

March 12, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

Knowing God

How well do you know God?

Knowing God is the best thing you can put your heart to....

Knowing God leads to Freedom!

Boasting in God is Courage
Courage Courage
Courage Courage Courage
Courage
Courage
Courage

KNOWING GOD

How well do you know God? Do you boast in knowing Him?

Check this out, this is powerful stuff!

Jeremiah 9:23-24

23 This is what the Lord says:

Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
or the strong man boast of his strength
or the rich man boast of his riches,

24 but let him who boasts boast about this: ***that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the Lord.***

Wow, would that not be cool to boast in knowing God. I mean for us to be known as people who know God and that being the most important thing that defines us.

It seems like it would be a hard thing, but is it really? Would God make it hard to know Him, would God make it hard to have Him be the thing that we boast of?

I think we need to ask what do we boast of and what do we say identifies us?

It's like devotion, what we are devoted to is what we will know the most about!

When we love God with all that we are then we are learning new things about Him everyday and we are knowing Him in a real way. What we love the most about ourselves is what we will boast about. Boasting about God is knowing Him and letting Him be the biggest thing in our lives.

David knew God and knew Him in a real life way. So when it came time for him to face Goliath he knew that God had his back. He declared to Goliath that God would have the victory that day! That God would be known by the actions of a small shepherd boy!

Knowing God is a big part of courage, when we know God we can have courage that He will never ever leave us or let us fall. We have to know God to make it in this life we have to know God better than we know ourselves! Cont. pg. 3

KNOWING GOD

So where are you at? Do you know a lot about God or do you really know God? Many people know a lot about God but they do not really know God....

Knowing God is about knowledge and experiencing God everyday!

Knowing Who God is will keep us close to Him

"Beautiful Ending" / Barlow Girls

Oh tragedy has taken so many
Love lost cause it all forgot who you were
And it scares me to think that I would choose
My life over you
Oh my selfish heart
Divides me from you
It tears us apart

So tell me what is our ending
Will it be beautiful
So beautiful

Oh why do I let myself let go
Of hands that painted the stars and holds tears that fall
And the pride of my heart makes me forget
It's not me but you
Who makes the heart beat
I'm lost without you
You're dying for me

So tell me what is our ending
Will it be beautiful
So beautiful
Will my life find me by your side
Your love is beautiful
So beautiful

At the end of it all I wanna be in your arms [x4]

So tell me what is our ending
Will it be beautiful
So beautiful
Will my life find me by your side
Cause your love is beautiful
So beautiful



This song is featured on the Beautiful Ending album by Barlow Girl

COURAGE

At The XGT Experience

Thinking about how we can each have enough courage to share about God with our friends or even boast to our friends that God is real. It is a pretty tall order and it takes courage. What about Tuesday nights at The XGT Experience? How often do you boast about God in that environment. I mean everyone there is there because they have a connection with God or they are curious about God. So why don't we talk Him up more there when we are in a non hostile environment? Get ready for it cause that is what we are going to start doing. We need to practice boasting about what God does in our lives each week. We need to boast about God where it is safe and the more we do that the more courage will come our way and we will boast about God to everyone!

Knowing God cont.

Lets take a closer look at the verses for Jeremiah 9 and see what we can learn about boasting in God. In verse 23 we learn what we are not to boast about, Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches.

Okay so how many of us boast about being wise?
Or about being strong?
What about it who boast about all the money they have made by middle school?
What no one?
Okay lets bring it down to your world.
Who boast about their grades?
Who boast about their I phones?
Who boast about how good they are at sports?

Pick it anything at all what do you boast about?
Oh yeah here is the definition of Boast:
Verb
Talk with excessive pride and self-satisfaction about one's achievements, possessions, or abilities.

Noun
An act of talking with excessive pride and self-satisfaction.

Synonyms
verb.
brag - vaunt - swagger - talk big
noun.
brag - vaunt - pride - ostentation - bragging - swank

Think About it

What we boast about is what we put our confidence in. What do you put your confidence in?

David meet and faced many giants in his life and each time he put his confidence in God and David came out on top because his strength and courage was in God and not himself!
Boast in God!

Okay I am sure that it all makes more sense to you now. I mean when I look at the definition I can think of so many things that I boast in. I am convicted and I am looking for a place to hide. Cause I boast in so many things before I ever boast in knowing God. If you have seen me play foosball, you know that I can be a little boastful. So what does being boastful have to do with knowing God? Lets see what the next verse says.

Verse 24 but let him who boasts boast about this: ***that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the Lord.***

Wow God is saying if we know Him then He will be the only thing that we will want to boast about. God is not self-centered, He just sees the big picture. Our enemies and the things that seek to destroy our lives, are not scared of us one bit. They are on the other hand very frightened by God and His might. He is the power source for courage and living life with freedom!

When we boast in ourselves and our own abilities, we are inviting the enemy to come and pick a fight with us, cause we just don't have what it takes to stand up to them. We get our strength and our courage from God! When we boast about all that God does for us and through us we are in the place to handle any fight that comes our way! When we boast about knowing God and the qualities that make God, God then we have a deep knowledge and relationship with God!

