Knowing God

1. God, the Father

September: The Father Preserves and Protects His Household

Read Exodus 1-20. Make a note or highlight of each time God said the words "I will" or "I shall" in these chapters. Make one list of the times when "I will" was something God was going to do to the enemies of Israel and another list when it was something good He was going to do to protect or preserve Israel.

Research each of the plagues and try to find any connection between the specific plague and a god (idol) in Egypt. Make a note of each specific affront God was making to Egyptian idolatry. Start your search at www.apologeticspress.org. Notice how God was attempting to protect Israel from false worship (in the statements made in the plagues and in chapter 20). What sorts of maladies happen to nations when we place our confidence in other entities besides the living God? Make a short list of those entities that are threatening the strength of the spiritual kingdom (the church) today.

Read Psalm 106, Colossians 3, and II Corinthians 6. Pray that we, as women of God, may keep ourselves FROM idols and FOR the Father.

October: The Father Instructs and Warns His Children

Read Deuteronomy 4-18. Make a note each time you find the word "heart". The instructive commandments are given, even in the Old Testament, as appeals from a Father to the hearts of the people. God has always wanted the hearts of His children.

Read Psalm 119 and highlight or make a note of each time the word "heart" is in the text.

Read Psalm 51 about the cleansing of a broken heart. Make a note of what is the acceptable sacrifice in this text.

Read the Proverbs (concise instructive material) and highlight each instance of the word "heart".

Make a list of favorite proverbs to discuss on the podcast.

Movember: The Father Pilies His Children

Read this month with an eye for the tender Fatherhood of God.

Read Psalm 103. Make a list of the blessings listed. How many apply to something with which God has blessed you personally?

Read Joshua 21-24. This passage is a review of some of the things the Father had done for His children in bringing them into the promised land. Highlight the specific historic blessings mentioned.

Read the last chapter of II Chronicles and the last chapter of II Kings. Notice the desolation of Judah with the king of Judah being carried away in fetters by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The ensuing destruction of the temple and the holy hill of God marked the beginning of the Babylonian captivity.

Read the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Notice that God's people were in bondage in Persia because of their sins (originally Babylonian exile, but Babylon was overthrown by Persia).

Find the chapter in Ezra in which he mourns for their trespasses. Mark each instance of the word "remnant." How did God feel about his remnant?

Nehemiah was a great reformer. He made a great difference in the space of just 52 days. To what did he attribute this great opportunity in 2:8?

Read Luke 15.

Read 2 Peter 3.

Read John 3:16

December: The Father Disciplines His Children

Read the book of Amos. Read the book of Habbakuk.

In reading the two prophetic books, keep an eye out for the sins of the Gentile nations that were being punished as well as those of Israel and Judah. Are any of these sins similar to the ones that are plaguing today's Israel (the body of Christ)? Notice passages that reveal the judgment of God as relevant to these sins. Make a chart in your notebook that lists the nation involved, the scripture reference, the sin committed, then the punishment promised, then the similar sin of today. Example:

Nation	Scripture	The Sin	The Punishment	Today
Tyrus	Amos 1:9	Remembered not the brotherly covenant	fire on the wall, palaces palaces destroyed	we forget that we are family and mis- treat each other.

Read I Corinthians 5. in what ways do you believe this chapter can help people avoid the eternal wrath of a just God?

Read the book of II Thessalonians.

Read Hebrews 10-12. Highlight the words in chapters 10 and 12 that refer to the judgment of God on the disobedient.

Read the book of Jude.

Read Revelation 1-3.

From these readings, do you believe a faithful congregation can become largely a group of lost people over time? Plan to discuss what we, as women, can do to keep this from occurring in our churches.

2. God, the Son

, January: The Son in the Old Testament

Read Genesis 1 and John 1. In John 1, highlight the different names and characterizations of Jesus. There's quite a list from that single chapter.

Read Exodus 3 and John 8:42-49. What name for Jesus is included in both?

