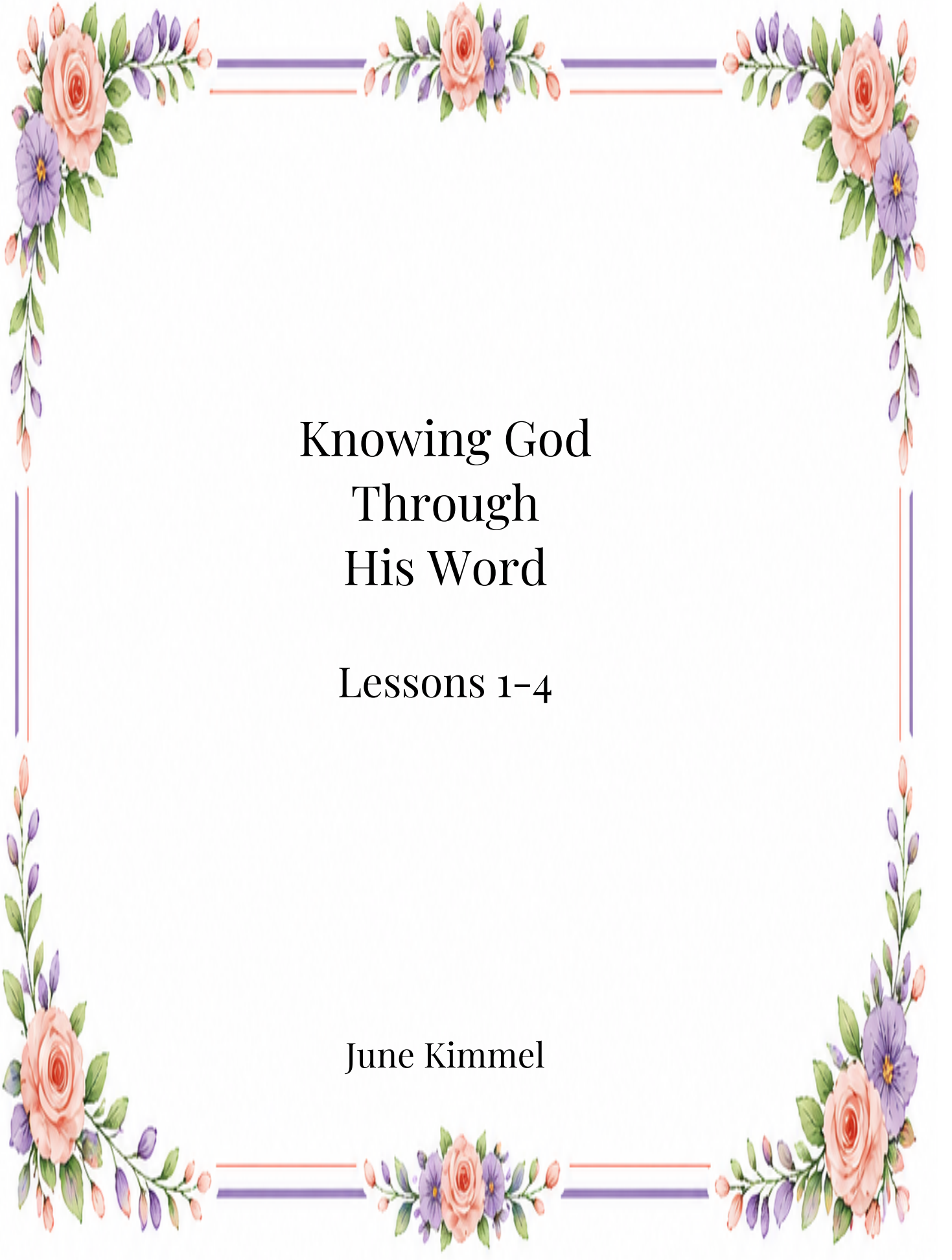




Knowing God Through His Word

Lessons 1-4

June Kimmel

Knowing God Through His Word—God is. Know Him.

Lesson 1

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Introduction

It's very easy to think that if certain people or situations would change, our lives would be much better, easier, happier, etc.

Truth is, however, we can only change ourselves!!

Our GOAL....Our prayer should be...

LORD, CHANGE ME!

