

Volume 1, Day15 — HOW WILL I KNOW?

"I thank Thee, O Father ... because You have hid these things from the wise and prudent, and have revealed them unto babes."

-- Matt 11:25

In spiritual relationship we do not grow step by step. We are either there or we are not. Love either is or is not. God does not cleanse us gradually from sin. When we are walking genuinely in the light, we are cleansed from all sin. Obedience based on genuine love is the instantaneous perfection of the relationship. Shift your affection for one second and relationship is diminished with God.

All God's revelations are hidden from us until they are opened to us by abandon to God. You will never get them by philosophy or thinking. The instant you surrender wholly to God, you will obey, and inspiration and revelation come. Let God's truth work in you by soaking in it, not by struggling to obey. The only way you can know God is to stop trying to find out Who He is and being 'born again.' Obey God in the thing He shows you now and instantly the next thing is opened up. One reads volumes on the work of the Holy Spirit when one five minute moment of drastic obedience would make things as clear as a sunbeam. "I'll probably understand these things some day!" You can understand them now. It is not study that does it, but surrender in love to God. The tiniest fragment of obedience, and heaven opens and the profoundest truths of God are yours immediately. God will not reveal more truth about Himself until you have obeyed what you know already. Beware of becoming "wise and prudent."

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Vol 1, Day 16 - POSITIVELY IGNORANT!

"Who art Thou, Lord?" Acts 26:15

"The Lord spoke thus to me with a strong hand."
There is no misunderstanding when Our Lord speaks, He always comes with an arresting of the understanding. Has the voice of God come to you directly? If it has, you cannot mistake the intimate insistence with which it has spoken to you in the language you know best, not through your ears, but through your circumstances.

God must destroy our determined confidence in our own convictions. "I know this is what I should do." Suddenly the voice of God speaks in a way that overwhelms us by revealing the depths of our ignorance. We have shown our ignorance of Him in the very way we determined to serve Him. We serve Jesus in a spirit that is not His. We hurt Him by our advocacy for Him. We push His claims in the spirit of the devil. Our words sound all right, but our spirit is that of an enemy. "He rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of." The spirit of our Lord in an advocate of His is described in 1 Corinthians 13. Love like Jesus loves!

Have I been persecuting Jesus by a zealous determination to serve Him in my own way? Judas Iscariot sure did. If I feel I have done my duty and yet have hurt Him in doing it, I can be certain that it was **not** my duty, because it has not fostered the meek and quiet Spirit, but the spirit of self-satisfaction. We imagine that whatever is unpleasant is our duty! Is that anything like the Spirit of our Lord? "I delight to do Your will, O My God."

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Vol 1, Day 17 - LOOK AGAIN AND THINK

"Take no thought for your life." Matt. 6:25

A warning which needs to be reiterated is that the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things entering in, will choke all that God puts in. We are never free from the recurring tides of this encroachment. If it does not come on the line of clothes and food, it will come on the line of money or lack of money; of friends or lack of friends; or on the line of difficult circumstances. It is one steady encroachment all the time, and unless we allow the Spirit of God to raise up the standard against it, these things will come in like a flood.

"Take no thought for your life." "Be careful about one thing only," says our Lord - "your relationship to Me." Common sense shouts loud and says - "That is absurd, I must consider how I am going to live, I must consider what I am going to eat and drink." Jesus says you must not. Beware of allowing the thought that this statement is made by One Who does not understand our particular circumstances. Jesus Christ knows our circumstances better than we do, and He says we must not think about these things so as to make them the one concern of our life. Whenever there is competition, be sure that you put your relationship to God first.

"Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." How much evil has begun to threaten you today? What kind of mean little imps have been looking in and saying - Now what are you going to do next month - this summer? "Be anxious for nothing," Jesus says. Look again and think. Keep your mind on the "much more" of your heavenly Father.

When Jesus said, "I have overcome the world," He did not mean that the trouble and adversity would not come our way. He meant that His Spirit has overcome our negative reactions with His positive view of them!

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**Vol 1 Day 18 — REDEMPTION CREATES THE NEED
IT SATISFIES**

**"But the natural man receives not the things of the
Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him."
— 1 Corinthians 2:14**

The Gospel of God creates a sense of need of the Gospel. Paul says - "If our gospel be hid, it is hid" - to those who are blackguards (spiritually diligent)? No, "to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not." The majority of people have their morality well within their own grasp, they have no sense of need of the Gospel. It is God Who creates the need of which no human being is conscious until God manifests Himself. Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you," but God cannot give until a man asks. It is not that He withholds, but that that is the way He has constituted things regarding Redemption. By means of our asking, God sets processes to work whereby He creates the thing that is not in existence until we do ask. The inner reality of Redemption is that it creates all the time. As the Redemption creates the life of God in us, so it creates the things belonging to that life. Nothing can satisfy the need but that which created the need. This is the meaning of Redemption - it creates and it satisfies.

