

Rooted

To Gain Christ
Psalm 27:8
October 18, 2015

Discipleship: training in Christ-likeness.

I. SEEK HIS FACE

- God sends out the call to seek him to many; it is up to the individual to respond (Deut. 4:29; Prov. 8:17; Jer. 29:12-13).
- Those who turn their back on God turn aside to foolishness and folly (Prov. 1:20-23, 32).

II. EVERYTHING AS LOSS

- Paul had a proud heritage and great credentials (Phil. 3:2-6).
- Paul willingly left it all behind in order to pursue Christ and to be found in him (Phil. 3:7-9).
- In spite of Paul's exemplary past, he knew that the only way to be found in Christ was to know the righteousness that comes from God (Phil. 3:9; Rom. 8:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:21).

III. A PASSION TO KNOW GOD

- A desire to seek God always results in finding and knowing him (Prov. 8:17).
- To know God is to desire to see him, to pursue him even when he seems far away (Ps. 13:1-6; 27:9-11).
- God's call in Christ is for you to come to him (Matt. 11:27-29; Mark 1:17).

KNOW: God is found by those who seek him. Those who do not care to find him find folly instead.

DO: Seek to know God.

Suggested Reading:

God's Passion for His Glory, by John Piper

The Pursuit of Holiness, by Jerry Bridges

A Passion for God: The Spiritual Journey of A.W. Tozer, by Lyle Dorsett

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Psalm 27:8 & Philippians 3:7-11

1. The Psalmist says, "My heart says to you, your face, Lord, do I seek." The desire is emotive, not intellectual. How do we acquire that desire?
2. If the desire is a heart desire, what role does our intellect play in our pursuit of God?
3. Paul talks about sharing in Christ's sufferings as part of knowing him. What does suffering have to do with knowing Christ?
4. What makes it so hard for us to actually pursue God? What is aligned against this desire or passion?
5. How should we think about those who claim to know Christ but show no desire to grow in their knowledge or experience of him?
6. Read Joshua 24:14-15. How do Joshua's words challenge you? How do they demonstrate his desire to know God?