

REAL Discipleship in a REAL World
Week Three – Experiencing God

How can we Experience God?

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other. (John 15:1-17)

1. We Experience God because of His love.

"This is my son, whom I am well pleased!" (Matthew 3:17)

2. We Experience God by our fruit.

To be MORE like Jesus, be MORE led by Jesus, and to lead MORE people to Jesus.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-25)

3. We Experience God by bringing glory to Him.

How can we Practically Experience God Every Day?

1. We experience God through our time.

Feelings of loneliness dropped 30%,
Anger issues dropped 32%,
Bitterness in relationships dropped 40%,
Alcoholism dropped 57%,
Sex outside of marriage dropped 68%,
Feeling spiritually stagnant dropped 60%,
Viewing pornography dropped 61%,
Sharing faith with others jumped 200%,
Practicing the “One Another Commandments of Jesus” jumped 230%.

2. We experience God through our talents.

3. We experience God through our treasures.

a. Why should we be generous?

1. Fuels ministry.
2. Fuels generosity.
3. Fuels faith.

Personal Reflections:

1. Share a story of experiencing God’s love for the first time. How did God’s love impact you?
2. What does it mean to you to be generous (with your time, talents, and treasures) at VCPC?
3. How can you get involved and serve others at VCPC (in 2024)?

News and Notes

Next Sunday, Feb. 4, Pastor Elyse Yu Brouwer is speaking (at both services)
February 18, Vision Update by Pastor Andy
March 3, Annual Business General Meeting
June 2, 75th Anniversary Sunday
Every Tuesday, Join Pastor Andy for a Mentoring Moment at VCPC from 11am-noon.