

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"What's Your Story" 11/8/23

You have searched me, oh God, and know me. (Psalm 139:1)

Sometimes the thought of God knowing me, my thoughts, desires, wishes, and dreams makes me cringe. But God knows me, my heart, my intentions, my true desires. Because He knows me, He reminds me of His love. Because He knows I will forget, He reminds me again.

God knows our thoughts, our direction, we cannot escape His Spirit. No matter how dark or scary it gets, God is there to hold us.

Knowing God knows us is comforting, there is an assurance of our worth, a promise of belonging. We can cease to struggle for a while and rest in God's peace. Because God knows us, we become more curious to know God. We are invited to meet God anew, to increase our knowledge of God, to allow His word to speak to our hearts, our intellects, our actions. Our desire to know more about a subject, makes us better, more confident.

Our faith grows as our knowledge grows. Our curiosity causes us to learn and to understand, it opens up our relationship with God.

God, who knew us before we were born, knows us now – and loves us. God listens when we talk with Him, sharing secret desires or angry responses, both of which are honest and make us vulnerable; but God listens and hears, He cares and will not dismiss us. God knows us.

This made me wonder, how do we really know someone else? By listening. Asking appropriate questions. By being curious. For the most part people like to talk about themselves, so listen.

It feels good to know someone is listening to you, someone cares. And it is good to hear stories, to try and imagine how they did that, withstood the test, continue to sing, face each morning, how they keep on going on. We learn so much which we can apply to our own lives. We can reimagine our dreams, be pleased with what we have accomplished, and are able to strive to do more to show God's love to others.

Being curious, willing to listen to the stories of others, makes us better, it challenges us, we are amazed, people are drawn together, it is a good thing. We live in community as we grow together, as we share. Also, people need to know their stories are appreciated, they are appreciated. On some level, we long to tell our stories. We need to know someone cares enough to listen.

Listening is a good way to show God's love. So, what's your story?

Please pray with me...

Listening Lord, show me Yourself in Your Word, Your world, and in the wonder of You. Thank You for Your unfailing love, for making space for me to be, for caring, and for listening. You know me, and I long to know You better. Give me a desire to know, to ask and to listen, to seek stories of others, to show Your love to my neighbor.

Amen.