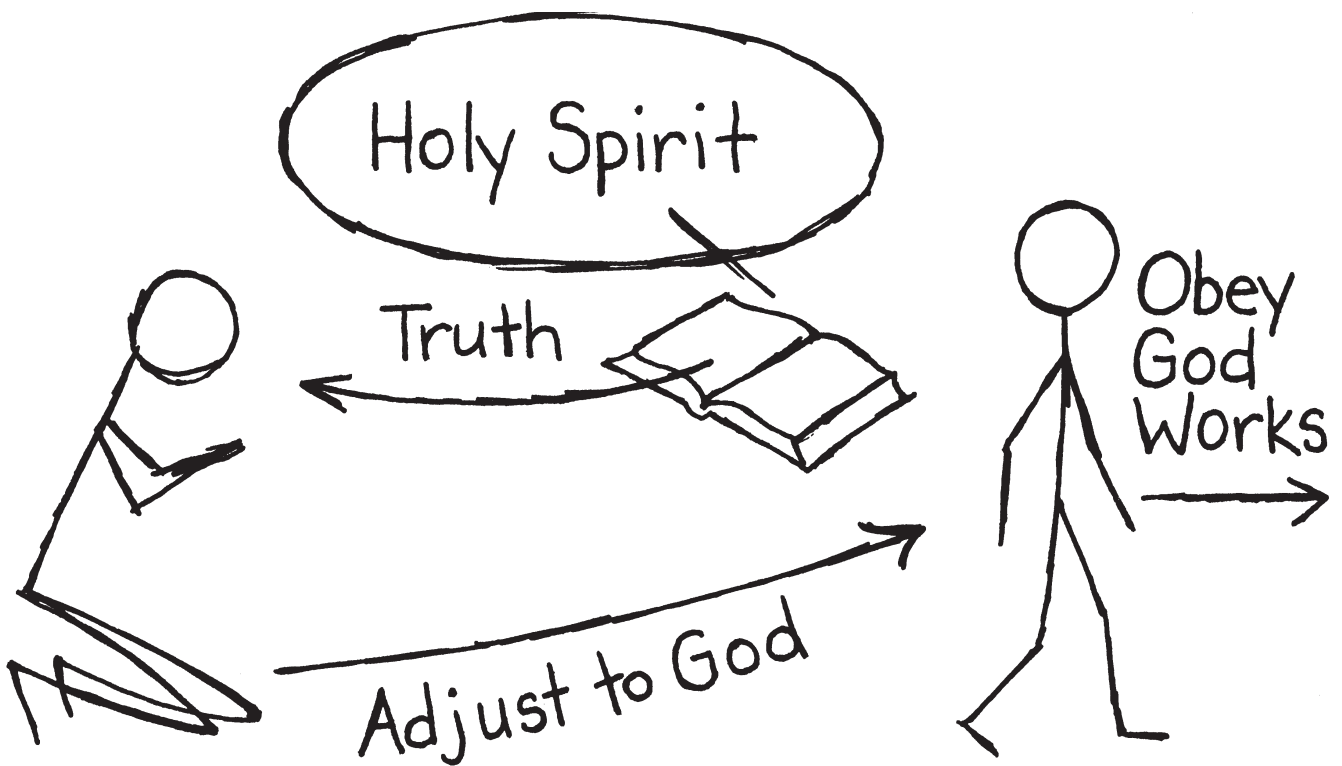




# REALITY 4

(CONTINUED)

## GOD SPEAKS THROUGH PRAYER

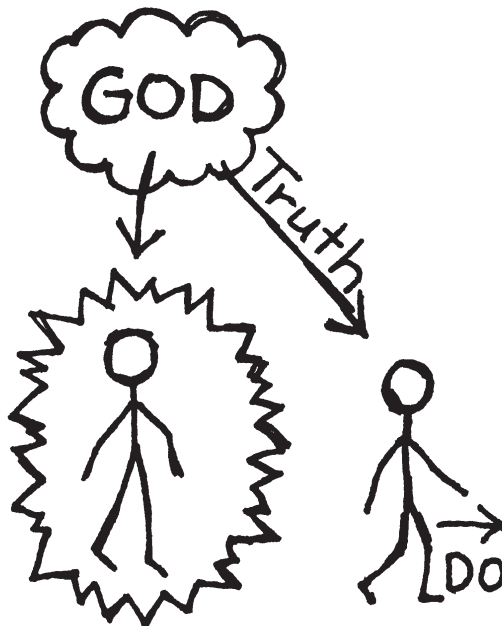




# REALITY 4

(CONTINUED)