Not our spouses, children, in-laws, deacons, church women,
other staff wives, neighbors, relatives, co-workers

How do we change? True change comes from God through His Word

Our faith rests in God—Therefore we must learn of Him through His Word
Romans 10:17—So then faith cometh by hearing, & hearing by the word
of God.

We are commanded to grow! #1 Grow in our knowledge of God and grace...

2 Peter 3:18--But grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Drawing near to God should be the focus of all Christian activity and the means
by which we achieve our ultimate objective: transformation to His likeness.
Knowledge of God found only in the Bible

We will look at the life of Abraham to see how He knew and rested in God and how we can do the same!

1. Through His Word I learn.....God Is! I must strive to know Him better.

Psalms 86:10, 15—For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.
But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and
plenteous in mercy and truth.

God Is! Psalms 86:10, 15	Great Doer of wondrous things Only God Full of compassion Gracious Longsuffering Plenteous in mercy Plenteous in truth
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♦ **Abraham Knew God**

In Genesis many names of God were revealed as He spoke to Abraham

- ♦ Genesis 12:1—LORD = **Jehovah** = “**the existing one**”

Abraham called by God to go to new land

Hebrews 11:8-10

**Now we have compass, Map, MapQuest, Magellan

Abraham had NOTHING but the Words of God

Revealed in Genesis 2:4

The One who is above all else holy, and the One who reveals Himself and New Truth

Most descriptive

Most frequently used—6,823 time

Possesses essential life and permanent existence

His very essence is holiness

- ♦ Genesis 14:18, 20, 22—**Most High God—El Elyon**

After rescuing Lot and met Melchizedek; offered him tithes

Possessor of heaven and earth

Awesome in majesty and supremely exalted

- ♦ Genesis 15:2—**Master, Lord—Adonai Jehovah**

Covenant confirmed

Signifies ownership or Lordship

- ♦ Genesis 17: 1—**Almighty God—El Shaddai**

Name changed to Abraham, confirmed promises v. 5

The all sufficient mighty One

- ♦ Genesis 21:33—**Everlasting God—El Olam**

Abraham made covenant with king of Philistines

The Lord who never changes, who always has been and ever shall be

What other names or characteristics of God are you familiar with?

Creator	Sustainer	Shepherd	Savior
Gracious	Merciful	Just	Omnipotent
Branch	King of Kings		Lord of Lords
Teacher	Son of God		

- ♦ **Who do you know God to be?**

Focusing on Who God is will put our lives into proper perspective.

- ♦ **Our life is changed when we strive to know Him better.**

- ♦ **God is! I must strive to know Him better! Psalm 145:8 (God is. Know Him) Through the Word of God, God is revealed.**

Psalms 145:8 The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

The psalmist proclaims 4 things about God's character that we should know!

1. **He is gracious. I must be gracious.**

Gracious = giving what is not deserved

Gracious = to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior

God's grace is displayed in His....

Providing a Savior

Providing a ransom

Justifying those who come to Him

Pardoning sin for Jesus sake

Adopting believer into His family

Psalm 86:5, 15

For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

He is good and benevolent

2. **He is full of compassion. I must be compassionate.**

God is kind and ready to do good

God's eye affects His heart

3. **He is slow to anger. I must be patient and not easily angered**

God is patient; not soon excited

God bears much for a long time—longsuffering

James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

God is Longsuffering to the wicked and to the wayward believer

God is Longsuffering to send punishment

4. **He is great in mercy. I must be kind.**

God is kindness—not immediately giving what is deserved

God's mercy is full, abundant, overflowing, and free

God is the source of all mercy

God's mercy is the foundation for faith and hope

This should be a continual focus as you read anywhere in the Bible:

**Knowing God Through His Word-God Can. Trust Him.
Lesson 2**

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Introduction

Review—God is! I must strive to know Him better.

Psalm 86:10, 15

Psalm 145:8

Through His Word I learn.....God can!

