



FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

Foundation 2: Knowing God Personally

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Foundation 2:

Knowing God Personally

What was and is the purpose of Salvation

Was it to wash away our sins? This may come as shock to you, but the answer is a resounding “No.” The purpose of salvation was and is to bring mankind back into a personal relationship with our creator, God the Father. This relationship was lost at the fall, in the Garden of Eden. The Father therefore sent His Son to restore this relationship.

The forgiveness of our sins was simply an issue that needed to be dealt with *first*, in order to accomplish *the real goal*, which was to reconcile (restore) us to God (see 2 Cor. 5:17-21). In fact, if salvation were the singular goal of the work of Christ, then there would be “nowhere to go” after salvation. Similarly, the wedding day is not the only goal of marriage--in fact it’s just the start of it. Receiving Jesus as our Savior is the start of a beautiful opportunity to live life with God Himself--to have a beautiful relationship with Him! Like a marriage, our relationship with Christ is safe and secure - a covenant. But, also like a marriage, our relationship can grow **so much** over time--if we will tend to it and prioritize it.

In other words, salvation is not the end, but the beginning. Let’s look at a few scriptures to see that more clearly. Jn.3:16 tells us that “*God...gave His only begotten Son so that...we should have everlasting life.*” The Greek word

*“Aionios” translated “everlasting life” in this passage is the same word translated “eternal life” in Jn.17:3. And in Jn.17:3 Jesus defines the meaning of this “eternal life,” “And this is eternal life, **that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**” According to this verse, eternal life means, “possessing true, intimate, knowledge of God.” This is **the** reason Jesus came; to reconcile us to the Father that we may know Him!*

He is Worth Getting to Know!

Why should we want to know God more intimately? Why do the hard work of becoming a disciple of Christ? Why not just settle for being saved and going to heaven? The simple answer is this: because He is worth getting to know; He really is! In addition, it is the whole reason we were created!

Here are just some of the results that those who spend the time and energy necessary to form a close relationship with the Lord (through spending time in His presence and in His Word) will experience. This is just a short list of the real results experienced by all true disciples:

- Pride being replaced by humility
- Incredible joy displacing anger, sadness, depression, fear and worry
- Assurance in our hearts towards God
- A growing knowledge of His deep love for you
- Confidence in yourself (from knowing that God is with you and for you)

- A desire to serve the Lord and others
- A desire to know God more (the more you know Him, the more you want to know Him)
- A desire to know the Word more (the more you learn, the more exciting it becomes)
- Wisdom growing in you and flowing from you
- Faith becoming easier and easier
- Christ-like character developing in you naturally (without trying)
- Excitement for life in general
- A deeper appreciation for everything in life; God, people, spouse, kids, work, etc.
- A deeper love for those nearest you and for people in general
- A softer heart evidenced by gentleness & kindness (beyond what is “natural” to you)
- Ability to hear God’s voice more clearly and more frequently
- Financial miracles
- Physical healings
- Emotional freedom
- A deepening sense of God’s presence on you throughout the day
- An increasing passion to share Christ with others
- Greater results (salvations) when you share Christ with others
- Self-control over your emotions
- Greater peace regardless of your surrounding circumstances

- Greater patience in difficult situations & with others (that you did not possess before)
- Sin falling away from your life without you even trying
- Being used as an instrument of emotional healing for others
- Being used to counsel and/or teach others with Godly wisdom & understanding
- Being used to help heal and restore relationships/ marriages
- Being used to cast out devils, setting people free from years of bondage
- Being used to heal the sick
- Hearing the Lord speak to you about others and then ministering to them
- Helping lead others into a richer, closer relationship with the Lord
- Becoming a better person
- Being a better husband/wife for your spouse and a better parent for your children
- Leaving a Godly legacy for your posterity
- Most important of all, glorifying God with your life and;
- Hearing the Master say to you on that final day, “Well done my good and faithful servant!”

A true disciple will experience 100% of the blessings listed above. Isn't this worth the work and effort necessary to know the Father?

Look at the parable in Mat.13:44 *“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid, and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys*

that field.” The treasure of the Fathers’ love in our life and what it produces is like the treasure in this parable; well worth giving up everything to have it!

Knowing God personally and intimately should be our number one goal and desire in life. It is literally THE ANSWER to EVERYTHING we desire in life. He IS life, and all that we desire comes from Him. All love, joy, peace, protection, wholeness, and completeness, all healing, provision, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, all grace, all power, and all Godliness--they all come from Him!

