

Hunger to Know Him

Hello. My name is Shannan Thomas. Today I want to encourage you, as you fellowship with the Father, draw a little closer, go a little deeper, stay a little longer. As we diligently press in, He draws closer to us, revealing Himself and His heart. He desires for us to really know Him - His love, His grace, His mercy. In fact, it is during these seasons of seeking Him intimately that I've come to know the true character and nature of our Father. He is faithful, good and true. Many years ago I determined to set my heart on Him and believe Him. I choose to believe His Word at all cost because Psalms 138:2 KJV declares "For thou hast magnified thy Word above all thy Name." I made a calculated decision; if the Word declares it, I believe it. I've developed this child-like, cross your arms and stomp your foot stubbornness that insists I'm not changing my mind, no matter what happens, what is said, what I see, feel or experience. Whether my prayers are answered and my hope is realized OR I'm facing disappointment and I can't understand or explain the outcome, I choose to believe God. I choose to believe His Word. I refuse to change my mind!

How about you? Have situations, circumstances, trials or storms impacted what you believe? Have your experiences or those of others impacted your faith? As we spend time with the Father, let's ask Him to expose any wrong thinking, ungodly beliefs, or strongholds that need to be uprooted or broken. James 1 warns us that doubt and unbelief cause us to be double-minded and unstable in all our ways, making us incapable of receiving from the Lord. It is in the quiet and stillness that His still small voice gently corrects and teaches us, guiding us into all truth. It has been in these seasons of drawing closer where I have learned to cast down every care, fully trusting the Father so I can rest in Him in every situation.

A few years ago our family was impacted by an accident; the enemy came to steal, kill and destroy. We were greatly burdened by the weight; fear tried to take root. Every time the accuser whispered, I reminded myself who God is and who we are in Him. I declared God's promises and provision. I decided to rest in the knowledge that He is our defender and trust that He will work things out for our good, because we love Him and are called according to His purpose. I prayed for every party involved, declaring God's favor and blessing over each one. Laying down my concerns and my fears, I labored to rest, trusting my Father to take good care of us. It took 3 years for resolution. It was a long road, but I learned how to live in God's peace, despite the circumstances. I was able to do this because I know my Heavenly Father. I trust His character and nature. I rest in His goodness and His peace.

We must be resolved in our belief of who God is; but we also must be honest with ourselves about where we struggle in our beliefs and our trust in God, so He can help

us overcome. He is preparing and equipping us for every good work and every season ahead - the trials and the victories. We must hunger to know Him more if we are to stand firm in our faith. "Thus says the LORD: 'Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,' says the LORD." Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJV

Let's pray. Dear Heavenly Father, help us to hunger to know you more intimately. Reveal to us any areas where we are battling with wrong thinking, doubt or unbelief. Thank you, Father, for helping us overcome as we learn to fully trust and rest in You. Amen.