

“Knowing Him”

Summary

In this powerful message, we're invited to explore the profound message of 'knowing God.' Drawing from Psalm 91:1, we're reminded that those who dwell in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. This isn't just about knowing about God, but truly knowing Him intimately. As we face the floods of evil in our world today, our strength comes from this deep knowledge of who God is. The story of Ephraim turning back in battle serves as a cautionary tale, showing us how losing focus on God's true nature can lead to defeat. We're challenged to see God as He truly is - omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. This perspective shift can transform our faith, helping us to limit the enemy's influence in our lives while embracing the limitless power of God. As we cultivate this deeper understanding, we become better equipped to stand firm in our faith, even in the face of overwhelming challenges.

Chapters

Chapter 1: The Importance of Knowing God

We explore the significance of truly knowing God and how it impacts our faith and strength.

Chapter 2: The Attributes of God: Omnipresence, Omniscience, and Omnipotence

We examine the key attributes of God - His omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence.

Chapter 3: Worship, Praise, and Thanksgiving

We discuss the importance of worship, praise, and thanksgiving in our relationship with God.

Chapter 4: El Shaddai: The Almighty God

We focus on God as El Shaddai, the Almighty, and how this understanding empowers us.

Main Points – Knowing Him

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the importance of truly knowing God. Dr. David Wyns emphasizes that in times of increasing evil and challenges, believers find strength and victory through their knowledge of God's omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence. He contrasts God's limitless power with the limitations of Satan and encourages us to focus more on praising and worshipping God for who He is rather than dwelling on problems or the enemy. The sermon concludes by highlighting God's ability to meet all needs and calls for believers to live victoriously under the shadow of the Almighty.

Key Points:

- The importance of knowing God personally, not just knowing about Him
- God's attributes: omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence
- The limitlessness of God compared to the limitations of Satan
- The priority of ministering to God before ministering to others
- The difference between thanksgiving, praise, and worship
- Understanding God as El Shaddai (Almighty God) in the book of Joshua
- Living victoriously under the shadow of the Almighty in challenging times

Scripture Reference:

- Psalm 91:1-2 - "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."
- John 17:3 - Jesus' prayer that believers may know God
- Daniel 11:32 - "The people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits."

Small Group Study Guide – Knowing Him

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a prayer asking God to open hearts and minds to understand His nature as the Almighty God.

Key Takeaways:

1. God is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent.
2. Our primary ministry is to God Himself, then to others.
3. Knowing God intimately is crucial for standing strong in times of evil.
4. Worship extols God for who He is, while praise is for what He has done.
5. God is El Shaddai - the All-Sufficient, Almighty God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Dr. Wyns emphasized knowing God personally rather than just knowing about Him. How would you describe the difference between these two types of knowledge?
2. Reflect on Psalm 91:1. What does it mean to you to "dwell in the secret place of the Most High"?
3. The sermon mentioned three aspects of ministry: to the Savior, to saints, and to sinners. How do you prioritize these in your own life?
4. How does understanding God as El Shaddai (Almighty God) impact your approach to challenges in life?
5. Dr. Wyns spoke about thanksgiving, praise, and worship. How do you incorporate each of these into your daily life?
6. In what areas of your life do you need to rely more on God's almighty power?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Reflection: Spend time each day this week meditating on a different attribute of God (e.g., His omnipresence, omniscience, omnipotence).
2. Worship Journal: Start a journal where you write down reasons to worship God for who He is, not just what He does.
3. Prayer Challenge: In your prayers this week, focus on extolling God's character rather than just asking for things.

4. Scripture Memorization: Commit to memorizing Psalm 91:1-2 as a reminder of God's protection and power.

5. Faith in Action: Identify one situation in your life where you need to trust in God's almighty power. Take a step of faith in that area this week.

Closing Prayer:

Close the session by praising God for His almighty nature and asking for His help to know Him more deeply.

Discussion Questions – Knowing Him

How can we cultivate a deeper knowledge of God as El Shaddai (Almighty God) in our daily lives, and what impact might this have on our faith and actions?

In what ways can we shift our focus from the 'floods of evil' in the world to the omnipotence and omnipresence of God, and how might this change our approach to life's challenges?

How can we balance acknowledging the reality of spiritual warfare while avoiding giving undue attention or 'free advertising' to the enemy, as Dr. Wyns suggests?

