

Introduction

The inducement for writing this book is to help those who have not matured in their faith to grasp the key foundational laws, truths and principles upon which authentic Christian faith is built. Because of God's supernatural presence now indwelling those born again, life is notably better for the majority of believers than before their conversion; yet many feel stymied and unable to deepen the divine love they originally experienced. However, without having a clear understanding of the foundational laws and principles that shape our faith, it is altogether unreasonable to expect that we will overcome many of the problems inherent in human nature that affect our relationship with God.

The Barna Group (www.barna.org), a credible and well-respected Christian organization that gathers information for Christian leaders, has often reported bits of information that illustrate what most evangelical pastors and leaders know from experience: A significantly large percentage of those who make a commitment to Christ settle for a form of Christianity that is substantially different than God's will for them. The majority falling into syncretism—combining the ideology and principles that have fashioned secular culture with the laws and principles of the Christian faith. The sure result of this hybrid is deception and separation from God, for culture generally distorts reality. Merging culture with Christ is similar to what brought down Israel from being a sovereign nation some three thousand years ago, as Israel was worshiping both God and Baal, the demonic “god” of their neighbors. Without having a clear concept of God's divine order, upon which authentic faith is built, it is only natural that we will become influenced by the secularized values of our culture. The only question is how much and how great will the consequences be.

Most Christians who sincerely apply themselves to live within the biblical standards that God has made known, learn to experience God's love and mercy, that he is always working to redeem humanity from their estranged state. Yet there is a lack of understanding that God is also a God of holiness and justice and, therefore, must judge those who fail to keep his impartial laws. God has created a legal world in which unbendable moral-spiritual laws are an integral part of creation to which we are all subject. Unless we understand them, most likely we will be unable to discern the difference between what is illusionary and harmful and what is beneficial. In looking back some three thousand plus years,

when God was forming the Hebrews into a nation, we find that he has acted indiscriminately in dealing with humanity, that his judgment fell on both the heathen and the Hebrew alike. As Christians, we need to recognize that God has not changed, that he is a holy God and sin always bring consequences, even in this “age of grace.”

We all know that a lack of knowledge on any subject allows for some terribly wrong presuppositions that can lead to an assortment of problems, some being acutely painful and prolonged. Nowhere is this more true than in regard to the Christian faith. The Hebrew prophet Hosea’s often-quoted prophetic word, “My people shall perish because of a lack of knowledge,” is just as relevant today as it was some twenty-seven hundred years ago when given. Sadly, it’s just as undervalued today as it was then, with similar consequences: people are separated from God while living in a cloud of illusion, imagining that they are people of faith.

The foundational truths and principles that are illuminated in this first volume are what I consider to be the backbone of Christian faith, the divine substance that literally opens the heavens and allows man to enter into God’s presence. These essential truths, illuminated in this book, can be divided into three general categories: knowledge about God, the perplexing world in which we live and God’s design for human behavior. While this book addresses the last category as a priority, we need to understand that it is inextricably tied to knowledge about God and the world in which we live.

Because many of God’s most important truths and principles are paradoxical in nature and unnatural to human reasoning, “winging it” is not a viable option for a Christian, though many have naively adopted this approach. Even those who may possess above-normal intelligence and reasoning ability, will fail to understand many of God’s most important and profound truths because of the simple fact that they are illogical to human reasoning.

If we truly desire to experience the manifold blessings that God desires to grant to every human being, we need to be diligent and faithfully apply ourselves. Through understanding the reality of God and his divine order, we are given an incomparable opportunity to transcend culture and reap the rewards of becoming a people of genuine faith; that rare substance that allows the most common individual to experience the dynamic, healing love of God and live a most purposeful and uncommon life. *Essential Knowledge, Volume One* is written to illuminate the spiritual laws and principles that are the origin and backbone of this faith.