"I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." We preach our own experiences and people are interested, but no sense of need is awakened by it. But when Jesus Christ is lifted up, the Spirit of God will create a conscious need of Him. Behind the preaching of the Gospel is the creative Redemption of God at work in the souls of men. It is never personal testimony that saves men. "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life."

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Volume 1 Day 19 — FELLOWSHIP

"Fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ."

— 1 Thessalonians 3:2

After sanctification it is difficult to state what your aim in life is, because God has taken you up into His purpose by the Holy Ghost. He is using you now for His purposes throughout the world as He used His Son for the purpose of our salvation. If you seek great things for yourself claiming, "God has called me for this and that," you are putting hindering God's use of you. As long as you have a personal interest in your own character, or any set ambition, you cannot be fully identified with God's interests. You can only get there by losing forever any idea of yourself and by letting God take you right out of your awareness of yourself and into His purpose for the world. And because your goings are strictly those of the Lord, you can never understand just why you are doing what your do.

I have to learn that the aim in life is God's, not mine. God is using me from His great personal standpoint, and all He asks of me is that I trust Him, and never say, "Lord, this gives me such heart-ache." To talk in that way makes me a selfish brat. When I stop telling God what I want, He can fully use me for what He wants without let or hindrance. He can crumple me up or exalt me, He can do any thing He chooses. He simply asks me to have implicit faith in Himself and in His goodness. Self pity is of the devil. If I go that way, I cannot be used by God for His purpose in the world. I have "a world within the world" in which I live, and God will never be able to get me outside it because I am afraid of being distressed or even inconvenienced.

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Vol 1, Day 20 - IS GOD'S WILL MY WILL?

"This is the will of God, even your sanctification."

— 1 Thessalonians 4:3

It is not a question of whether God is willing to sanctify me. It is the question, "Do I truly desire it? Am I willing to let God do in me all that has been made possible by the Atonement? Am I willing to let Jesus be made sanctification to me, and to let the life of Jesus be manifested in my mortal flesh? Beware of saying, "Oh, I greatly desire to be sanctified." You are not! Stop longing to be and make it a matter of purposeful commitment. - "Nothing in my hands I bring." Receive Jesus Christ to be made sanctification to you in implicit faith, and the great marvel of the Atonement of Jesus will be made real in you.

All that Jesus made possible is made mine by the free loving gift of God on the ground of what He performed. My attitude as a saved and sanctified soul is that of profound, humble holiness (there is no such thing as proud holiness). True holiness is based on agonizing repentance and a sense of unspeakable shame and degradation. It is also affected by the amazing realization that the love of God commended itself to me in that while I cared nothing about Him, He completed everything for my salvation and sanctification (see Rom. 5:8. R.V.). No wonder Paul says nothing is "able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Sanctification makes me one with Jesus Christ, and in Him one with God. It is done only through the superb Atonement of Christ. Never put the effect as the cause. The effect in me is obedience and service and prayer, and is the outcome of speechless thanks and adoration for the marvelous sanctification expressed through me because of the Atonement.

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Vol 1, Day 21 -- RELATIONSHIP ACTION

"And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." Matthew 5:41

The summing up of Our Lord's teaching is that the relationship which He demands is an impossible one unless He has done a supernatural work in us. Jesus Christ demands that there be not the slightest trace of resentment even suppressed in the heart of a disciple when he meets with tyranny and injustice. No enthusiasm will ever stand the strain that Jesus Christ will put upon His worker, only one thing will, and that is a personal relationship to Himself which has gone through the mill of His spring-cleaning until there is only one purpose left - I am here for God to send me where He will. Every other thing may be unclear. But this relationship to Jesus Christ must never be.

The Sermon on the Mount is not an ideal. It is a statement of what will happen in me when Jesus Christ has altered my disposition and put in a disposition like His own. Jesus Christ is the only One Who can fulfill the Sermon on the Mount.

If we are to be disciples of Jesus, we must be made disciples supernaturally. As long as we have the dead set purpose of being disciples we may be sure we are not. "I have chosen you." That is the way the grace of God begins. It is a constraint we cannot escape. We can disobey it. But we cannot generate it. The drawing is done by the supernatural grace of God, and we never can trace where His work begins. Our Lord's making of a disciple is supernatural. He does not build on any natural capacity at all. God does not ask us to do the things that are easy to us naturally. He only asks us to do the things we are perfectly fitted to do by His grace, and the cross will come along that line always.

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