

# Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

Info: (651) 283-0568 Discipleship Training Ministries, Inc. [www.dtmwebsite.org](http://www.dtmwebsite.org) Today's Date: June 8, 2025

## Meeting People Meeting God

by Dan Trygg

"He made from one man every nation of humankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, <sup>27</sup> that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us..."

Acts 17:26-27

"This is the eternal life, ...in order that they may be-experientially-knowing You the only true God, and the One whom You sent, Jesus Christ."

John 17:3

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you"

Matthew 28:19-20

"We might consider one another unto a stirring-up of love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not abandoning our meeting-together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..."

Hebrews 10:24,25

"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful people who will be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2

In Matthew 22, Jesus identified what was the greatest commandment of all. It is to *love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength*. He went on to say, "**The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself**" (vss. 36-39). These represent the two greatest purposes for our lives here on planet earth. We are to pursue a love relationship with God, and with other people. Not just a "feel good" relationship, but a "love" (Gk. – *agapē*) that means "preferring that other person before ourselves." **We are to seek to know and prefer God with all we have, ...heart, soul, mind and strength..., and we are to be our brother or sister's keeper, ...to look out for their needs and interests, and serve them, even at cost to ourselves.**

When Paul was in Athens, he saw an inscription on an altar that said, "To The Unknown God". He used that inscription of dedication as a jumping off point to lay out the big picture of who God is, and what our purpose in life is. **God is the creator of the universe. He made the heavens, the earth, and everything in them. He also made humankind.** From one original individual, He initiated an entire human family that has spread across the globe. He has designated their prescribed times, and the fixed boundaries in which they would live. **There was an underlying purpose to all of this, "...that they might seek God, if indeed they might grope for Him and discover Him, though He is not far from each one of us..."** (Acts 17:23-27). **Coming to know God is the ultimate pursuit, and discovering Him opens up possibilities that can enliven and fulfill us as nothing else can.** Seeking Him, searching for and groping for Him is the "Great Quest". Discovering and encountering Him throws open the doors of fulfillment and potentiality as nothing else can. Yielding to Him in humility and obedience in response to His invitation, ushers you into a relationship that *is* LIFE! **Knowing Him is transformative.** You cannot truly experientially-know Him without being changed. We become like Aaron's rod that budded (Num. 17:1-8). It was a dead, lifeless stick from an almond tree. But one night in the Presence of God's glory caused it not only to sprout, but to put out branches and leaves, buds, blossoms and ripe almonds! In a similar way, Paul says that when we behold or ponder the "glory of the Lord" *we will be transformed* (*metamorphosis* – changed from the inside-out), from one degree of glory to another (2 Cor. 3:17,18).

**No one can really experientially-know God apart from His Son, Jesus** (Matt. 11:27; Lk. 10:22). In a similar fashion, no one can accurately perceive who Jesus is apart from the Father. **God draws us toward Himself, and makes Himself known through the person and actions of Jesus of Nazareth.** The Eternal Word of God came to live among us, so that He could reveal the Father. He was sent to provide the payment for our sin, and open the way for us to be reconciled to God. **In all the religions of the world, people grope toward knowing God,** or their conception of gods, and they try to become acceptable by their good works, self-discipline, or offering sacrifices. **In Jesus, God came to us, and opened the way for us to know Him.** His grace provided the sacrifice, and extended the offer of reconciliation to any and all who would trust in Him. Jesus was the plain manifestation of God's heart, and the objective historical payment for human sin. He is the Way to God, the Truth of God, and the Life from God. **To those who believe in Him, God promises that He will give them "eternal life"** (Jn. 3:16; 5:24), **...right then!** To those who take Jesus as their Lord, He will cause them to become children of God (Jn. 1:12). **But notice what "eternal life" is for,** according to John 17:3 – "This is eternal life *in order that* they might know God and Jesus Christ." **Eternal life is not the goal, or the end point, ...it is the beginning of a process of experientially-coming-to-know God.** It gives us the ability to recognize Him in our lives, and begin to be sensitive to His leadings. **It is like a blind person who has been given sight. Those who have chosen Christ have had their spiritual eyes, ears, and hearts opened toward God.** Now we are finally able to have a real relationship with Him. Now the quest to know Him has opened up in a new way. But we have to press in, ...to go deeper. **God is calling us to know Him better. We are to prefer Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