Read Isaiah 41. Highlight each citation of the "Holy One of Israel". Who, do you believe, is the "Holy One of Israel"?

If you believe, as I do, that there are other examples of the presence of Christ in the Old Testament, note some of them and we can discuss them on the podcast.

In each of the following prophecies, make a note of what is being foretold about Jesus and find it's fulfillment in at least one place in the New Testament:

Isaiah 7: 14 and Micah 5:3

Isaiah 9:7 and Jeremiah 23:5

Micah 5:2

Jeremiah 31:15

Hosea 11:1

Isaiah 9:1,2

Psalm 110:4

Psalm 69:9

Isaiah 62:11; Zech. 9:9

Psalm 41:9

Zech. 11:12,13

Isaiah 53:9-12

Psalm 22:16 and Zech. 12:10

Psalm 69:21

Psalm 22:18

Ex. 12:46 and Psalm 34:20

Psalm 16:9 and Isaiah 53:9

Psalm 16:10 and Hosea 6:2

Psalm 68:18 and Psalm 110:1

(passages chosen from "Prophecies Fulfilled Concerning Jesus Christ", Dickson New Analytical Study Bible, World Publishing, 1973, p. 1476)

February: The Son: His Life and the Gospel Unfolded in Him

Read John 2-21

From this reading, notice that John relates the teachings of Jesus without relating the parables. When you find a teaching of our Lord in this book that reminds you of a parable in another book, make a note of the passage in John and beside it put the reference of the parable. Example:

John 6:23 (He who honors the son honors the father.)Mark 12:1-12

March: The Son: His Preeminence

Read the book of Colossians Read Revelation 5 Read Revelation 21 Read Hebrews 1-3

Make it a goal to express to the Father in prayer each day of this month your thankfulness for the Son. I know you realize that the Son will be carrying your gratitude to the throne for you. What a precious arrangement that the Lamb of God who washed me takes my prayers to the Father! He is the only One worthy to do this for me.

Memorize Hebrews 2:3

April: The Savior of "Whosoever Will"

Read Luke 9-18. This is the part of Luke that is, for the most part, not included in the other gospels. It is replete with passages that show that the Son is the Savior of the common man, that the gospel is not reserved for the religious elite, and that the place of exaltation in the kingdom is not for the chosen few, but for the few who choose. Highlight the passages that speak this wonderful message.

3. God, the Holy Spirit

(Some of the material presented in the following sections of the study are taken from an excellent book on the topic written and compiled by Franklin Camp called "The Work of the Holy Spirit in Redemption." This book is available for this study from http://thecolleyhouse.org/store. It will enhance your study, but it is not at all necessary to purchase the book to complete the study.

May: The Book of Joel and the Gift of the Holy Spirit

This study of the Holy Spirit is based on the premise that His purpose has always been to **reveal the will of God to mankind and then to confirm that revealed will.**Understanding that this has always been His purpose is key to understanding how he works today. From His first mention in Genesis 1:2 to His last Old Testament mention in Malachi 2:15, we find Him specifically mentioned in 22 of the 39 Old Testament books (Herbert Lockyer, All About the Holy Spirit; Hendrickson Pub. p.44).

Read the book of Joel. Highlight the portion that is referenced by Peter in Acts 2.

Read Acts 2. Highlight the word "this" in verses 6, 12, 16 and 33. What is "this" according to Acts 2:16-21. Is "this" miraculous or non-miraculous?

If you had been present at Pentecost and had heard the words of Peter in verse 38, would you have expected to receive a miraculous or non-miraculous gift upon your baptism?

Re-read the following passages about the gift of the Holy Spirit. Beside each passage in your Bible or notebook, not whether the gift mentioned was miraculous or non-miraculous (from the context).

Acts 2:1-4 Acts 2:12 Acts 2:16-21 Acts 2: 33

Read Acts 8. In this chapter, there is an obvious way that miraculous gifts were transferred from apostles to new Christians. What was that way? Why did the people of Samaria have to wait for Peter and John to come before they could have the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Below is a list of passages that mention the gift of the Holy Spirit. Read each passage and beside the reference in your notebook, indicate whether the gift mentioned was miraculous or non-miraculous. You can tell from the context.

