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## THAT I MAY KNOW HIM

Lots of people know the Bible well. Lots of people have religious experiences. But few truly know Jesus.

*And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.*   <sup>38</sup>*And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.*   <sup>39</sup>*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*  
<sup>40</sup>*And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.* (John 5:37-40 KJV)

Sometimes these verses are used to point out that we should search the Scriptures; that we should be in the Word. That is right. The Scriptures reveal a lot about Jesus, they testify of Him. You do need to be in the Word. Every day. Please, read your Bible. Meditate on what it says. Get God's perspective on things. Open your heart so God can **lead you to Himself** through His Word.

But being a follower of Jesus is about having a relationship with a person, not with a book. The Scriptures testify of Jesus, but Jesus is not ink on paper. He is a person.

Lots of people search the scriptures and know the Bible, but they don't know Jesus. Millions of people can quote to you from the Bible, because they know quite well what it says, but they don't know Jesus. They don't open their heart to the God of the Bible. They don't know the Living Word. Millions of people pray and listen to teachings and do all kinds of religious things, but they don't know Jesus.

It is not about how much you read your Bible, how much you pray, how much you fast, how many teachings you listen to. **It is about knowing Him.** Opening your heart to Him. Dialoging with Him. Walking with Him. "Jesus, I want to know YOU."

There is a **person** living inside you, His name is Jesus. He is not confined to your understanding of what the Bible says. He is not defined by your religious experiences. He is the very Spirit of God. Get to know **HIM**.

Read those verses from John again. Who is Jesus talking to? The religious people. They think that they have eternal life because they know the Scriptures. But Jesus is telling them that despite all their knowledge of the Scriptures, they **don't** have eternal life, because they refuse to come to Him. He **IS** eternal life. If they were to read the Scriptures with open hearts, they would see that the Scriptures testify of Jesus. The Scriptures would point them to Jesus Himself, and they would come to Him and find life. But they refuse to come to Jesus Himself, despite all their knowledge of the Scriptures. They want to stay in control of their own lives and honor God with their lips while their hearts remain locked up and far from Him.

There are many people who pray a lot, fast a lot, go to church, and know their Bibles inside out- but they refuse to come to Jesus Himself. They want to remain in control of their own lives and will not surrender to Jesus Christ. They have an appearance of godliness but deny its power (2 Timothy 3:5). They know the Word but do not allow the Living Word to freely live in them. **They do not know God.**

YOU CAN KNOW  
THE  
SCRIPTURES  
WITHOUT  
KNOWING GOD.

Maybe they've been taught how to do all the things Christians are supposed to do, and maybe they seem to do them quite well. But you can't teach someone to know God. That only happens when a person opens their heart to Jesus Christ Himself.

Why do we preach and teach? Not to help you improve your Scriptural knowledge. We preach and teach to point you to a person, Jesus Christ. **We're not focused primarily on you knowing the Scriptures. We're focused on you knowing a person, Jesus Christ.**

You can know the Scriptures without knowing God. It's one thing to know the Word of God, it's another thing for the Word to live and abide in us.

Before the Apostle Paul became Paul, what was his name? Saul. What did he used to do? Persecute Christians. By persecuting Christians he persecuted Jesus Himself. Yet all this time, Saul knew the Scriptures very well. He prided himself on his Scriptural knowledge, on his praying, his fasting, his keeping of the law. He knew the things of God but he didn't know God Himself. He had all this Scriptural knowledge. He was a religious man. But He denied and persecuted God Himself. He didn't know God.

Then he met Jesus. And having met Jesus, what was his lifelong prayer?

*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 (Philippians 3:8)*

All his knowledge of the Scriptures, all his praying and fasting and zeal for the things of God was nothing compared to knowing Jesus Himself. It was like dung in comparison.

*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: <sup>10</sup>**That I may know him**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; <sup>11</sup>If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. <sup>12</sup>Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup>Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, <sup>14</sup>I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:9-14)*

He counted all his knowledge and law-keeping as dung. Jesus had made him righteous and now he just wanted to know Jesus more and more.

Jesus has made me righteous and I want to know Him. Do you?

How can you get to know Him? This may sound strange, but we can't teach you to know Him. Your teacher lives within you. Your teacher is the Spirit of Jesus Himself.

What we can do is encourage you to spend time with Him, and to be in the Word of God. Those things will help you get to know Him. We can draw your attention to different things in the Word. We can draw your attention to different things the Lord specifically wants in your life, because as you discern and obey His will you'll get to know Him better.

But at the end of the day, **only the Holy Spirit can reveal Jesus to you.** He is your teacher, not us.

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: <sup>11</sup>And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. (Hebrews 8:10-11)*

**YOUR  
TEACHER IS  
THE SPIRIT OF  
JESUS  
HIMSELF.**

Rich or poor, illiterate or literate, educated or not, intellectual or not, young or old, from whatever nation, you can know Jesus. Deeply.

*But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. 28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. (1 John 2:27-28)*

You have an anointing from God. That anointing is the very Spirit of God who lives in you. And what does He teach you to do? To abide in Jesus. To be in relationship with Him and to cultivate that relationship. To know Him.

You may have many questions. We can answer some of them. But if we are ministering properly, we will continually be pointing you back to the Jesus who lives inside you. He IS the answer.

How many prayers have you prayed in the last year? How many teachings have you listened to? How many good works have you done? How much more Biblical knowledge and Christian principles have you obtained?

Those questions are really unimportant. The important question is, "Do you know Jesus better than you did a year ago?"

Jesus is a person, the Lord of All, who lives inside you. Open your heart to Him, and get to know Him.



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We want to serve you in your walk with Christ. Feel free to contact us!

"IF ANYONE THIRST, LET THEM COME TO ME AND DRINK"- JESUS  
(JOHN 7:37)