**Eternal life is literally “age-type life”,** or life of the Age-to-Come. (The word for “eternal” [aiōnion] is an adjective form of the word for “age” [aiōn].) **It is Kingdom-life.** We live in a time of two ages that overlap. **From the time of Adam’s sin, there was a shadow of evil and death that corrupted the world, and the hearts of people.** Paul described this as **“the present evil age”** (Gal. 1:4). John the Baptist, and Jesus, proclaimed that the Kingdom of God was “at hand”. John *prophesied* of its coming, ...Jesus *demonstrated its presence in Him* through His miracles, and especially in His resurrection. **Jesus initiated the New Age of the Kingdom of Heaven.** Those of us who are born from above, have been transferred from the dominion of darkness into the Kingdom of God’s Son (Col. 1:13). **We have received the LIFE of the Kingdom, ...the LIFE of the Age to Come..., at this present time. We have been enlivened by the LIFE of God.** “The testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life” (1 Jn. 5:11,12). **This life,** which was manifested in Jesus, and has come into us through the Holy Spirit, **is the basis for our shared life with the Father and the Son.** It is the basis of our oneness with God (Jn. 17:20-23), **as well as for our fellowship, or our shared-life, with one another** (1 Jn. 1:1-3).

As we look back to Genesis, we see that **the effect of sin was not only a broken relationship with God, and a sense of inner emptiness, but it also spilled over into relationships with others.** Blame, jealousy, and even murder soon became evident. Dishonoring God and disregarding one another were the fruit that sin produced. **From the beginning, these two areas of concern, ...relationship with God, and relationship with others..., were highlighted.** Cain’s sarcastic question, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” struck at the heart of our responsibility to care for others.

**So, it should not be surprising to find that salvation will bring LIFE into both these areas. LIFE comes from God, fills the seeker, and spills over into the lives of others as LOVE.**

**Those who love God, ...who prefer Him before all else, with all their heart, soul, mind and strength..., will find Him who is LIFE.** They discover that *their greatest treasure, their highest blessing, is in knowing Him and being filled with His life.* As they yield more and more of themselves to Him, He is able to enliven and transform them. **As they ponder Him, they are transformed into His wonderful likeness.** His radiance fills them with light and life, and they can’t help but want to radiate His beauty into the hearts of those who are needy and desperate. **The LIFE of God is like a fountain of grace and Christlikeness that fills and overflows.** It produces fruit that is liberating, joyful and naturally concerned for others. **LIFE produces LOVE, ...and the LOVE is the mark of JESUS in a person’s life!**

**It is LOVE that compels us to share the good news of God’s grace that opens the way to know Him.** Because *His heart fills our hearts, we want to direct others to the Treasure beyond all treasures: Knowing God.* Because we have tasted and seen, ...because we have been touched by His LIFE..., our hearts resonate with His. We want to share His love with others. **We want to call others to follow, to pursue, to seek, to learn by experience, to be transformed by His LIFE,** as we are being changed. **We find ourselves seeing the world and people differently.** We no longer look at them *as they appear.* We see them *as they could be,* ...if they would be yielded to Christ, and would no longer live for themselves, but for Him (2 Cor. 5:14-17). **The LIFE of God in us becomes the LOVE of God for others.** We discover new motivations and new aspirations. **Because we prefer God, we want what He wants, ...and He wants to reach other people through us.** We experience the stirrings of the Spirit interceding for those around us, and appealing to them through our lives, witness, and love for them. We become ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20).

**We begin to appreciate how vital it is for every believer to experientially-know God and be transformed.** A hypocritical and fleshly church is a stumbling block that confuses people, and hinders the gospel. **God has called us into faith communities where we can encourage others to go deeper. We must remind each other to keep the Main Thing the MAIN thing!** As disciples, we are to be seekers, followers, active pursuers of intimacy with God, and willing participants in His Kingdom work. **HE is the Source. HE is our LIFE. When HE is our first love, obedience comes easy. When HE is our first love, His reciprocal love will FILL us, TRANSFORM us, and IMPEL us to love others.**

**Our job, as the church, the family of faith, is to keep pointing one another toward HIM.** He is the Vine, we are just branches. **Our fruitfulness comes as we learn to receive our LIFE from Him, and go with His prompting** (Jn. 15:4,5). We tend to overthink it. We try to “make things happen”. That only leads to frustration. **Kingdom growth is from the inside-out. God has already made us new. There is a new life inside of us already.** It is the life of the Age-to-Come within our here-and-now selves. **As we learn to expect, watch and listen for the leading of the Spirit, and pay attention to what God is doing around us, we will discover that He will enable us to accomplish His will.** We are to be mindful of one another, ...thinking about, pondering and praying for one another..., asking God how we might encourage and stimulate one another to love and good deeds. **We can speak faith-building words of truth into one another’s lives, ...to keep us going back to the Source, and to keep us engaged in responding to His leading.**

**Meeting God is the MAIN thing.** It is in God-encounters, God-revelations, and God-infusions that we are enlivened and transformed. **God has called us to meet others, to challenge them to pursue Him.** Discipleship is meeting with people to encourage them as they pursue meeting God. **We are to invest in people to train them to challenge others to be God-pursuers, and to pass along this discipleship vision to their trainees: Meeting People Meeting God** (2 Tim. 2:2).