

The Path of the Pursuit of

God
Philippians 1:9-11

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The Apostle's Prayer

The Words Mean Something

The Word Means Something

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The Words Mean Something

Roman context but Greek culture

“Rome conquered Greece, and Greece captured Rome”

Settled as Crenides in 360

BC

Renamed in 356 BC by Philip ii of

Macedon

Fortified in 336 BC by Alexander the

Great

Major hub of Greek culture

Sophi = Wisdom

a

Philo = Love

Philo Sophi
a

Philo + Sophi = Philosophy
a

Philo + Sophi = Philosophy
a

What We
Hear:

The way we do what we do

Philo + Sophi = Philosophy
a

What We The way we do what we do

Hear:

What the Greeks Love Wisdom

Heard:

Hupo + akouo = Listen

What We Hear: Shhhh

What the Greeks
Heard:

What the Greeks Heard:

Hupo – “under,” (as in authority)

akouo – “hear,” (as in obedience)

Def. “To listen attentively; to heed or conform to a command or authority.”

**Whoever controls the language
controls the
thought**

**Everyone thought that their own
personal path led to a good
afterlife**

Greek Dualism (simplified)

Material (Body)

Physical, changeable, mortal

Immaterial

(Soul/Spirit)

Non-physical, eternal, rational

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Material (Body)

**World of appearances,
imperfect**

Immaterial

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Non-physical, eternal, rational

Greek Dualism (simplified)

Material (Body)

**World of appearances,
imperfect**

Immaterial

(Soul/Spirit)

**World of Forms, eternal and
perfect**

1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-3

“For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing... For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,”

Epignosis

Epi + gnosis

Gnosis - Functional, working knowledge gained from study of application

Gnosticism - is literally, "the cult based on having special, *personal knowledge*"

The Word Means Something

We cannot Love
that which we do not Know

Hebrews 1:3

He is the radiance of the glory of God
and the exact imprint of his nature

Colossians 1:19

For in him all the fullness of God was
pleased to dwell

John

1:14

the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John

1:12
To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God...

‘We may have as much of God as we will. Christ puts the key of the treasure-chamber into our hand, and bids us take all that we want. If a man is admitted into the bullion vault of a bank and told to help himself, and comes out with one cent, whose fault is it that he is poor?’

- Alexander MacLaren

‘We may have as much of God as we will.

- Alexander MacLaren

We have as much of God as we want

- (Alexander MacLaren)

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

Because you have rejected knowledge,
I also will reject you from being My priest.

Since you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your...

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Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of **knowledge**.

Because you have rejected **knowledge**,
I also will reject you from being My priest.

Since you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your...**children**.

2 Corinthians 9:6

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

“It is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself, and unless and until the hearers find God in personal experience, they are not the better for having heard the truth.

The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into His presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts.”

A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

Practical Suggestions in the Pursuit of God

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1 Corinthians 4:17-8

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

Practical Suggestions in the Pursuit of God

while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

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Practical Suggestions in the Pursuit of God

1. Delete that which you physically stare at
2. Turn off the channel that tells you to be afraid
3. If it promises discontentment, believe it

Practical Suggestions in the Pursuit of God

1. Prayerfully plead with God to meet with you

2. ^{in devotion} When the routine becomes mundane,
break it

3. Seek to speak about the person of Christ

