



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Knowing God

SPEAKER Ps Andrew Tan

THEME Knowing and Experiencing God

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

SOURCES OF POWER

Power comes in different forms and from various sources. The source of power we are plugged into will change the way we live our lives. But we have to be aware of its presence, before we can know how to be plugged in to it.

In applying this to our spiritual lives, we need to know God, and draw from our knowledge and experience of Him. Ps Andrew uses the text from 2 Peter 1:1-4, to illustrate to us how God intends for us to live in total dependence and reliance on His power.

HOW TO FOCUS?

"This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to you who share the same precious faith we have. This faith was given to you because of the justice and fairness of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior." 2 Peter 1:1 (NLT)

The identity of Simon Peter

Simon Peter was one of the three men who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (2 Peter 1:16-18). He was a slave of Christ, above all his other identities. This translated to a position of complete obedience to his master, Christ Jesus, he and served the Lord regardless of the cost and any inconvenience (2 Peter 1:14-15).

A faith that comes from God

There is no distinction in the faith that Peter had and the faith we have; no one is lesser or greater in God's economy. We are all sinners who have fallen short of the glory of God, and only the justification that comes from the cross can give us the faith that we need to carry on this journey as believers.

"May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord." 2 Peter 1:2 (NLT)

The source of peace and grace

On top of faith, the grace and peace we receive is from an external source that is God. It is not accorded to us by nature or by right, but instead we receive it from a position of privilege, rather than from a position of entitlement.

Growth in the knowledge of God

We can continuously grow in the knowledge and of the character of God as we discover His goodness. Our goal as believers should always be to grow in our heart knowledge alongside head knowledge of Him, so that we may experience Him in greater depths of intimacy. All these add upon each other. In doing so, we are assured to know and experience His divine power.

“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.” 2 Peter 1:3 (NLT)

Everything that we need

God, in all of His goodness, has given us His one and only begotten son – Jesus, the everything we need. This divine power that comes from God was present in the past, present and future. The gift of Jesus to us is more than enough to live a godly life.

The godly life supersedes a good life

Ps Andrew also highlighted that a godly life is different from a good life. On top of having good character, a godly life includes having a steadfast devotion to God to reflect the very character of God. The devotion to God is the key motivation for good behaviour, a behaviour that please God.

“And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.” 2 Peter 1:4 (NLT)

The nature of His promises

God’s promises are found in the Word of God, and they are great because of how great the giver is. We are promised to inherit His promises in accordance to His knowledge of what is best for us. The fulfilment of His promises is never late; we have to press in with hope and anchor ourselves in our knowledge of Him, even if it may seem that it has been long overdue.

In being Christ-like

Our concept of God and our relationship with Him determines our conduct. The way to escape the corruption of the world is not by trying harder, but by knowing who Jesus is and letting the divine power of GOD and the precious promises from the Word of God transform us. In doing so, we will share His divine nature.

CONCLUSION

Ps Andrew reminded that every true Christian has access to all the divine power needed to live in godliness through the grace and peace that come from God’s many wonderful promises. He has done all that is needed for us to become Christ-like. Our application and response should be to learn to tap into the power source to do so, through spending time with Him, and getting into His word to learn of Him, to talk to Him in prayer.

QUESTIONS

1. How do you introduce yourself when you meet somebody new? What are the different ways that you introduce yourself in various settings?

2. In your own words, what sets apart a good life from a *godly* life?

3. What was a promise that God has fulfilled in your life? Reflect on the goodness of God and share with the group His faithfulness. OR what is a promise that the Lord has *yet to fulfil* in your life. Share your faith journey with regards to that.