



Knowing God through His Word

The new year is here. Now begins the writing of goals and new resolutions for the year. I have no major issue with this except that what many put down should not be their priority or focus....Unlike many, I have not written any because mine is the same every year, every day and every month.

Did you know that the main goal of a believer should be to know God?

Is this your goal? Many have different goals such as career, riches and wealth, but all these are not the real goal that God intended for each and every one of us.

Many people do not know God to the point that if someone came along and deceived them, they would easily fall for it. They can be easily spoiled (Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.)

Spoil means:

- 1) to carry one off as a captive (and slave)
- 2) to lead away from the truth

If knowing God is not the very most important goal of your life, everything else has lost meaning.

Knowing God is not an option for the believer, it is the very Christian Walk. It is the real purpose and the heart of salvation.

Salvation:

One of the best decisions a person could ever make is putting their faith in the Lord. This decision can and will change your life both on earth and eternity.

People come to the Lord at various points in their lives because of various reasons. What drives people's decision to get born again varies from person to person.

Why get Born-again? Why should you be saved? Many of us have heard people come and tell us how we needed to be born again.

While many of the benefits they front are true, many people get born again only because of the benefits but never move on or move up to the greatest and most crucial of them all — knowing God and having intimate relationship with Him.

a) This—knowing the Lord, is one of the most un-fronted and un-taught benefits to salvation, yet at the same time the most important.

b) Why did you get born again?

One thing I have seen about people getting born-again is that whenever people get born again because they have a need, or want a need to be met, they can be very unstable, unreliable, and they tend to be driven by the need that brought them in the first place.

This distraction gets them focused on things that could get those needs met, such as the world, sex, fame, attention, power, and so much more.

While being born again has benefits such as (Healing, Financial hardship, getting out of prison, Forgiveness of Sins, Relationship restoration, Miracles), if such is **ONLY** and majorly driven by the benefits, their lives won't change much. They will not know God like they need to.

They front all the benefits of salvation including not going to hell.

While it is true that a person that rejects the salvation which God offers us through Jesus—will go to hell. **This is not the most important benefit of salvation.** There is more and there is better.

1) I'm not saying you SHOULD NOT come to the Lord if you have a need or any of these needs above. Nothing can be further from the truth! You should. God is your source.

a) What I'm saying is that there is **something more and better**.

b) We should not settle for less. If we are driven by a weaker reason, we abide by a weaker reason.

2) God never meant for us just to get benefits and leave, then come back whenever we have need for more.

a) That's not a sustainable nor vibrant relationship. Rather than using the Lord, have a relationship with Him which has benefits. Keep the main thing the main thing.

3) You need to make a very conscious decision with intentional steps to go on to a deeper walk to know God.

4) We need to come unto the Lord for a relationship and intimacy with Him, not just benefits. Yes, there are benefits, but that can't be your goal.

a) The world offers many and some of these benefits. One has to come to the Lord for something superior and better than the world can offer.

b) The world offers no intimacy, relationship, or fellowship with the Lord. It offers no eternal life, no peace, no joy, no hope for the future or eternity. It offers nothing good.

True knowing God

There are two types of knowing:

1. Mental or intellectual knowing
2. Experiential knowing — Intimate and personal close relationship

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

- a) In John 3:16, the highlight or goal of salvation, is not—not going to hell (perishing), BUT everlasting life or eternal life.
- b) How we get into this eternal life is not through performance, but through Believing in Him.
- c) Eternal life is not going in heaven. You can have it now in this life. It is also not living forever. All people live forever either in heaven or in hell, with God or without God, but eternal life of living forever in relationship and intimacy with God.
- d) Knowing God and intimacy with Him was the ultimate goal for salvation as revealed in John 3:16, which is the summary of the heart of God toward mankind.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

- a) The English word know in this verse is a translation of the Greek word *ginosko*, which, in this context, means an experiential knowing, not simply an intellectual understanding of facts about God or Jesus or the Bible.
- b) According to Thayer's Definition, KNOW is used as “Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman.”

Now intellectual understanding of facts about God or Jesus and the bible is not bad but should lead to experiential knowing of the Lord — An Intimate relationship.

Knowing God is not just mental knowledge. While that is important, knowing God goes beyond that. Knowing God is speaking of a knowledge that is more than mental to an experiential intimate type of knowledge like we see when the Bible says Adam knew

his wife Eve and she conceived (Genesis 4:1). It is speaking about intimacy with God, not just knowing God.

Knowing God, the Father and Jesus Christ is eternal life = Knowing God/Intimacy with God.

Move on and move up into intimacy and a close relationship with the Lord.

I know Him

John 7:29 But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.

- a) Jesus knew the Father both intellectually and intimately. He had the closest and the most intimate relationship with the Father. (John 10:30 reveals his closeness.

Not Knowing the Word = Error

Matthew 22 — Error not knowing the Word.