## GOD SPEAKS THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES





# REALITY 5

**GOD'S INVITATION FOR YOU  
TO WORK WITH HIM ALWAYS LEADS  
YOU TO A CRISIS OF BELIEF THAT  
REQUIRES FAITH AND ACTION.**

“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Heb. 11:1).

“We live by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7).





# REALITY 5

(CONTINUED)

- The crisis of belief is a turning point at which you must make a decision: you must decide what you really believe about God.
- An encounter with God requires faith and action.
- Encounters with God are God-sized.
- Our world is not seeing God because we are not attempting anything that only God can do.
- What you do in response to God's revelation (invitation) reveals what you believe about God.
- Faith is in a Person.
- True faith requires action.



# REALITY 5

(CONTINUED)

## Examples of a Crisis of Belief

- Joshua and the walls of Jericho (Josh. 6:1-5)
- Gideon (Judg. 6:33; 7:1-8)
- David and the Philistines (1 Chron. 14:8-6)
- Peter, a fish, and taxes (Matt. 17:24-27)



# REALITY 6

## **YOU MUST MAKE MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS IN YOUR LIFE TO JOIN GOD IN WHAT HE IS DOING.**

“Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33).

- God’s revelation is your invitation to adjust your life to Him.
- God desires absolute surrender.
- You adjust to a Person.
- Obedience requires adjustments.
- You cannot stay where you are and go with God.
- Obedience is costly to you and to those around you.



# REALITY 6

(CONTINUED)

- You can trust God with your family.
- Obedience requires total dependence on God to work through you.
- “It” never works. God works.

POSITIVE EXAMPLES	NEGATIVE EXAMPLES
Noah and the ark	The rich young ruler
Abram leaving Ur/Haran	
Moses to Egypt	
David to be king	
Amos to preach	
Jonah	
Peter, Andrew, James, John	
Matthew	
Saul	



# REALITY 6

(CONTINUED)

## Kinds of Adjustments

### *Circumstances*

Job, home, finances

### *Relationships*

Family, friends, business associates

### *Thinking*

Prejudices, methods, your potential

### *Commitments*

Family, church, job, plans, tradition

### *Actions*

Prayer, giving, serving

### *Beliefs*

God, His purposes, His ways,  
your relationship with Him



# REALITY 7

**YOU COME TO KNOW GOD BY  
EXPERIENCE AS YOU OBEY HIM,  
AND HE ACCOMPLISHES  
HIS WORK THROUGH YOU.**

“If you love me, you will obey what I command. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him. If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching” (John 14:15,21,23-24).



# REALITY 7

(CONTINUED)

1. Obey what you already know to be God's will.  
Obey His commands.
2. Affirmation comes after obedience.
3. Obedience is the outward expression of your love for God.
4. Disobedience is costly. God does not always give second chances.
5. If you have an obedience problem, you have a love problem.
6. If you love God, you will obey Him.
7. The reward for obedience and love is that God will reveal Himself to you.



# REALITY 7

(CONTINUED)

8. God reveals Himself to His people by what He does.

- Israel at the Red Sea (Ex. 14:13,18,25,31)
- Rahab's testimony (Josh. 2:9-11)
- Stone markers, Israel's crossing of the Jordan (Josh. 4:24)
- God defeats army attacking Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 20:29)
- God enables Daniel to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan. 2:47)
- God delivers Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego (Dan. 3:28-29)
- The day of Pentecost (Acts 2:11)
- Five thousand believers (Acts 4:4)
- Dorcas raised from the dead (Acts 9:42)





# EXPERIENCING GOD

## KNOWING AND DOING THE WILL OF GOD

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you 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 you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.

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