

Knowing God The Faithfulness of God- Week 9

God Time – Isaac Makes the Same Mistake

These scriptures are selected to help you gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. You can read them each day or listen to the daily audio that is sent to you. They are intentionally designed for you to engage in your time alone with God. You will find them complementary to the teachings on the weekend (gatherings) and to the LIFE Group materials.

Some tips:

Use a Bible that is easy to read. The ESV or The NLT are both good translations.

Use a prayer journal. After you read the passages jot down what “jumped out” at you while reading. Then take a few minutes to write a prayer response to what you have read.

There are only five days of reading provided, so if you miss a day, you have time to catch up. Do not get legalistic! If you miss a day or even a week, God still loves you!

Monday: 1 John 4:18

Tuesday: Psalms 56:11

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 1:7

Thursday: Job 13:15

Friday: Psalm 5:11

Diving Deeper

Knowing God's Faithfulness – Isaac Makes the Same Mistake

The Bible mentions two types of fear. The first is beneficial and is to be encouraged. The second type is a detriment and is to be overcome.

The first type of fear is the fear of the Lord. This does not necessarily mean to be afraid of something or someone. It is a reverential awe of God, a reverence for His power and glory. In other words, the fear of the Lord is a total acknowledgement of all that God is, which comes from knowing him and his attributes.

Fear of the Lord brings with it many blessings. It is the beginning of wisdom and leads to good understanding. (Psalm 111:10) Thus, one can see how fearing God should be encouraged however, the second kind of fear mentioned in the Bible is not beneficial. This is the "spirit of fear" mentioned in 2 Timothy 1:7. A spirit of fearfulness and timidity does not come from God.

However, sometimes we are afraid. Sometimes this spirit of fear overcomes us, and to overcome it we need to trust in and love God completely. (1 John 4:18) No one is perfect and God knows this. That is why he has encouraged us throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation to "Fear Not."

For example, Isaiah 41:10 says, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Often, we fear the future and what will become of us. But Jesus reminds us that God cares for the birds of the air, so how much more will he provide for his children. (Matthew 10:31) Just these few verses cover many types of fear. God tells us not to be afraid of being alone, of being too weak, of not being heard, and of lacking physical necessities.

In Psalm 56:11 the psalmist writes, "In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" This is an awesome testimony to the power of trusting in God. Regardless of what happens, the psalmist will trust in God because he knows and understand the power of God. The key to overcoming fear, then, is total and complete trust in God.

Trust God is a refusal to give in to fear. It is a turning to God even in the darkest

times and trusting him to make things right. This trust comes from knowing God and knowing that he is Good. As Job said when he was experiencing some of the most difficult trials recorded in the bible "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him." (Job 13:15)

Once we have learned to put our trust in God, we will no longer be afraid of the things that come against us. We will be like the psalmist who said with confidence "Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread you protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you." (Psalm 5:11)