

**SERMON NOTES SERIES**  
**PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES**

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*Progressive  
Faith*



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**SENIOR PASTOR**

Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9).*** I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,  
Pastor John

## RESOURCES USED

- \* The Companion Bible
- \* Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- \* Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- \* A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- \* Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- \* The American College Dictionary
- \* World's Bible Handbook
- \* The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- \* Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- \* The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- \* God's Plan For Man
- \* Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- \* Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- \* Manners And Customs From the Bible
- \* What The Bible Is All About
- \* Halley's Bible Handbook

*These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!*

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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## OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

*Hosea 4:6*

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

*Proverbs 23:7*

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

*Colossians 1:9*

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

*Proverbs 24:3-5*

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

*Mark 13:10*

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,  
*John and Karen Pelizzari*

## PROGRESSIVE FAITH

**2 Peter 1:1**      **Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:**

1. The Apostle Peter is writing a letter that seems to address a certain group of believers. Those who have **obtained like precious faith**.

**2 Peter 1:1 (MSG)**      **I, Simon Peter, am a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ. I write this to you whose experience with God is as life-changing as ours, all due to our God's straight dealing and the intervention of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

2. He's addressing those whose **experience with God is as life-changing as ours**.
3. Please understand that you can have an experience with God and it didn't change your life.
  - a. A lot of church folks never get past being “*just saved*.”

- b. These are the ones who have the same problems today as they did when they first got saved...nothing's changed.
- c. Or things changed for a while but they eventually slipped back into the same old ways.
- d. How can you tell if you have grown spiritually?

**2 Peter 1:2      Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,**

- 4. Two things will be evident:
- #1. **You will walk in grace** - meaning, you no longer have a low tolerance of people and their problems.
- 5. When people get on your nerves, you are able to understand that you have been placed in their life to help them, not criticize them.
- 6. As a person of grace, your tolerance towards people who treat you ugly is the way that Jesus treated those who betrayed Him; He still loved them and called them friend, just like He did with Judas.
- #2. **You walk in peace** - meaning that you have grown beyond the point where people and their behaviors and attitudes do not cause you to react to their behaviors and attitudes.
  - a. Situations and circumstances do not affect the way that you see God.

- b. Pressure, trials and tribulations do not remove your peace.
- 7. Notice how this place of maturity comes to you, in two distinct ways...it is multiplied, meaning it grows:
  - #1. **Through the knowledge of God** - meaning you begin to see God the Father as a loving Dad (Abba), not One who is the cause of all your problems. You see God as the author of grace, because you could have never earned the goodness that he has poured out on mankind.
  - #2. **Through the knowledge of Jesus our Lord**- meaning that you come to a place where you truly believe that everything Jesus did and promised that you could have will come to pass. That is what promotes the peace that He promised that He left for you to enjoy.
- 8. So there are four things so far that is a mark of maturity in the life of a believer:
  - a. You walk in grace.
  - b. You walk in peace.
  - c. You know God as your Father.
  - d. You know Jesus did what He did for you.

**2 Peter 1:3      According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain**

**unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**

9. This is where I want to take you today. All we could ever need or want already belongs to you.
  - a. But it also shows why most people still doubt God's desire to bless us.
10. This verse tells us that **all things that pertain unto life and godliness** are given to us **through the knowledge of God**.
11. So knowledge of God's word is a key ingredient to getting everything you could ever need or want.
  - a. But we have been taught that all we need is faith.

**Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

12. If faith comes by hearing the Word of God, then knowledge also comes by hearing the Word of God.
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**That means the amount of faith that you operate in is in direct proportion to the knowledge that you have obtained from being in His Word.**

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13. Most church folks have difficulty living by faith.

- a. Weak faith probably means you are only in the Word once a week, and that is probably when you're being spoon fed by your pastor on Sunday mornings.
    - b. Little faith shows that you spend little time in the Bible.
  14. That is because they either don't have the real knowledge of God's Word in them, or they have let the Word slip and be choked by the knowledge of the world.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**
15. Fear comes through carnal knowledge (your old worldly way of thinking).
  16. Faith and everything that you will ever need to make it in this life comes through godly knowledge.
    - a. When you are afraid that the outcome will be negative, then the spirit of fear is tormenting your mind.
    - b. Peace is absent and God's grace is being doubted that He will come through.
  17. Most church folks have more knowledge on how to operate in satan's system.

18. They are lacking in the knowledge it takes to prosper in God's system.

- a. So, it is not really a faith problem, but a lack of knowing the Word.

**Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,**

19. Faith is a part of the fruit of the Spirit.

20. Have you ever seen a plant struggle to bring forth fruit?

21. Have you ever heard a grape vine moan negatively, cuss or groan sarcastically and complain about how hard it is to produce grapes?

- a. Of course not...why?