Acts 10:45 Acts 11:17

Eph. 3:7 (check out vs. 3)

Eph. 4:7

Now compare Mark 16:16, 17 to Acts 2:38.

Mark:

Believe Baptize Saved these signs shall follow believers

Acts:

Repent Be Baptized Remission of Sins ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

From the scriptures below (and the fact that the gift of the Holy Spirit was given by the "laying on of the apostles' hands, let's determine when the miraculous gifts ceased.

Read Daniel 9: 20-27

Read Luke 21. Matthew 24:15

Notice that Jesus quoted Daniel when he was foretelling the destruction of Jerusalem. Highlight this part of both the Daniel and Luke passages.

Admittedly the Daniel prophecy is challenging. But there are some things we can know from this passage:

- 1. The Messiah was coming to Jerusalem
- 2. He would die.
- 3. His death was to make an end to sin and reconcile to God
- 4. He would bring forgiveness of sins (everlasting righteousness).
- 5. There would be a destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.

Highlight the phrase "seal up the vision and prophecy." Let's discuss what this might mean on the podcast.

June: The Holy Spirit in the Gospels

Use your concordance to find and read every mention of the Holy Spirit in the Gospels. Make several lists. First, list each one that mentions that Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit. Then list those that speak of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Next, list the verses that refer to the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. Finally, list those verses that refer to Him as the Comforter.

When the Spirit was involved in the conception of Christ, was he fulfilling His mission to reveal the Word to man? What passage in John verifies this?

Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit the same as the gift of the Holy Spirit? In which two chapters in Acts do you find the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Go to https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/519-is-holy-spirit-baptism-available-today and read the excellent article on the baptism that occurred in one of these chapters. Did the baptism of the Holy Spirit in each of these two chapters confirm or put a stamp of God's approval on anything? If so, what?

Next, read the articles at the following links:

- 1. https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/894-what-is-the-eternal-sin.
- 2. https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/168-blasphemy-what-is-this-great-sin

How does the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit relate to one's view of the mission of the Holy Spirit as stated above in the May study.

How does the Spirit's role as Comforter show Him to be the "revealer" and "confirmer" of the Word? List ways that His presence with the apostles provided divine Comfort for them as they taught the gospel without any written Word. Could they have spread the infant church without this Comfort? Why or why not?

Finally, and apart from the gospels, let's look at a couple more passages about the cessation of the miraculous.

Read Zechariah 13:1-6, I Corinthians 1: 5-8 and I Corinthians 13. Be prepared to discuss these on the podcast.

July: The Holy Spirit Today...What about Tongues?

Read I Corinthians 12, 13, and 14.

In this study, we cannot consider the gift of tongues as anything other than the ability to speak in a foreign language that one has not studied. This is because the New Testament does not ever speak of "tongues" in any other sense than intelligible languages (except the tongue that licks ice cream!). Therefore from this point, in the study, this gift will be referred to as the gift of languages.

Highlight every passage in I Corinthians 14 that relates to its theme: edification.

What did prophecy edify?

Why was prophecy a better gift than languages?

Why was a language that was not understood of no benefit to the body?

How was the trumpet Paul spoke about like a language?

Notice in verse 14, the language was to be in words and it was to be understandable. How does this fit into the theme of this chapter?

Verse 10 says all the voices have signification. How does this apply to all the languages of the world?

What word is used in verse 11 to describe both hearer and speaker? If the "tongues" were not intelligible languages, would this word apply to both hearer and speaker? Explain. Let's discuss this on the podcast.

How do Pentecostals today practice the opposite of verse 19?

Find the Old Testament quote that is referenced in verse 21. What language was referenced in this Old Testament passage?

Verse 22 says that languages were for a sign to those that do not believe. Does this mean that they were for evangelism? If the languages were unintelligible, could they be used in teaching others? Explain.

