

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

The Experience Of God

What We Believe | Part 2 | 2 Timothy 3:16

INTRODUCTION

Many of us grew up hearing things from our parents that stuck with us, for better or for worse. Maybe you were told not to walk under a ladder or that a black cat crossing your path was bad luck. These ideas, repeated over and over, can take root in our minds. In the same way, we often carry theological beliefs from our childhood that are based more on tradition or superstition than on the solid truth of God's Word. In a world of shifting opinions, it is essential for us to ask the most important question: What does the Bible say?

Our faith cannot be built on hand-me-down beliefs or cultural norms. It must be anchored in the unchanging truth of Scripture and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This requires moving beyond simply having information about God to truly experiencing His grace. It is a journey from knowing about the Lord to making Him the Lord of your life, from hearing about the Bible to letting it become your final authority, and from participating in religion to having a genuine, life-changing encounter with the living God.

KEY POINTS

1. Jesus is Lord

At the center of our faith is a simple, profound declaration: Jesus is Lord. This is more than a slogan; it is the foundation of our entire belief system. Our primary love and allegiance are not to a church, a denomination, or a set of rules, but to the person of Jesus Christ. When we stay in love with Jesus, it changes everything. This is the truth we must pass on to our children and grandchildren. If they fall in love with Jesus, they will naturally love His church and have a heart for the people He loves. At the end of the day, it is all about Him.

2. The Bible is our Final Authority

When we face decisions, confusion, or cultural pressure, our first question must be, "What does the Bible say?" God's Word is our ultimate source of authority. *Second Timothy 3:16* tells us, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." Our lives are to be guided by this book, not by what is popular, what our friends think, or even what tradition dictates. While some traditions are good, they must always be measured against the truth of Scripture. A biblical worldview is not optional; it is critical for our spiritual maturity and faithfulness.

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3. You Must Have a Personal Experience of Grace

Information about God will not save you. You can grow up in the church, get confirmed, memorize Scripture, and even be baptized, but still be separated from God. Salvation comes through a personal "experience of grace," a specific moment where you recognize your sin, turn from it, and place your faith entirely in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Dr. Dodd shared his own story of leading a friend to Christ, only to realize he had all the right information but had never made that personal decision himself. True conversion is not about joining a church or knowing facts; it is about inviting Jesus to take charge of your life and receiving His forgiveness.

The most important question you will ever answer is not about your church attendance, your good deeds, or your theological knowledge. It is this: have you had a personal experience of grace? It is possible to look like you are part of the wedding party, wearing the right clothes and standing in the right place, but miss the wedding feast because you do not have the Holy Spirit in your life. This only comes when you are truly born again.

Dr. Dodd tells the story of an elderly woman on her deathbed who, after a lifetime of watching church on television, admitted she did not know if she had ever truly given her life to Christ. In that moment, she prayed to receive Jesus. You may not have a deathbed moment. Do not wait. This decision is for today. If you have been relying on your upbringing, your morality, or your religious activity, stop. Throw yourself completely on the unmerited favor of God. Invite Christ to be the Lord of your life, not just in your head, but in your heart. This is the one decision that secures your eternity and gives you power and purpose for living right now.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Dr. Dodd mentions childhood superstitions that shaped his thinking. What beliefs or traditions from your own upbringing have you had to examine in light of what the Bible teaches?
2. The sermon highlights the difference between knowing information *about* Jesus and personally knowing Him as Lord. In what areas of your life is it easy to rely on information instead of a relationship with Christ?
3. Dr. Dodd describes his own moment of salvation as an "experience of grace." If you were to describe your own spiritual journey, can you identify a time when you moved from simply knowing about God to personally surrendering your life to Him?