♦ **God can! I must trust Him without reservation! Psalm 40:5**

**Through the Word of God, God shows me His great power and
wisdom**

Psalm 40:5—Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

God Can! Psalm 40:5	Do wonderful works Think of us Do all things beyond our comprehension
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- NOT our desires and timing. His desires, His will, His timing.
“What He says He can do” = His promises found in His Word

Genesis—1. He created all things

2. He gave a baby to an old couple
3. He cared for Hagar who was a servant
4. He raised up a people to call His own

Exodus—1. He spared a baby from Pharaoh’s death sentence

2. He called a shepherd to deliver His people
3. He showed His power in the form of plagues
4. He led His people with a cloud/pillar of fire
5. He parted a sea to make a path for His people
6. He fed/clothed His people for 40 yrs in spite of disobedience

Joshua—1. He gave His people the victory in defeating the inhabitants of the Promise Land

1 and 2 Samuel—1. Raised up a prophet who anointed Israel’s first king

2. Called a shepherd boy to be the next king

Daniel—1. Walked in the fire with 3 Hebrew men
2. Closed the mouths of hungry lions
3. Revealed the future to a man in captivity

New Testament—More miracles than we have time to think back on.
Each one revealed His power

God can be trusted. His power is beyond comprehension
I must trust Him without reservation!

○ Abraham Trusted God

(Trusted the Promises of God)

- ◆ Genesis 12:2—And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.
- ◆ Genesis 12—Promises Intro (vv.1-9)—Great nation, land, son
Promises Forsaken (vv.10-20)—In Egypt
- ◆ Genesis 13—Promises Repeated (vv.14-18)—Separation from Lot
Land be his—NSEW
- ◆ Genesis 14—Promises Tested (vv.17-24)—Refused wealth
from King
- ◆ Genesis 15—Promises Confirmed

◆ God Promised Abraham a Reward—Himself

v.1-2 Abraham afraid

God gave Abraham a promise—I AM
I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward
Abraham had just refused from King of Sodom
God Himself would be Abraham's reward

◆ God Promised Abraham an Inheritance—Heir and a Nation

V2-6 God gave Abraham a promise—I WILL
Nation from Abraham would be as the stars in number
Own true heir would come
Not through servant Eliezer

V6 And he (Abram) believed in the LORD, and He counted it to him for righteousness
Believed = Literally "Amen, God!"

◆ God Promised Abraham with a Covenant

Demonstrate!!

Genesis 15: 7-21

V 7-8 How shall I know that I shall inherit it?

v.9-17 Covenant given

Animals cut in half—two parties walk between—if break the covenant the person would be cut in half as the animals were

Abraham cut animals in half and divided them with a space

Matthew Henry's Whole Bible Commentary

The passing of these between the pieces was the confirming of the covenant God now made with him, that he might have strong consolation, being fully persuaded that what God promised he would certainly perform.

That night Abraham fell asleep

God alone passed between the animals

God promised Abraham....

NOT....Abraham promising God

Covenant of GRACE—Undeserved Gift

v.13-14 Promise of captivity and exodus in Egypt

v.17 Smoking oven, burning torch = presence of God
(Furnace) (Lamp)

God promised Abraham! All God!! Abraham NOTHING!
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♦ **God Promised Abraham a Land—Israel**

V 18-19—God gave Abraham a promise—I HAVE GIVEN

To your descendants this land

Future events

Genesis 12:1 = I will show

Genesis 13:15-17 = I will give it to thee

Genesis 15:18 = I have given to your descendants

Genesis 21—Promises Fulfilled in Isaac, Nation of Israel, Prophecy

**Child to Abraham and Sarah at 100 & 90 more astounding than if regular child bearing ages

Wait was hard for them—25 years before Isaac born

Impact on all mankind—their day until now....

♦ **Are you living with this kind of unreserved trust?**

♦ **Our life is changed when we trust God without reservation.**

Promises of the Word are ours!

♦ God can! I must trust Him without reservation.

Psalms 40:5—Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Knowing God Through His Word-God Will. Rest in Him.

Lesson 3

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

♦ **Introduction**

We have looked at the first two steps....God is and God can.

Today we will consider God will

You probably can easily accept what the Bible says God is and what God can do.

The problem comes with this step

God will. I must rest in His unfailing promises.

We know He can....but we doubt that He will FOR US

When we think like that we are not doubting who He is or what
He has the power to do.

But we are doubting His LOVE for us as individuals!!

Not enough to believe He can...must also believe that He Will!

♦ **Through His Word I learn.....God will!**

I must rest in His unfailing promises.

God will! I must rest in His unfailing promises! Jeremiah 33:3

Through the Word of God, God will conform me to the image of His Son.

Jeremiah 33:3—Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and [will] show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

God will! Jeremiah 33:3	Hear when I call on Him Answer when I call on Him Show great things Show mighty things Show His power beyond my comprehension
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God created me in His image

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the of God
created he him; male and female created he them.

