

# *Secrets of the Abundant Life-5*

## *The Secret of Loving is Knowing*

**TEXT: John 10:10; John 15:8, 4, 10; 14:15; 1 John 4:8**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. OUR PREVIOUS LESSONS HAVE DEALT WITH ABUNDANT LIVING
  - a. The secret of living is bearing fruit( **John 15:8** ).
  - b. The secret of bearing fruit is abiding( **John 15:5** ).
  - c. The secret of abiding is obeying( **John 15:10** ).
  - d. The secret of obeying is loving( **John 14:15** ).
- B. WHAT IS THE SECRET OF LOVING?

### **I. THE SECRET OF LOVING IS KNOWING.**

- A. THIS TRUTH DEMONSTRATED IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS.
  - 1. Husband and wife, Friendships.
  - 2. Love of the brethren comes from knowing our brethren.
- B. SO IT IS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND JESUS.
  - 1. Especially when we understand Their love for us( **John 3:16; 1 John 3:16** ).
  - 2. Only those who know God can truly love both man and God( **1 John 4:8** ).
- C. KNOWING GOD IS THE FIRST STEP IN ABUNDANT LIVING.
  - 1. By knowing God, we come to love Him
  - 2. By loving Him, we will obey Him
  - 3. By obeying Him, we will abide in Him
  - 4. By abiding in Him, we will bear fruit.
  - 5. By bearing fruit, we will experience the joys of abundant living.

### **II. THE KEY TO KNOWING GOD.**

- A. WE COME TO KNOW GOD THROUGH COMMUNICATION.
  - 1. Is this not true in our human relationships?
  - 2. Communication with God is a two-street.
    - a. He speaks to us through the Bible  
( **2 Pet. 1:21; John 16:12-13; 1 Cor. 14:37** ).
    - b. And we speak to God through prayer( **Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Thess. 5:17-18** ).
  - 3. Reading the Bible and praying to God can lead one to "the abundant life."
    - a. The value of God's Word in bearing fruit is described in **Psa. 1:1-3**.
    - b. The value of prayer was taught by Jesus in **Matt. 7:7-11**.
- B. WE ALSO COME TO KNOW GOD THROUGH EXPERIENCE.
  - 1. God keeps promises( **2 Tim 2:11-13; Neh 9:7-8** ).
  - 2. Together with God we accomplish work( **Phil. 2:12-16; 4:13; Jas. 5:19-20** ).
  - 3. Trusting God we have peace of mind and comfort( **Phil. 4:4-7; 2 Col. 1:1-5** ).
  - 4. Fellowship and faithfulness bring about strength of character( **2 Pet. 1:3-8** ).
  - 5. Through Jesus we live a transformed life( **1 Cor. 6:9-11; Heb. 2:14-15** ).
  - 6. Love and strength from the Lord( **Eph. 3:14-19** ).
- C. SUCH KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE CREATE IN US A DEEPER DEPENDENCE AND A GREATER LOVE( **Psa. 116:1-2** ).

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. THE ROAD TO AN ABUNDANT LIFE CAN BE FOUND IN THE BIBLE.
- B. WHY NOT ENJOY THE ABUNDANT LIFE JESUS OFFERS?
  - 1. Give yourself a chance to know God by reading His Word.
  - 2. Knowing God is the most important thing in life( **Jer. 9:23-24** ).
    - a. For to know God is to love Him
    - b. To love God is to obey Him
    - c. To obey Him is to abide in Him
    - d. To abide in Him is to bear fruit for Him
    - e. To bear fruit is to experience "the abundant life" the Vine offers.
- C. IF YOU KNOW OF HIS LOVE FOR YOU, HAVE YOU OBEYED?  
( **Mark 16:15-16; Heb. 5:9** ).