22. It's the nature of a vine to produce grapes.

23. If the vine is protected and given nourishment, it will automatically produce fruit, unless it's starved or attacked by some outside force.

**John 15:5-7 [5] I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. [6] If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men**

**gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. [7] If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

24. Faith will automatically be the by-product of you abiding (staying, reading, praying, thinking, talking, attending, serving) in the Word.

**John 15:5-7 (NLT)**

**[5] "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. [6] Anyone who parts from me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. [7] But if you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted!**

25. Notice verse 7...**you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted!**

- a. When you have knowledge of that, then your faith can obtain that.

- b. That is how you get everything you need and want that has to do with this life.

**John 15:5-7 (MSG)** [5] "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. [6] Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. [7] But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.

26. The problem is that the knowledge of God's Word has not been abiding in us like it should.

- a. Or the carnal knowledge of the world has choked the Word of God that was there.

b. **Matthew 6:24** **No man can serve two masters...**

27. Who is the master of your thoughts? Who do you usually submit to first?

- a. The spirit of fear which brings torment?
- b. Or the Holy Ghost, which brings peace?

**James 1:7-8** [7] **For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. [8] A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**

28. Your double mindedness has robbed you from receiving from God.

**James 1:7-8 (NLT)** [7] **People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. [8] They can't make up their minds. They waver back and forth in everything they do.**

29. Notice that satan has nothing to do with it. You must choose who and what to believe.

**James 1:7-8 (MSG)** [7] **Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, [8] adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.**

30. If you have a "Plan B" in case God doesn't come through, you're double minded.

**Romans 8:6** **For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

31. There are two types of knowledge. One produces death, the other brings life.

**Romans 8:6 (NLT) If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace.**

32. Comparing your present situation to your past experiences is what satan taught you to do with your mind when you were in the world.
33. Comparing your present situation in light of what the Word says means you are allowing the Holy Spirit to renew your mind.
34. If we missing life and peace, it is because we are being carnally minded.
35. You cannot have life and peace without the knowledge of God.
36. Under the same token, you cannot experience any form of death without the knowledge of the devil and his system.
37. The carnal knowledge is how satan messes with us. How does he pull it off?

**Hebrews 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.**

38. This is talking about Abraham following God into the promised land.

39. It means if Abraham kept looking at the past and comparing it to some of the challenges that they were facing, he might have been tempted to return where they came from.
  - a. All this isn't worth it.
  - b. When are we going to get there?
  - c. Why does it have to be so hard?
  - d. I don't see anything different.
40. But Abraham refused to think on satan's knowledge, so he couldn't be tempted to turn back.
41. Our minds have already been grounded in the knowledge of this world, so it is impossible to just cast that carnal mind out.
  - a. So what must you do?

**Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

42. You have to actively get involved in renewing your mind.

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5 [4] (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the**

**pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

43. Your mind is similar to a computer. It simply acts upon the knowledge put into it.
  - a. Satan relies on your ignorance of the Word.
  - b. He makes your life busy to stay out of it.
44. He attacks your knowledge through imaginations and thoughts that are designed to be in a higher place in your mind than God's Word. .

**2 Corinthians 10:5 (MSG)**

**W e u s e o u r powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.**

45. If all you have are loose thoughts, uncontrolled emotions and impulsivity, then all you can ever be is carnal.
46. But if you can reprogram yourself with the Word of God, knowledge comes, faith increases and it manifests all that you could ever need or want.
47. If you have been born again, you have already been given faith as a part of the fruit of the Spirit.
  - a. So you can live a faith filled life.
48. You can't live by faith if you don't have knowledge of the laws that govern faith.

**Hosea 4:6**

**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.**

49. The number one killer of people who call themselves Christian is a lack of knowledge.
  - a. That's why they can become lukewarm and not even realize it.
  - b. That's why they can backslide and walk away from God.

- c. That's why we can get mad, offended, disappointed or hurt by God.

**Philippians 2:12**      **Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

50. The knowledge of God and how faith works is hidden *for* you, not *from* you, in the Word of God.
51. But you have to work at it. Remember **the amount of faith that you operate in is in direct proportion to the knowledge that you have obtained from being in His Word.**
52. That determines your lifestyle, not your bank account.

**Joshua 1:8**      **This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

53. Your success is tied to your knowledge of God's Word.

**Colossians 1:9**      **For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

54. This has been my prayer since the day we were told to start this church.
- a. That you **be filled with the knowledge of his will.**
- b. That you will obtain **all wisdom.**
- c. And that you will have **spiritual understanding.**

**Colossians 1:9 (MSG)**      **Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven't stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works.**

55. **The amount of faith that you operate in is in direct proportion to the knowledge that you have obtained from being in His Word.**

**ALTAR CALL:**

1. Be filled with the knowledge of His will = spirits attuned to His will.
2. All wisdom = wise minds.
3. Spiritual understanding = understanding how God works.

**E N D**