

“Knowing God – Part 2”

Summary

In this powerful message, we're reminded of the limitless power of our Almighty God, El Shaddai. The story of Joshua serves as a profound example of how experiencing, embracing, and entering into God's power can transform our lives. Just as Joshua witnessed God's might in Egypt and the wilderness, we too can observe divine interventions in our own journeys. The key is to move beyond merely observing to actively participating in God's power. We're challenged to extol God for who He is - not just His gifts, but His very nature as the all-powerful, ever-present, all-knowing Creator. This shift in focus from what God does to who God is can revolutionize our worship and strengthen our faith. As we face our own 'avalanches' of adversity, we're encouraged to turn our faces towards God and trust in His almighty power to deliver us.

Main Points – Knowing God – Part 2

Sermon Summary: This sermon emphasizes the importance of knowing God intimately as El Shaddai (God Almighty) and living under His power. Dr. Wyns stresses that true strength comes from understanding and embracing God's omnipotence, especially in the face of life's challenges. He encourages believers to extol God for who He is, not just for His blessings, and to participate actively in God's power to overcome obstacles and fulfill their calling as a chosen generation and royal priesthood.

Key Points:

- God's purpose in redemption is to bring people to Himself
- Worship extols God for who He is, beyond thanksgiving and praise
- Joshua's life exemplifies experiencing, embracing, and entering God's power
- Believers are called to live victoriously under El Shaddai's authority
- God demonstrates His power to us before releasing His power through us
- True freedom and deliverance come through knowing and trusting in God's almighty power

Scripture Reference:

- John 17:3
- Psalm 91:1-2
- Exodus 19:3-6
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Joshua 24:15

Stories:

- Dr. Wynn's personal experience with leg problems and operations
- The analogy of surviving an avalanche by spitting to determine direction
- Joshua's journey from observing God's power in Egypt to leading Israel
- The story of Dixon Changara, a pastor who rebuilt his ministry after setbacks
- Dr. Wynn's experience teaching Psalm 23 in 1974 and its lasting impact on a student

Small Group Study Guide – Knowing God – Part 2

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. God demonstrates His power to us before releasing His power through us.
2. We are called to extol God for who He is, not just what He does.
3. Joshua experienced, embraced, and entered into God's power.
4. We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, called to operate under God's authority.

Discussion Questions:

1. Dr. Wyns emphasized knowing God as El Shaddai (God Almighty). How does understanding God's almighty nature impact your faith and daily life?
2. Reflect on a time when you experienced God's power personally. How did it affect your relationship with Him?
3. The sermon mentioned the importance of extolling God for who He is. How can we cultivate a worship mindset that focuses on God's character rather than just His blessings?
4. Joshua was described as always being "number two" under El Shaddai's authority. How can we maintain a posture of humility while still walking in God's power?
5. Dr. Wyns spoke about freedom and deliverance. Are there areas in your life where you need to experience God's freeing power? How can the group pray for you?
6. How does knowing we are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood" affect our identity and purpose?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, practice extolling God daily for who He is. Keep a journal of the attributes of God you praise Him for.
2. Identify an area in your life where you need to trust God's almighty power. Take a step of faith in that area, relying on El Shaddai.
3. Look for opportunities to share your testimony of God's power with someone who needs encouragement.

4. Spend time meditating on Psalm 91, focusing on what it means to dwell "under the shadow of the Almighty."

5. As a group, commit to praying for each other's areas of needed deliverance or breakthrough.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His almighty power and ask for His strength to live as His chosen people, operating under His authority in everyday life.

Discussion Questions – Knowing God – Part 2

How does understanding God as El Shaddai (God Almighty) change our perspective on life's challenges and our own limitations?

In what ways have you personally experienced or observed God's power in your life, similar to how Joshua witnessed it throughout his journey?

How can we cultivate a deeper trust in God's power and provision, especially during times when we feel overwhelmed or face seemingly insurmountable obstacles?

What does it mean to 'extol' God, and how might this practice differ from other forms of worship or praise?