The sermon discusses three aspects of ministry: to the God, to the saints, and to sinners. How can we ensure we maintain this order of priority in our own spiritual lives and service?

What does it mean to 'dwell in the secret place of the Most High' and 'abide under the shadow of the Almighty' in practical terms, and how can we cultivate this intimate relationship with God?

How does understanding God as omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent impact our perception of personal struggles and global issues?

Dr. Wyns distinguishes between thanksgiving, praise, and worship. How can we incorporate all three elements more intentionally in our lives?

What does it mean to be a 'chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,' and how should this identity shape our daily lives and interactions with others?

How can we develop a faith that, like Joshua's, relies completely on God's power rather than our own abilities or heroism?

Scriptures – Knowing Him

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

1. John 17:3
2. Psalm 91:1-2
3. Daniel 11:32
4. Psalm 78 (general reference)
5. Exodus 19:3-6
6. 1 Peter 2:9
7. 1 John 5:4
8. Psalm 139 (general reference)
9. Psalm 30:1-3
10. Psalm 118:29
11. Psalm 48:1
12. Psalm 96:9
13. Philippians 3:10
14. Genesis 35:11
15. Genesis 49:24
16. Psalm 132:2,5
17. Exodus 6:3
18. Genesis 17:1
19. Genesis 18:1
20. Ephesians 1:17,19
21. Hebrews 11 (general reference)
22. Joshua (general reference to the book)
23. Judges (general reference to heroes in the book)
24. Revelation 1:8
25. Revelation 11:17
26. Isaiah 9:6
27. Psalm 23 (alluded to near the end)

Themes discussed without specific references, with suggested relevant verses:

1. God's omnipresence - Jeremiah 23:24
2. God's omniscience - Psalm 147:5
3. God's omnipotence - Matthew 19:26
4. God as healer - Exodus 15:26
5. God as deliverer - Psalm 34:17
6. Spiritual warfare - Ephesians 6:12
7. Victorious Christian living - 1 Corinthians 15:57
8. Trusting in God - Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional – Knowing Him

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:

Day 1: Knowing the Almighty God

Reading: Psalm 91:1-16

Devotional: Today's reading reminds us of the incredible security we have in God. Dr. Wyns emphasized God's omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence. As you read Psalm 91, reflect on what it means to dwell "in the secret place of the Most High." How does knowing God as El Shaddai (God Almighty) change your perspective on life's challenges? Take time to "extol" God for who He is, not just what He does. Remember, our first ministry is to God Himself. How can you prioritize your relationship with Him today?

Day 2: The Power of God in Our Weakness

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Devotional: The sermon highlighted how God's power is made perfect in our weakness. Paul's experience with his "thorn in the flesh" teaches us that God's grace is sufficient in all circumstances. Reflect on areas in your life where you feel inadequate or weak. How might God be inviting you to rely more fully on His strength? Remember the Dr. Wyns' words: "He has never seen a situation He cannot solve." Pray for the faith to see your challenges through God's perspective of limitless power and grace.

Day 3: Chosen for a Purpose

Reading: 1 Peter 2:9-10

Devotional: Today's passage echoes the theme of our identity in Christ. Dr. Wyns reminded us that we are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people." How does this identity shape your self-perception and your daily life? Consider the responsibility that comes with being chosen by God. How can you declare His praises through your words and actions today? Reflect on ways you can embrace your role as part of God's "special treasure."

Day 4: Overcoming Evil with God's Strength

Reading: Daniel 11:32 and Ephesians 6:10-18

Devotional: The sermon addressed the "floods of evil" we face in our world. Daniel 11:32 tells us that "the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits." In light of this, how can you deepen your knowledge of God? The Ephesians passage provides a practical guide for spiritual warfare. As you read, consider each piece of the armor of God. Which area of your spiritual armor needs strengthening? Remember, we're not fighting against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of evil. Take comfort in knowing that greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).

Day 5: Living Under the Shadow of the Almighty

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9

Devotional: Dr. Wynn highlighted that the book of Joshua is really about El Shaddai, the Almighty God, rather than human heroes. As you read God's commission to Joshua, notice the repeated encouragement to be strong and courageous. This strength comes not from Joshua himself, but from the presence of the Almighty God. What areas of your life require courage right now? How does knowing that you live "under the shadow of the Almighty" give you confidence to face these challenges? Spend time in prayer, asking God to increase your awareness of His constant presence and unlimited power in your daily life.