

“STEPS TO SPIRITUAL SUCCESS”

Big Idea . . . Part 8: Adopt the Master’s PLAN (#6)

INTRO: Jesus came to offer us an abundant, overflowing life, even in a broken world (Jn. 10:10). In John 15 He explains the way to that life (zoe) and true spiritual success. He reveals three steps:

Step 1: Accept the Master’s MISSION to live to bring glory to God and experience fullness of joy (Jn. 15:8, 11)

Step 2: Adopt the Master’s PLAN of five progressive keys:

1. The key to glorifying God is *bearing fruit* (v. 8)
2. The key to bearing fruit is *abiding* (vv. 4-5)
3. The key to abiding is *obeying* (vv. 7, 10)
4. The key to obeying is *loving and trusting* (vv. 9-10)

TODAY #5 – The key to loving and trusting God is KNOWING Him better (vv. 14-16a). Note, this is the foundational key upon which all the others stand. This key is the basis for enjoying true spiritual success and an overflowing life that glorifies God. The path is: know, love, obey, abide, fruit, glorify. The better we know Him the greater our love for Him (Jn. 14:21, 23; 1 Jn. 4:7-8).

I. GOD IS KNOWABLE AND WANTS US TO KNOW HIM

- A. Exemplified in our *Human relationships* with friends, co-workers, and spouses. Over time with intentionality people we only know as acquaintances become friends (vital) and one could become your spouse. Ex: Jerry J., Lumberts, Pattie, etc.
- B. Experienced also in our *Relationship with God*. Exo. 33:11-16; Jn. 17:3; 2 Pet. 1:2-3; 3:18; 1 Jn. 4:7-8; etc.
- C. *BEGINS with initial salvation* as we willfully enter into a personal relationship with God through Christ (Jn. 17:3).
- D. *CONTINUES as we grow* to know Him better. It’s not enough to casually know about God. We were created to know Him intimately, enjoy Him personally, and be content in Him continually no matter the circumstances (2 Pet. 1:2-3).
- E. He took the initiative to reveal Himself and make Himself known to us in many ways: natural and general revelation (creation), written revelation (Scripture), personal revelation

(Jesus – sees me sees the Father - Jn. 12:45; 14:8-9). Heb. 1:1-3

II. OBSERVATIONS ON KNOWING GOD BETTER

- A. *Knowing Him more personally and intimately must take priority* (Ps. 27:4). Phil. 3:10 (AV) . . . Is knowing God better your determined purpose and priority?
- B. *The path to self-esteem and personal dignity*. Our sense of worth flows from our knowing Him (Jer. 9:23-24). When we know God better, we gain personal dignity.
- C. *Road to maturity* (1 Jn. 2:12-14). Three stages of growth identified: little children, young men, spiritual fathers (2 xs “know Him”). These are levels of spiritual development. All should strive for the latter.
- D. Knowing God better brings *inner strength and outer influence* (actions) – Dan. 11:32. Freedom from insecurities, fears, anxieties, intimidations, comparisons, etc.
- E. Fosters *Humility* (1 Pet. 5:5-7) – The better we know Him the more humbled we become. This helps us trust Him when life is hard and to find peace in any storm.
- F. To know Him is to *Make Him Known*. John 17:3-5a, 18, 20-26 . . . We are sent to bear fruit (converts). 1 Jn. 2:13-14 Fathers have children!

CONC: This is the fifth and foundational key to the others. Nothing compares to getting to better know the One who perfectly knows us. The better we know and understand Him the easier it is to love and trust Him . . . Getting to know Him better is no different than getting to know another person – intentionality, effort, time, communication, etc. It’s your move! Listen, any parent desires their child to love and obey them because of who they are and not just for all they do for them. We tend to emphasize what God does for us, rather than who He is in Himself.

So, to accomplish His mission we must embrace His Plan of 5 Keys which are progressive . . . Next is third and final step to spiritual success to anticipate the promises that are given to all who strive for this life.