

Trying to Understand the Deep Things of God

Sermon Title: **Trying to Understand the Deep Things of God**

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Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word!

And today, I am going to be talking from the subject of trying to understand the deep things of God and many of you have gone through experiences and you have gone through spiritual experiences. You have gone through dreams of prophetic experiences and there is some stuff that happened that you do not understand and when I first heard the voice of God years ago, I remember, I was in my car and I heard a voice speaking. I was getting ready to go the next day to go with a friend of mine to an auction of some town homes, we had never bought a house and I was going with them to try to coach and to guide him to help him to get his first home, and I remember clearly what I heard, simply the line, "You will own seven of those units." It was the first time I had ever heard the voice of God and actually at the time what I call—it was just a voice because I did not know who it was.

I went to the auction and after everything happened and cleared, I ended up owning seven of those units. The first time I heard the voice of God, it was just as clear, everything happened exactly as He said. I understood it completely, but after that, many of the other things that happened; it took me a while to understand. I will give you an example. Many of you know that we used to own a resort in Alabama called Cayden Woods. We bought Cayden Wood, it was in foreclosure. With foreclosure, you have—we bought it in foreclosure, but the former owner has a year to redeem it and as the year was almost up, the owner came and he said, he was going to redeem the property so it looks like we were going to lose Cayden Wood and I prayed and I asked God, "Lord, we would be losing it." And He said, "Yes, you are going to lose Cayden Wood." Well the man did not redeem it and we ended up keeping it and I said, "Wait a minute, God. Did you not tell me we were going to lose it?" He said, "Yes, but not for ten years."

Ten years almost to the day Cayden Wood burned down. But when He told me that in the beginning, I said, "If you knew we were going to lose it in ten years, why did you not just tell me that to start with. Why did you not just tell me upfront you are going to lose it, but not for ten years. Why did you have me go through—" have you all ever had a dealing like that with God. Why did He tell you to whole story to start with? And I said, "Lord, why sometimes the stuff you tell me have to be so twisted and complicated and you cannot give me the whole thing upfront, why did you not just tell me the whole story clear, upfront and tell me from the beginning, just tell me the whole thing." And God says, "My word is twisted." And I said, "Well, you are right about that." I said, "From the beginning to the Revelation. I have got to admit you are right about that." So I wanted to just deal with you just in even from the beginning, from the first part of God's word.

So I want you to understand and that is why I call it trying because you never understand the deep stuff of God. The best you can do is try! But often times we

cannot even get even an inkling of really true understanding of how low our spiritual stuff, all we can do is just try.

Open your Bibles to the Book of Genesis, the First Book of the Bible and I just want to outline, just even the first thing that God told me and because often it is called the Law of First Mention and that is a principle in the Bible that whenever there is a first mention of something, the theme of it will often times carry through, so just with the first thing that God told men, Genesis 2 beginning at the 15th verse. You have all heard this, you know it. So many of you will not have to turn there, but I want you to turn there because I want you to see this.

Genesis 2:15, “And the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it and the Lord God commanded the man saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden, thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it. For in the day that thou eateth thereof, thou shalt surely die.’” Let me read that verse from just a couple of other translations, the NIV says of that 17th Verse of that second chapter of Genesis, “But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil for when you eat of it, you will surely die.” The Contemporary English version that same verse says, “Except the one that has the power to let you know the difference between right and wrong, if you eat any fruit from that tree, you will die before the day is over.”

So what God told Adam essentially, you can eat anything else in this garden, but there is one tree, and if you eat of that tree, and the day that you eat of that tree, in that day, you will die!

Now let me get to the point where the serpent told man something, Genesis 3 beginning at the 1st verse—that is the very next chapter and this is the serpent. Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made and he said unto the woman, “Ye have God said that you shall not eat of every tree of the garden. And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said ye shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die. For God does know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be open and ye shall be as God knowing good and evil.”

Now God told Adam three things. He said, you can eat of every tree in the garden, number one. Number two he said, do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and number three he said, if you eat of that tree and that day you will die. So the first thing that God told Adam recorded in the Bible were those three things. You can eat of any tree in the garden, but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat of that tree, in that day you will die!

The serpent also told Eve three things, surely, you will not die. God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened. You will be gods knowing good and evil.

Now the three things that God told Adam all boiled down to one fact, and that one fact is if you eat of this tree on that day, you are going to die. The serpent's three things boiled down to three facts, you will not die; your eyes will be opened and you will be as god. It is interesting that the serpent gave man more information than God did. The serpent, when you really analyze it gave man triple the information that God gave man. They did what the serpent suggested.

In Genesis 3:6-7, "And when the woman said that the tree was good for food and that it was pleasant to the eyes and the tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat and gave also unto her husband with her and he did eat!" That next verse, "And the eyes of them both were opened and they knew that they were naked and they sawed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons." Verse 22 of that same chapter, the third chapter of Genesis, "And the Lord God said, 'Behold the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil and now lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat and live forever.'"