God will never leave me or forsake me.

Hebrews 13:5 He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

God will comfort me.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5—God of all comfort who comforted us in all our
tribulations...

God will provide all my needs

Philippians 4:19—But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus

God will be my strength and shield

Psalms 28:7—The Lord is my strength and my shield

*****Must know God's promises—no promise to heal everybody, make everybody rich, make everybody be nice to us...**

♦ **Abraham Rested in God**

Genesis 22: 2-3—Obeyed God's Command

- v. 2 Unreasonable, irrational request
Age of Isaac—20 yrs (17-20)
End promises of the Covenant
God's promise to Abraham be broken?
How do we know this won't happen?
God is. God can. God will.
- v. 3 Abraham rose early to obey—no hesitation
Took 2 servants
Went to place God had told
KEY—Obedience

♦ **Genesis 22:4-5—Remembered God's Promises**

- v. 4 Third day saw place
- v. 5 Abraham left servants and he and Isaac went on
Told servants that they would come again to the servants
Glimpse of Abraham's faith that God would provide
Confident in the permanence of God's promises!
God could resurrect Isaac if needed

Focus on promises, not explanations!

"Our faith is not really tested until God asks us to bear what seems unbearable, do what seems unreasonable, and expect what seems impossible (Wiersbe p. 109-110).

Our first response to God is usually "WHY?" Or "WHY ME?" "WHY NOW?"

God's will never contradicts God's promises.

"Faith does not demand explanations, faith rests on promises."

♦ **Genesis 22:6-14—Trusted His Provision**

- v. 6 Isaac carried the wood
Abraham carried the fire
- v. 7 Isaac asked where the lamb was
- v. 8 Abraham's response—God will provide Himself a lamb
Both went together—Isaac Did NOT resist

- v.9 Abraham went to place God told him to!--Obedience
Built altar and Laid wood in order
Bound Isaac and laid him on the altar
Types—Isaac = Christ
Abraham = God the Father (Rom 8:32)
Ram = Substitute = Jesus (Heb 10:5-10)
- v. 10 Stretched his hand—Action of a totally surrendered life

♦ **“Abraham’s preparations to kill his only son could not have placed his trust in God in a sharper focus”**

- v.11 Angel stopped Abraham just in time
- v. 12 Abraham passed the test—Demonstrated faith that God responds to
- v. 13 Substitute for Isaac—Ram in thicket by horns so no blemish
- v. 14 Called place Jehovah-jirah = the Lord will foresee and provide

Abraham believed that God is....God can....and here realized God will!

Our life is changed when we rest in God’s unfailing promises.

Hebrews 11:12-13—There sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the seashore innumerable. These died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded. Didn’t know when they would inherit the promise. Had a life in the land but did not possess it.

Abraham lived believing God would one day fulfill all He’d promised

Conclusion:

Are you daily renewed through the Word of God, the promises of God?

1. **Through His Word I learnGod Is!
I must strive to know Him better!**
2. **Through His Word I learnGod Can!
I must trust Him without reservation!
AND....**
3. **Through His Word I learnGod will!
I must rest in His unfailing promises!**

Our lives are changed when we are growing in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus and allowing Him to change us through His Word. Our faith grows through a knowledge of and obedience to God’s Word

Knowing God Through His Word-God Calls. Obey Him.
Lesson 4

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Introduction

Romans 12:1 We are to be living sacrifices unto God
A sacrifice is always dead
We are to be dead to self and sin
We are to be alive, living for God
When we understand Who God is, What God can do, and What God will do
We will be listening to His call
We will be ready and eager to obey
Many times in Scripture we read that God called people to a variety of actions
His invitation is "Come"
Our response must be "Yes, Lord! I will fully surrender and come!"

Through God's Word I learn....God calls!