How does the concept of being part of a 'chosen generation' and 'royal priesthood' impact our sense of identity and purpose as believers?

In what ways can we practically embrace and participate in God's power in our daily lives and ministries?

How might understanding ourselves as 'special treasures' to God affect our self-worth and our treatment of others?

What are some modern-day 'avalanches of evil' that we face, and how can we apply the principles discussed to overcome them?

How can we balance recognizing our own limitations with embracing the limitless power of God working through us?

In what ways can we, like Joshua, move from simply observing God's power to becoming active participants in His work?

Scriptures – Knowing God – Part 2

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. Exodus 19:3-6
5. 1 Peter 2:9
6. Psalm 139 (alluded to)
7. Psalm 30:1-3
8. Genesis 17:1
9. Exodus 6:3
10. Ephesians 1:17, 19
11. 1 Corinthians 10:2
12. Luke 1:46-47, 49
13. Romans 1:16-17
14. John 8:32
15. John 14:6
16. John 8:36
17. Philippians 4:19
18. Exodus 17:13
19. Isaiah 59:19
20. Joshua 24:15 (alluded to)
21. Revelation 1:8
22. Revelation 11:17
23. Malachi 3:6
24. Hebrews 13:8
25. Isaiah 9:6
26. Ephesians 3:20

Devotional – Knowing God – Part 2

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

Day 1: Knowing the Almighty God

Reading: Psalm 91:1-16

Devotional: Today we focus on knowing God as El Shaddai, the Almighty. Just as Joshua experienced God's power personally before leading Israel, we too must cultivate a deep, personal knowledge of God's limitless nature. Reflect on times when you've witnessed God's power in your life. How has this shaped your faith? Remember, God demonstrates His power to us before releasing it through us. Today, seek to dwell in the "secret place of the Most High" and rest under His shadow. Ask God to reveal more of His almighty nature to you, building your faith and trust in His unlimited power and grace.

Day 2: Freedom in Christ

Reading: John 8:31-36, Galatians 5:1

Devotional: The sermon emphasized the theme of freedom in Christ. Just as God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He desires to set us free from our personal bondages. What areas of your life still need liberation? Remember, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Today, identify any chains of fear, anxiety, addiction, or sin that are holding you back. Bring these to Jesus in prayer, claiming the freedom He promises. Think about crossing your personal "Red Sea," leaving behind old patterns and stepping into the freedom Jesus offers. How can you live differently today, embracing this newfound liberty?

Day 3: Embracing Your Identity in Christ

Reading: 1 Peter 2:9-10, Ephesians 1:3-14

Devotional: Today we focus on our identity as God's chosen people. The sermon reminded us that we are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people." How does this elevated status change your self-perception? Often, we let our past, our mistakes, or others' opinions define us. Instead, meditate on how God sees you. You are royalty in His kingdom, set apart for a divine purpose. How might your actions, thoughts, and interactions change if you fully embraced this identity? Ask God to help you live out your calling as His special treasure today.

Day 4: Trusting God in Adversity

Reading: Isaiah 43:1-3, Romans 8:28-39

Devotional: The sermon used the analogy of an avalanche to describe overwhelming circumstances. Yet, even in our darkest moments, God remains Almighty. Reflect on any "avalanches" in your life – situations that feel insurmountable. How can you "spit and dig" spiritually, orienting yourself towards God's presence and power? Remember, "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19). Today, practice "extolling" God in the face of your challenges. List His attributes and

past faithfulness. How does focusing on His almighty nature change your perspective on your current struggles?

Day 5: Answering the Call to Kingdom Service

Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8, Matthew 28:18-20

Devotional: The sermon concluded with a stirring call to be "ambassadors for Christ." God is looking for those willing to say, "Here am I, send me." Reflect on your own sense of calling. What unique gifts, experiences, or passions has God given you? How might these be used for His kingdom? Remember, our adequacy comes not from ourselves, but from El Shaddai working through us. Today, surrender afresh to God's purposes. Ask Him to use you as His chosen instrument, empowered by His Spirit. What step of faith might God be asking you to take? Trust that He who calls you will also equip you for the task.