Now, this may be the most important thing we consider in this study of the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit does something apart from the Word for us today, is it miraculous? We have confirmed that the miraculous gifts stopped when their mode of transmission (the laying on of the apostles' hands) was no longer available, around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. So, any reception of the Spirit today would have to

be a non-miraculous reception. Is there any expressed passage that states that anyone in the New Testament received the Holy Spirit in a non-miraculous form? Again, podcast discussion here.

Read Romans 1-8. Highlight each mention of the Spirit in these chapters. We will discuss these in the podcast as time allows.

Challenge for the podcast: Try to think of things that some might think the Spirit does today (non-miraculous things) that the Word does NOT do. This will be an additional podcast discussion. Bring your thoughts!

August: The Fruit of the Spirit (August is always "reach-out" month!)

If one believes that the Spirit works exclusively through the precious Word of God today, does this take the emotion out of my relationship with Him? Think about this through the month of August.

Read the book of Galatians and highlight the fruit of the Spirit from chapter five. Let's practice bearing His fruit this month (and every month). Do the following during August:

Love: Read Romans 12 and think of an act of kindness that you can do for someone who has been cool or unkind to you. Send a card. Pray for her. Bake her cookies. Send her a coffee gift card. Just do it. It's Agape.

Joy: Choose a 24 hour period. Spend fifteen minutes of the day in thanksgiving (only praise and thanksgiving...no asking) to God. For the rest of that 24 hour period, see if you can speak only positive words. No grumping for 24 hours. Just do it.

Peace: Read Psalm 46 and bask in the security that we have in Him.

Longsuffering: (Keywords are forbearance and fortitude). Find someone in your congregation who is really displaying some fortitude right now. It may be an elderly man who is going to great lengths to attend. It may be an elderly woman who is really suffering as she spends all her time caring for a dying mate. It may be a young mother who is sick and yet runs on overload caring for her active family. It may be a teenager who is suffering some exclusion because of godly choices. It may be a college student who never misses a chance to worship or encourage. Find the best way to encourage this person. If it's a teen girl, take her for a burger and tell her what you are thinking about her longsuffering spirit. If it's that elderly man, go wash his car. If it's that woman who is caring for her dying husband, take a meal. We can help each other be longsuffering.

Gentleness: This is having a motivating cause bigger than self that makes us kind and easily intreated. Read I Samuel 25 and pray that you can be more like Abigail in your relationships...a woman of good understanding (vs. 3).

Goodness: This is "virtue or beneficence". Go to the nursing home or retirement center or hospital and make at least one visit. Take something from Bath and Body or the florist or flowers from your yard (or whatever is handy for you.). If you have children, be sure and include them. In fact, if you have children, let them draw pictures to take on this outing of goodness.

Meekness: Go to one or more of the leaders or elders in your congregation and express your gratitude for his leadership. Tell him you want to be a good sheep and that you are in prayer for the leaders of your congregation.

Temperance: Identify, in your mind, the sin that easily besets you. You know what it is. Is it gossip? Is it lashing out at your husband? Is it choosing raunchy entertainment? Is it laziness about Bible study? Whatever it is, write it down in your notebook and list five passages beneath it that can give you self-control in this area of your life. Read this every day for a week. Pray about this temptation for seven days straight. Be sure your flesh is crucified (vs. 24).

Upon completing ALL of these assignments, reflect once again. IS the Spirit working through the Word in you? Is this growth in the Spirit affecting your emotions? Are you drawing closer to God?

One final thought: When we are baptized we are baptized into the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I John 5 makes it clear that God dwells in us. Galatians 2:20 tells us that Christ lives in us, too. If they dwell in us, how do they do that? Is it something mystical or do we just become more and more "full" of them in our spirits as we study the Word and apply it to our lives? Can we have emotion in our service to the Father and the Son? Is it possible to grow more and more "full of the Spirit" as we study what He revealed and confirmed as the Word was being transmitted to men and women? I am very thankful for spirit-filled women of the Word!