Now I want you to turn to the fifth Chapter of Genesis and the fifth verse because this is a critical verse to try to understand the deep things of God. Genesis 5:5 simply says this, "And all the days that Adam lived were 930 years and he died." Now we have several lawyers in the congregation and to be honest about it, if you were to put God and the serpent on trial from these verses in man's Court of Law and you would argue from one end that God said this that if you eat of this tree, and the day that you eat of this tree, you will die! But the serpent says this, you are not going to die. If you eat of this tree, your eyes will be open, you will know good and evil and you will be like gods.

The lawyers who are in this congregation, if you have to defend that in a Court of Law, there is not a Court of Law in the land that would convict the serpent as a liar. Not a Court of Law in the land that would convict the serpent as a liar. Adam lived 930 years before he died, so you ask yourself, "Wait a minute, God said in the day that you eat of this thing, you are going to die! The serpent told them, you are not going to die, eat it! Your eyes will be open, you will be like gods, you will know good and evil."

If you analyze the things just from what is written in those few verses, just from the carnal mind and just from the knowledge, if you were a lawyer or if you were a judge in God's Court, you would have to give righteousness to the serpent and you can see it plain as day—you can see it as plain as day! So you ask yourself, "Well, wait a minute," and see, this is the first thing that God told me and the first thing,

see some of you have already been told some stuff like this and it did not come out quite like you figured and sometimes, you wonder, God did you lie to me? You told me this and this thing is not nearly like what you told me. I am catching hell and you told me that if I serve you, I am going to be blessed and full of joy and I am catching hell! Did you love me?

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And today that you eat of it, you are going to die! Now, if you go over to Psalms 98:4, it says, "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday and when it is past, and as a watch in the night." If you look at 2 Peter 3:8, it says, "But the love be not ignorant of this one thing that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years is one day." See, no man lives a thousand years. Methuselah was the oldest and he died at 969 years. God was talking about a day in His time, but Adam did not know that.

God was talking about something on an entirely different level, but Adam did not know that and if you put this thing in a Court of Law, see, even in legal terms when you have a contract or a covenant, by man's law, the first requirement is what is called a meeting of the minds. It means that if you are ever into a contract, you have to have a basic understanding of what you are getting into. For example, if I told Brother C. Elijah that I am going to sell him a Mustang and I used to have a gold Mach 1 Mustang car and if I told C. Elijah I was going to sell him a Mustang and C. Elijah was thinking about my gold Mach 1 Mustang, but yet when he paid me the money and I brought the Mustang over, it was a horse!

Now, see, it is still a Mustang, but it is a horse. That was not a meeting of the minds because C. Elijah thought I was talking about a car and I was talking about a horse and he did not want a horse. So the contract would not be legally enforceable because there was no true meeting of the minds. So when God told Adam, if you eat of this fruit in the day that you eat thereof, you will surely die! And the serpent told Eve, you are not going to die and when the sun went down and came up and after they had eaten the fruit and they looked around and Adam looked at Eve and Eve looked at Adam and said, "We are still here."

Have you ever had a situation where you are just going through some stuff and you mess up and you looked around and you said, "I am still here!" Have you ever had one of those situations that you knew you messed up and you knew that you had some heavy consequences, but to some, it looked like you escaped it and it looked like you slipped through it and it looked like you were not going to pay the cut and you look around and you knew that you messed up and you looked around and you said, "I am still here. It did not happen. I did not get caught. I am still here." I am sure that by the time the second sunset had gone down and Adam looked over at Eve and Eve looked over at Adam and said, "Baby, we are still here." But by the

time, the first week had gone by, Adam looked over at Eve and Eve looked over at Adam and they got a little bit more confident about it, “Baby, we are still here.” And after the first month had gone by, then the first year and the first decade and the first century! Could you imagine how Adam and Eve felt and they said, “God said that in the day we ate of that fruit, we would surely die! And Baby, it has been a hundred years, and we are still here.”

Trying to understand the deep things of God and this was the first thing that the Bible records that God told Adam! The first thing! You see, just to get a glimpse of how God thinks, we have to understand that God looks upon eternity and man looks upon the temporal. So when God told Adam you are going to die in the day, he was talking about—you will not live to be a thousand years old, you are going to die when you are 900-and something, but if you do not eat of this fruit, you will live 10,000, a million, ten million, a billion years—you will never die!

You see, the serpent and the world and the flesh, it tempts us with the temporal and the temporal is the temporary and it has always been the master trick of the serpent to make the temporary look like the real thing and all there is and everything that you would be able to look at that involves the flesh and the spirit are things that involve the temporary versus the eternal! But if God had told Adam straight, that if you eat of this fruit, you will only live 930 years.

If a lot of us have that kind of knowledge that if we were given 900 years of food and said you can sin, you can do all you want, you can satisfy all of your carnal desires, but you are going to die at 150. If you told most folks that, most folks would do it all for 20 years! Much less 930 years, most folks know that a lot of the stuff that they do are going to burn them up, tear them up, tear down their bodies, send them in an early grave, most folks do not care if it takes away just—can you imagine if God had told them straight? Some stuff God can tell you straight! See, we had an experience even in the church with apples.