◆ **God calls! I must obey Him in full surrender.**

Through the Word of God, God calls me to obedience and service.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

God Calls! Romans 12:1-2	By His mercy To present our bodies To present ourselves a living sacrifices To present ourselves as holy and acceptable to God To not be conformed to this world To be transformed by the renewing of our minds To prove what is good, acceptable and perfect will of God
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◆ **The Disciples Called, Obeyed, Served**

- Matthew 4:18-20—Simon and Andrew
Jesus walking by the sea of Galilee

Jesus saw Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea
Jesus called Simon and Andrew to follow Him
Jesus called Simon and Andrew to become fishers of men
Simon and Andrew straightway (immediately) left their nets and followed Jesus

- Matthew 4:21-22—James and John—the sons of Zebedee
Jesus saw two brothers—James and John in a ship with their father
Jesus saw them mending their nets
Jesus called them to follow Him
James and John immediately left their ship and their father and followed Jesus
- Matthew 9:9-13—Matthew
Jesus saw Matthew sitting at the receipt of customs
Matthew was a tax collector for Rome
Matthew was Jewish
Matthew was considered a traitor by the Jewish people
Jesus called Matthew to follow Him
Matthew arose and followed Jesus
Jesus went to Matthew's house to eat
Many publicans and sinners came to Matthew's house
Jesus and the disciples ate with them
The Pharisees were critical of Jesus for eating with "sinners"
- Acts 9:1-6—Paul

Paul was threatening and killing Christians
Paul was on the road to Damascus
Paul was struck down by a light from heaven
Paul heard a voice from heaven—Saul, why persecutes thou me?
Paul—Who art thou Lord?
Jesus—I am Jesus whom thou persecutest
Paul—What wilt thou have me to do?
Jesus—Arise and go into the city and it shall be told thee what thou must do
Paul immediately surrendered to obey God's call
We need to obey with total surrendered too

- ◆ Elisha: Called and Obeyed—1 Kings 19:19-21
1 Kings 19:1-18—Elijah flees from Jezebel
Elijah's Confrontation—1 Kings 18
Elijah challenged King Ahab and the prophets of Baal
Prophets of Baal had no response from Baal
God sent fire from heaven that consumed the altar and sacrifice that Elijah had prepared.

Elijah slew the false prophets—450 of them
Jezebel threatens Elijah
Elijah ran into the wilderness
Elijah was hungry and tired
God was not in the wind earthquake or fire
God spoke to Elijah in a still small voice
Anoint Jehu to be king over Israel
Anoint Hazael to be king over Syria
Anoint Elisha to be the next prophet

1 Kings 19:19-21—Elijah gives Elisha the call from God

v. 19—Elisha plowing with 12 yoke of oxen—he had the 12th pair
Number of oxen show the estate was considerable
Leaving it all a considerable loss in the world's eyes
Elijah passed by Elisha
Elijah cast his mantle upon Elisha
May have been a type of ceremony used to call someone to
a prophetic office
May have indicated the Elisha was to be the servant of the
prophet
Made of skin dressed with the hair on

v. 20—Elisha left the field and ran to Elijah
Elisha asked Elijah if he could tell his parents goodbye
Elisha fully understood what he was being called to
Elisha's heart was touched by the Lord at this call
Elisha was resolved immediately to obey
Answered the call right away
Burned bridges that might tempt him to return to his old life
Elisha would join Elijah after he said goodbye
Elijah told him to go home—cold reply
Tell them whatever
He didn't have to follow Elijah
He hadn't called him—God had—Do what you want...

v. 21—Elisha went home to say goodbye
Killed a yoke of oxen
Showed his relinquishing of his home and position there

Boiled the oxen
Fire to cook the oxen was the wood of the plow and yoke
Prepared a feast for the people
Probably his laborers
Celebration of his call
Let all the neighbors know he had been called by God
Elisha left as he had promised and served Elijah

Left parents
Left cattle and land
Left a good position
Left a comfortable home
Left it all to minister to the wanderer, Elijah
Elisha gained great knowledge and understanding of
divine things
Elisha was trained up to the prophetic office
Elisha had to renounce all that had been his life

Conclusion

What is your response to God's working in your heart?
Do you resist His leading or quickly surrender your heart to what you know
He is calling you to do?
When we know God is...God can...God will....Our first response should be full
obedience and surrender!

God is. God can. God will. God calls.

God is. I must strive to know Him better. (God is. Know Him.)

Psalm 86:10, 15—For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.
But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and
plenteous in mercy and truth.

God can. I must trust Him without reservation. (God can. Trust Him.)

Psalm 40:5—Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done,
and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if
I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

God will. I must rest in His unfailing promises. (God will. Rest in Him.)

Jeremiah 33:3—Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty
things, which thou knowest not.

God calls. I must obey Him in full surrender. (God calls. Obey Him.)

Romans 12:1—I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present
your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable
service.