

SINGLE ALLIANCE

Knowing God

05/24/09

I. A Subtle Shift

A. We live in the communications age.

1. We have developed new and modern ways of communication
 - a. television
 - b. internet- email, Facebook, twitter, etc.
2. You would think that increased communications would be a good thing, however these are **indirect** communications
 - a. They are not live face to face encounters
 - b. They are relatively impersonal connections

B. These easy and fast connections leave us more distracted and busy than ever, but also leave us strangely disconnected from others more than ever.

1. How many countless hours are spent on the internet and television?
2. **These are not wrong** but anything to an excess is bad!
3. Satan is a very intelligent creature. He knows how and what to attack when it comes to humanity. He attacks the communication lines. He is heavily at work in all communication centers- T.V., news, movies, music, schools, etc. Wherever information is dispensed Satan is working.
4. Satan is also working subtly. He is replacing **direct communication** with **indirect communication** because there is power in direct communication.

C. We have slowly decreased the amount of personal one on one, face to face encounters in our lives. When we do have them they are usually brief.

D. This trend can not only be seen just in our natural relationships but also with our **relationship with God**

1. It is common now that our spiritual connection with God has also become indirect and impersonal.
2. It is much easier to turn on a religious broadcast on T.V., listen to a podcast sermon, read a Christian book, than to actually open our Bible before God and have a personal encounter with God in prayer.
3. It is becoming more common place that time with God in prayer and in Bible study/meditation is being replaced by secular interests and entertainment. The bottom line is that Christians are spending less and less time alone with God, one on one with Him. We are more distracted than

any generation of Christians that have ever lived. Satan does not care what we are distracted by, just that we are distracted!

4. We largely have become addicted to noise, clutter, and activity. We have become addicted to **receiving communications that do not demand a response from us**. If we do not like it, we can turn it off or change it. Having a personal encounter with someone takes much more from us, but also **gives so much more to us**. A personal encounter demands response and accountability.

5. Spending time one on one with God requires response, accountability, and an awareness of what is going on in our heart.

II. The Knowledge of God vs. Knowing God

A. Today Christianity is under siege by our enemy. However it is a subtle attack.

B. Satan is waging a covert operation against believers today.

1. Satan is a thief- He has come to steal- **John 10:10a**

2. Something is being taken from us that brings the power of the Christian life. It is **knowing** God face to face! Knowing God involves an ongoing personal face to face relationship with God. What knowing God is being replaced with more and more is knowledge about God. This generation of Christians has more knowledge about God and the Bible than any other generation, but has the knowledge produced the results of the early church? Satan does not care that we gain in knowledge about God, as long as it that knowledge does not lead to us knowing God personally.

C. More and more Christians are living with indirect communication about God than receiving direct communication from God personally.

D. **Philippians 3:8**

1. Paul counted everything in His life as rubbish compared to the **knowledge** of Christ. Paul knew it was crucial to have the proper knowledge about God. A proper knowledge about God is the foundation for something deeper and more powerful. We need to know that God is love. We need to know He is a God of grace. We need to know what Jesus accomplished for us at the cross. We need to know these things, but this knowledge is but a spring board to something else.

2. Knowledge of God should lead us to **knowing** God personally.

E. **Philippians 3:10**

1. Paul wanted to go from having the knowledge of God to knowing God in a dynamic and personal way. It was his aim and ambition in life.

F. The knowledge of God is the mold into which God wants to pour His life and power into. When we take the knowledge we know about God and approach His throne in faith, He pours His life and power into us.

G. **2 Tim. 3:5**

1. One of the things that will happen in the end times is that many believers will have the **form of godliness**- the knowledge of God- **information about God**- but they will deny or cut themselves off from the power of it. Their personal encounters with God will become lessened.

2. The power of the Christian life comes from our personal time in God's presence and meditation of His Word in which He speaks His rhema to us. Faith comes not by the logos, but by rhema!

H. **Son. 1:7**

1. I believe there is a remnant in the church that is not content with a superficial indirect distant relationship with God. Their hunger for God pushes them to know God intimately.

2. The woman in this verse was not content in receiving from the "companions" of the Shepherd. She wanted to know where He was feeding himself so she could come and receive from Him personally.

3. We all should have a pastor, and it is good to listen to preachers share the Word of God, but if we really want to grow strong in the Lord we must find where He is feeding Himself and come to Him and receive directly from Him. We must not just receive from Christ's companions [his ministers], we need to find where He is feeding personally and receive from Him directly!

4. The young woman did not want to be veiled. She did not want to have anything or anyone between her and the Lord. The veil speaks of legalism. Those under legalism and do not understand the love and grace of God desire to hear God's Word through mediators. When God spoke to the people in the O.T. they asked that God not speak to them from fear, but they asked for Moses to speak to God and they would listen to Moses. Many Christians today have this kind of relationship with God. They mainly receive from God from ministers- the "companions" of Christ.

5. This is normal for new or young believers. Just as young chicks get feed by their mothers who digest food for them and then feed them, so it is when we receive from ministers. They receive revelations from God and

then give it to us. It is processed revelation. However, young chicks when they grow and mature they have to learn to feed themselves and get the full nutrients from the food themselves. Although, we should always have a pastor, we need to receive from the Lord ourselves. The richest food comes directly from the Lord to us. He knows how and what to feed us the best! 6. This is where the companions of the Shepherd come from. Those who have learned to receive from Him directly become entrusted to feed the young ones themselves. These become the companions of Christ.

III. Finding Where He Is Feeding

- A. We must find where Christ is feeding each day.
- B. We must first know in what general field He feeds from, which is the Word of God
- C. Then we must find where He is feeding in that field each day.
- D. We should pray and ask for His Word to be revealed to us. Ask Him where in the Word to read. Listen.
- E. If the Lord does not give you a book or chapter, ask for guidance and open up where it seems good and start reading. Read until some passage seems to stand out to you. Stop there and feed. This is where He is feeding that day! Pray over that scripture. Make it a prayer. Make it a confession. Think about that scripture throughout your day and ask God to speak to you from it.
- F. God's voice is connected to His words. If you want to hear His voice, go to His Word. If you find God's words you will hear His voice!
 - 1. **Ps. 23:2**- The green pasture and the still waters are connected and right by each other. Where God leads you to feed in His Word, He will also speak to you by his still small voice.