Last week, I said what I want to do is, I want to put some apples and just let people have some apples at the end of service. It will be good for them. I just felt like—do you know what happened with the apples? Folks brought the apples back in Church. We had apple peels, apple seed, apple core all over the church. Adults and not kids! So we have got apples all over the church and then you have rodents and roaches and all kinds of stuff that come in trying to eat the apples that the adults ate and left that the Pastor was trying to be nice to give to the folks.

See, that is why I can understand when you understand the deeper things and if I were ever sitting in a pastoral meeting and a Pastor came up and said, “I want to give some apples to my congregation.” I said, “Hold up! That is a good idea, but let me tell you what is going to happen.” The same thing is true with God! I want to give some apples to my people, but this is what my people did with the last apples

that I gave them. I want to give my people life, and I want to give them the life everlasting, but this is what happened when I gave them the last tree of life. This is what happened in the garden! This is what happened when I told them not to do this. This is what happened and see, we have to understand just even a glimpse of some of the deep things of God. We have to understand that God looks at eternity.

Let me give you an example that you can relate to—we have people outside who are often they are who are homeless and they are regularly homeless and you cannot take them off the street because they do not want to come off the street, nothing you can do with it! And yet they ask for money and if went out and told them, “I want to talk to you about the money.” They have a concept of how much money you want to talk to them about. Two dollars, five dollars, ten dollars—their wildest dream, twenty dollars—if you went to Bill Gates or Warren Buffet—two of the richest man in the world and you told them, I want to talk to you about some money, their concept is \$200 million, \$500 million, \$5 billion! Same words, different perspectives.

God’s perspective for us is eternal. Our perspective is Saturday night! So when we look at things, we have a very compressed and a very narrow view of life whereas God sees like a parent with a child, and see children do not understand! Children do not understand why you will not let them eat candy all of the time, but you know in a few years their teeth will be rotted out. Children do not understand why you make them study when all they want to do is watch television, but you know if they do not study they will never get into college and they will never—

See the parent understands, the child only sees the immediate circumstance. Trying to understand the deep things of God! When Job went through his experiences and all that—and Job was questioning God and in Job 38, and incidentally, Job which is considered to be the book of roughest book of trials has 42 chapters. And as Job said, “God, why?” Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm and He said, “Who is this as dark as my counsel with words without knowledge. Brace yourself like a man. I will question you and you shall answer me. Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off these dimensions, surely you know? Who stretched the measuring line across it? On what where its footing set or who laid its cornerstones while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? Who shut off the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds his garment and wrapped it in thick garments, when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, this for you may come in no further. Here is where your proud ways halt! Have you ever given orders to the morning or shown the dawn its place that I might take the earth by the edges and shake the wicked out of you.” See all of this stuff, God said, “Where were you when I made the world? You cannot do a bit of this stuff, how can you question what I do?”

See the deep things of God, we do not even begin to understand because our perspective and our limitation is so small and I remember even when I was single and I was searching for a wife and this thing had been plaguing me and I was going through turmoil and I remember I was down in the country in Alabama, I was walking down a dirt road and God spoke to me and he said, "You are going to have her in 90 days." And I said, "Amen! Hallelujah!" Ninety days from that day, I was in Chicago at a convention. God woke me up early in the morning. He said something wonderful is going to happen to you today, and I said hallelujah! I am about to find her!

I was at a convention. It was a beauty show with a whole lot of pretty women and I said she is here, amen! Hallelujah!

I got up early in the morning. I went to church service. They had a church service at the convention. I was there in the church service. I was standing there on the line and had everybody down in the front and there was a—the lady who was conducting and she came by and she stood by the lady next to me, and she said, the Holy Spirit says that you would have received the Holy Spirit today, and she said, no, it is not you. She pointed and said you!

I still am a scientist, always have been. I have seen people knocked down, but to be honest about it, I thought, you push back on the head, they fell out of balance, they just fall down. The lady came to me and she put her hand on my head and I am standing there, I said, she was honestly trying to throw me off balance. You cannot throw me off balance. You are a big old lady, I am big and strong, but you cannot throw me off balance. The lady put her hand on my head and she began to pray. All of a sudden, an energy started from my seat, rose all up through my body, my whole body went to shaking, I fell on the floor, my mouth wide open! I could not shut my mouth for 30 minutes. I cannot shut my mouth for 30 minutes!

When I was able to get up, I drank eight glasses of water because my throat had dried out! And then, I realized this was what God was talking about. It was not a woman! I said, now, why did you not just tell me that to start with!? Because had you told me that I would not have been in anticipation, so sometimes we have to see through a glass darkly because God cannot tell us all these stuff because if He told us all that stuff, we would not go down some of the roads He had for us to go down, so we have to try to understand the deep things of God.

I am out of time, but you have got the message. When God is sending something to you, He is in control of this and you have to understand, we have made a thing in the hand of God.

We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the Word!

Amen! Amen! Amen!

26:08