

Do We Know Him? **- Ron Stullenbarger-**

Of all that God longs to reveal to us, His children, He most desires that we would simply come to know Him. Of all the great mysteries, truths, plans, and longings of His heart, He most desires that we would find all our satisfaction, joy, and purpose in relationship.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 describes this profound desire in the heart of God. *"Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."*

What greater knowledge is there than that of God? What greater pursuit exists than knowing the heart of our Creator, the God who would lay down His life to make Himself available to us? You and I can know God in deeper, more transformative ways than we can know anyone else. Through the blood of Christ, God has made Himself more available and nearer to us than we have yet to discover.

Psalm 46:10 is a powerful and incredible command of the Lord. Our heavenly Father says to us, *"Be still, and know that I am God."* In a world wrought with the hectic chaos of task after task, God says to us, *"Be still and simply know me."* In a world founded on the principles of earn and receive, God has an open invitation before us to know Him apart from any merit of our own. We can know God simply because He desires to be known. We can know God simply because He loves us right now, as we are.

More than God desires any work of our hands or any gifting He could place within us, He wants us to know Him. So often we get caught up in the works of the kingdom and forget that our chief purpose in life is simply to be enjoyed by God and to enjoy Him in return. This life is meant to be about relationship above all else. It's meant to be about continually encountering the heart of our heavenly Father that we so often live without.

Out of all that we know, may we know God Himself the best. Out of all the knowledge and wisdom we can gain from Scripture, may our highest pursuit be a true, intimate knowledge of its Author. Out of all the earth-shattering works set before us, may we know the God whom we serve. And at the end of our days, may our lives have been chiefly marked by a true, passionate, intimate relationship with our heavenly Father.