- a) Knowing God requires knowing His Nature, His Will and His heart. Without the Word, one will miss out on knowing God.
- b) I'm going to make some statements that will either cause a riot or a revival.
 - i) If you believe God is the source of your problems, clearly you do not know God, at least not yet.
 - ii) If you believe that God is using problems and bad things such as sickness and disease to teach you do not know God, at least not yet.
 - iii) If you believe that Jesus was and is not God, you not only need to be born again, but you have also not known God. If you believe God is not a good God because of what you have been through, you do not know God and you clearly need a greater revelation of God of who He is.

- iv) If you believe that the Bible is not God's accurate and perfect word, you not only do not know God, but you have also missed him by a whole mile.
- v) All these things Jesus did not believe about the Father and if you do, you are alone and you are wrong!

That I may know Him

Philippians 3:7-11 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

- 1) Paul had certain things he had achieved in this life.
 - a) Paul, a man accomplished and successful by the standards and definition of this world and in the things of the world YET he sought to know God more than ever before.
 - i) This reveals that Paul wanted to KNOW the Lord. It was not about all the bells and whistles that people run after, Paul desired to KNOW the Lord.
 - ii) The word "**KNOW**" is speaking about a relationship of intimacy, not head knowledge or intellectual type of knowing.

- o Many people do not know that there is an experiential knowledge, not just the mental or intellectual knowledge or acquaintance.

iii) He knew that there was nothing better or greater than knowing God.

2) Paul was after a real solid relationship with the Lord. He had given up and walked away from everything to know the Lord.

a) One thing we find clearly is he did not come to the Lord for benefits except to know the Lord. If Paul was driven by benefits, he would not have been able to persevere during all the persecutions and trials he suffered.

b) All those things he let go. He counted loss to pursue and focus on Christ.

3) Paul wanted to get the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord.

a) He desired to excel in his relationship and/or intimacy with the Lord.

b) While some people seek to win money, prosperity, healing, children, not going to hell, and many more good things, Paul sought to knowing God.

4) What is your goal in life? In ministry?

i) A bigger congregation, influence, power, fame or popularity? What is it?

ii) Don't forget this is a man who God used to write half of the New Testament, yet his desire remained all about knowing God and growing in the same.

5) Paul's goal as a man who was already seeking God and had known the Lord to a significantly higher degree kept pressing toward that goal of knowing God more (Philippians 3:12-14).

More depth, width, height to knowing God and the things of God.

You need to understand that there is more to knowing God after your initial born-again experience.

In Ephesians 3:18-19, it speaks of “And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God”

- a) This reveals that there is a knowing of God's love that is beyond the mental and intellectual. It is beyond knowledge; there is a measure or degree of practically experiencing the love of God that supersedes intellectual and is personally intimate. Grow in your intimacy with the Lord.

The sheep follow him: for they know his voice

John 10:4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. 5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

- a) My sheep Know my voice. How do you get to know His voice?
- b) Clearly this is through His Word because God's word is god's voice.

Knowing the Word is knowing God.

1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

Knowing Jesus = Knowing the Father

John 8:19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

- a) Knowing the Father does not precede knowing Jesus. When you know Jesus, you have known the Father, not the other way around.

Denying the Lord = Not Knowing the Lord.

Luke 22:57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not

- a) If you do not know the Lord, **you will deny Him**. Peter denied him because He did not know Him well enough.
- b) Judas betrayed Him because he did not know Him at all. How you value the Word determines how much you will know Him.

An intimate relationship (Knowing God) with the Lord leads to a godly way of life.

David had an intimate personal relationship with the Lord but was clearly not a perfect life.

Knowing God does not mean one is sinless. Paul had a personal intimate relationship with the Lord yet not sinless.

God's Word in knowing Him

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

- a) Testify = Bear Record, give evidence, witness, Scriptures give record of the Lord, but our faith out to be in the One the Scriptures point us to— Jesus.

1 Peter 2:2 Wanna grow? Desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may experience growth. Wanna know God?

Psalms 1:1-3 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Mind Renewing leads to knowing the Lord

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. 2 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.

- a) If your mind is unrenewed, you will **not** know (intimacy or close relationship) God, like you should and need to.
- b) One of the major ways to have transformation is not just saying YES to the Lord. That is important and must be done, but there is more to the relationship than many of us have understood.
- c) A person must be willing to go through the mind renewal journey or process to know the Lord better.

Study

2 Timothy 2:5 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Study = Be Diligent, to use speed, that is, to make effort,

- a) You will not just accidentally get a good relationship with God. It takes diligence to seek the Lord and to get to that place.
 - i) Prayer alone is not sufficient for that.
- b) If you can rightly divide the Word then, you can be wrongly divided it.
 - i) This is very common and one hindrance to knowing God intimately.
- c) Rightly dividing the Word is done by properly discerning the between the covenants.
 - i) New Vs Old Covenant
- d) Rightly dividing the Word is done by taking scripture in the historical context and text context.
- e) Rightly dividing the Word is done by taking the scripture literally unless it is obvious it can't.
- f) Rightly dividing the Word is to have a balance between positional truth and practical application of godly living in the Christian's life.
 - i) Example of Grace and Faith.

Proverbs 23:12 12 Apply thine heart unto instruction (2 Timothy 3:16), and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

Psalms 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.