It is easy to boast about the things that make us, us but what we need to do is change the way that we think, and realize that it is God Himself who makes us, us. Boasting about yourself does not really attract people to you, it makes us feel strong but in the end it only drives people away. When we boast about God it draws us closer to God and attracts people to us and it draws people to God. Think about it; isn't the big picture about being close to God and leading others to be close to God. Boast in God!



BOASTING IN GOD

Take a moment to think about the concept of boasting in God.. Use these questions to help you apply what you've just heard to your life.

What does God say we should not boast in?

What does God say we should boast in?

What do you boast or brag the most about when it comes to your own abilities?
(Having trouble answering the question ask a good friend they will know)

Why do you think you boast in those things?

Think of at least five things that you could boast in God about (things that have affected your life)

If you boast about God how will that give you courage?

STEP ONE:

Know who God is.

STEP TWO:

Boast in God, give Him the credit for all that He does

STEP THREE:

Courage comes when we give the source (God) the credit. We know God more as we see all that He is doing in our lives daily!

MODERN EXTREMES

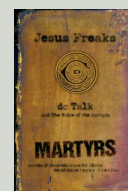
"God Will Give Me Strength" Rowland Taylor England 1555

"Rowland, don't go his friends urged. "You have done your duty. You have testified to the truth and resisted the priest when he tried to bring again his idolatry. Our Savior Christ told us that when they persecute us in one city, we should flee into another. Keep yourself for another time, when the Church shall have great need of such diligent teachers and godly pastors. Dr. Taylor replied, "God will not forsake His Church. He will raise up others to teach His people. "As for me, I believe, before God, I shall never be able to do God so good service, as I may do now; nor shall I ever have so glorious a calling as I now have, nor so great mercy of God offered to me, as now. So I ask you, and all other of my friends, to pray for me; and I know God will give me strength and His Holy Spirit." By the mid 1500s, the Bible had been translated into English. The town of Hadley was one of the first places to receive the Word of God in all of England. Here, many had often read the whole Bible through and followed God's Word in their living. But when King Edward died, freedom of religion took a giant step backward. Dr. Rowland Taylor, pastor of Hadley, bravely challenged those who tried to force believers back into the Dark Ages of superstition and idolatry. For this, he was ordered to appear before the bishop and Lord Chancellor. "I am old and have already lived too long to see these terrible and most wicked days," he told his friends. "You do as your conscience leads you. I am fully determined with God's grace to go to the bishop. I am not expecting justice or truth, but imprisonment and cruel death. Yet I know my cause to be good and righteous and the truth are strong upon my side." With these words,

he willingly went to London where, as predicted, he was accused as a heretic and thrown into prison. After two years, he was again brought before the bishops and given a chance to change his stand. He answered boldly, "I will not depart from the truth which they had preached in King Edward's days. I thank God for calling me to be worthy to suffer for His Word and truth. When the bishops saw him so boldly, constantly, and immovably fixed in the truth, they sentenced him to death. He was immediately sent back to his home town of Hadley to be burned at the stake. Along the way he was so joyful and merry that anyone watching would have thought he was going to a banquet or a wedding. His words to his guards often caused them to weep as he earnestly called them to repent from their evil and wicked living. They marveled to see him so steadfast, fearless, joyful, and glad to die. Two miles out of town, he got off his horse and did a little dance, he was so glad to be close to home. He then prayed, "Thank You, Lord, that once more I will see my flock, whom I have most heartily loved and truly taught. Bless them and keep them steadfast in Your Word and truth." He had to pass through the town to get to the place of execution. On either side of the street were women and men, weeping and crying. "Ah, Lord! There goes our good shepherd, who so faithfully taught us, cared for us, and governed us. O merciful God! What shall we poor, scattered lambs do? What shall come of this most wicked world? Lord, strengthen him and comfort him." When they reached the place where he would be burned, Dr. Taylor said to all gathered there, "I have taught you nothing but God's holy Word and those lessons that I

have taken out of God's blessed book, the holy Bible. I am come here this day to seal it with my blood." As he knelt down and prayed, a poor woman stepped in and prayed with him; but they pushed her away and threatened to trample her with the horses. Even so, she would not leave, but stayed and prayed with him. He went to the stake, kissed it, and stood against it, with his hands folded together and his eyes toward heaven. And so he continually prayed. They bound him with chains, and several men put the sticks in place, one cruelly throwing a bundle of sticks at Dr. Taylor, so that it hit him on the head, and made blood run down his face. He said, "O friend, I have harm enough; why did you need to do that?" At last they lit the fire. Dr. Taylor held up both his hands and called upon God, saying, "Merciful Father of heaven, for Jesus Christ my Savior's sake, receive my soul into Thy hands." He stood in the flames without either crying or moving, his hands folded together. To spare him further suffering, a man from the town ran towards the fire and struck him on the head with a long-handled battle ax. Taylor died instantly, his corpse falling into the fire.

A Jesus Freak never faces his problems alone, God's Holy Spirit is always there to give him comfort, strength, and hope. Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, and I am pleased with him. I have put my Spirit upon him. Isaiah 42:1 NLT



Featured Story
from the book
Jesus Freaks do
Talk and the
voice of the
Martyrs



Living life with
Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

**EXTREME FAITH
MAGAZINE**

A product of XGT and CCAspen

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.