*“(He) has given to us All things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him**” (2 Pet. 1:3). This is why Jesus instructs us with the following exhortation; “Do not be like the gentiles who seek after things, but seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you” (Mt. 6:32-33 paraphrase). In other words, everything you could ever want in life will be produced out of a close relationship with the Father.*

The first conclusion we have drawn here is that the closer we come to the Lord, the greater we shall experience the abundant life that the Lord Jesus speaks of in Jn. 10:10 (See also Ps.34:10).

There is a second conclusion that we can draw from the teachings of the Bible on this subject of knowing the Lord intimately: the greater our intimacy with the Father and with Jesus, the greater we will be used by Him. *“But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits” (Dan. 11:32).* The danger in making such a

statement is in thinking that we shall be used because “we” did something. We drew near to God and therefore we have somehow “earned” this position of being used by Him. This of course becomes a dangerous breeding ground for pride, which our enemy would be sure to exploit. That however is NOT the conclusion one should come to if carefully examining the examples of the bible. The many scriptures as well as stories of individual lives, demonstrate that to the degree a person draws closer to the Lord, to that degree the eyes of their understanding become enlightened to the true greatness of the Lord and of His great love for them. Thus their pride is displaced by humility and gratitude. Their awareness of His abilities displaces their trust or interest in their own. They become, in fact, less independent and more dependent and thereby more usable by the Master.

Knowing God intimately goes way beyond what can simply be grasped by the mind. It’s a knowledge that can only be known to its fullest when grasped by our heart (our inner man). Paul speaks about this in his prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19: *“...that He may grant you...to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, that you may be able ...to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”* Notice Paul says it’s a knowledge that passes knowledge. He is saying that the love God has for us is so great, that it surpasses the ability of our mind to comprehend it, and therefore we must get it by revelation in our spirit (inner man). **This is the knowledge we are after.** Let us take Paul’s lead and begin to pray this prayer in Ephesians 3 to the Lord for ourselves on a daily

basis. There is no greater treasure on earth that one can possess than to have an intimate heart knowledge of the deep love of God. The more we know/experience God's deep love for us, the more we can love Him back and the more free we become from all the many bondages of life. It's the most valuable journey there is ... The journey "*to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fullness of God*" and then share His love with the world around us to draw them to Him!

Two powerful examples of Knowing God

Interestingly, the two men of the Bible who probably knew God more intimately than any other person(s), also did the greatest exploits, and wrote the greatest portions of the bible ... points worth noting. In addition, these men had one other thing in common. Even late in their ministries, after having experienced so much, they both still wanted one thing more than anything else ... **to know the Lord more.** They both sought the Lord to reveal Himself to them more and more. Let's take a brief look at the lives of these two men as it relates to this point.

The Life of Moses

- After the Lord spoke to him from the burning bush
- After delivering God's people out of Egypt (bondage)
- After parting the Red Sea, and feeding millions of people supernaturally in the desert

- After spending 40 days in the very presence of the Lord such that his face glowed
- And after many other exploits...

AFTER all of these experiences, Moses said to the Lord: **“Teach me your ways so I may know you”** (Ex. 33:13, emphasis added), and said **“Now show me your glory”** (Ex. 33:18, emphasis added). Though Moses knew the Lord well, in his opinion his knowledge of God wasn’t even close to being enough. He wanted to know Him even more.

Moses also understood that knowing God personally, and thus having His presence in our lives, is the only thing that makes us differ from all other peoples on the earth. Moses told God, *“If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? **What else will distinguish me and your people** from all the other people on the face of the earth?”* (Ex. 33:15,16, emphasis added).

This is just as true today. The Lord in our lives is what makes us different from all other peoples and religions. We serve and know the only true and living God! Others will only see this difference when His presence is with us and on us. This can only happen one way: by spending time with Him--in His presence and in His Word--just as Moses did.

The Life of Paul

- After having received more revelation knowledge from the Lord than any other human being,
- After having lead countless thousands of people to the Lord,
- After having healed countless people including raising many from the dead,
- After being caught up into heaven itself...

Still Paul had this to say towards the end of his ministry: *"Yet indeed I also count all things loss **for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; **that I may know Him** and the power of His resurrection"* (Phil. 3:7-10, emphasis added). Though Paul knew the Lord well, it is obvious by this statement that he still wanted to know Him more deeply.

And that is the purpose of this book: to help us know Him and His ways more deeply!

Scriptures

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing

their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Jn.3:16)

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (Jn.17:3)

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Mat.13:44)

(He) has given to us All things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him" (2 Pet.1:3)

"For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matt 6:32-33)

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (Jn. 10:10)

The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. (Ps.34:10)

"But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." (Dan. 11:32)

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner

man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:14-19)

“Teach me your ways so I may know You.” (Ex. 33:13)

“And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.” (Ex. 33:18)

Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.” (Ex. 33:15,16)

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,” (Phil. 3:7-10)