

'To Know Him'

John 17:3. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

• **What does it mean to know the Lord?**

Background...

- Our secular society has become very cynical of Christianity.
- Many 'christians' have drifted, moved away from church, back-slidden, become trapped by secular opinion, critical of churches, 'liberal theology',
- Our public education system – schools, universities, colleges breed humanism and atheism, etc.
- The hypocritical media – highlight 'church failures' – but ignore the overwhelming good done by the Christian Church.
- Many Christians have become influenced or trapped by the 'attacks on the church'...

▫ **Why?**

1. Failure is a reality

a) The Bible is a book about peoples failure...

- In almost every chapter we read of human failure
- The enemy will use our failures to cripple us

b) The Bible is also a book about how God rescues failed people...

- **Samaritan woman – John 4.**

- Jesus ‘revealed Himself’ as a friend, helper, saviour and restorer of life
- She had ‘an encounter’ with the Messiah!

John 4:29 ‘Could this be the Christ (Messiah)

God reaches failed people – He rescues us, forgives us, reconciles us, redeems us, restores us – and uses us for His purposes and glory!

2. Everything changes when we ‘know Him’!

John 17:3. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

1 John 5:19-20. We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. ²⁰ We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

a) To know about Him...

- **Many people only know ‘about Jesus’**
 - This is the mental (cognitive) knowledge of a person with no experimental, personal or intimate ‘knowing’

b) To know Him...

- **To ‘know Him’ is distinctly different from ‘knowing about Him’**
 - This is a personal, intimate and experiential kind of ‘knowing’

- It is ‘knowing’ from ‘first-hand experience’.

▫ **Saul had an encounter**

Acts 9:3-6. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

- Saul had known ‘about him’
- One encounter with Him transformed his life
- From persecutor to preacher – Saul to the Apostle Paul.

▫ **Isaiah**

Isaiah 6:1-5. In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple....

⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

- This encounter changed Isaiah’s life!

▫ **Our eyes were opened – (two disciples)**

Luke 24:30-32. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

- When our eyes are opened ‘our hearts will burn within us!’

- **The place was shaken**

Acts 4:31. After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

- **Prayer – shaken – filled – boldness – empowered!**

- **When people are filled with the Holy Spirit – it is a powerful and personal experience**

Acts 2:4, Acts 10:44, Acts 19:6, etc.

3. That they may know you

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a) God has no grandchildren...

- **Parents are to teach their children the ways of the Lord**

But – parents cannot impart the experience of ‘knowing Him’

b) Every generation must have a fresh visitation...

A personal encounter with the Lord becomes the foundation of a strong Christian life

- **Every person must have a personal experience and encounter with the Lord!**

A person with an experience is never at the mercy of a person with an argument!

- **We need to be grounded in Biblical truth, convictions and values**
- **We must also have an ‘encounter with Him’ – to Know Him’**

‘It’s better felt than told’

4. How do I get to know Him?

a) Respond to the thirst in your heart

Psalms 42:1-2. As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?

- **God has placed a thirst for Him in our hearts**

b) Position yourself to ‘know the Lord’

“Stand under the spout where the glory’s coming out”

- **Hang around people who really know the Lord**
- **Don’t hang around the ‘pouters and doubters’**
- **Seize every opportunity for an encounter with God – Church gatherings, prayer meetings, Conferences, etc.**
- **Humility, desire, readiness, responsiveness, obedience**

Ephesians 5:18. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

c) Be continually filled with the Holy Spirit

- **Worship, praying in the Spirit (Speaking in tongues, etc).**

*Revelation 22:17. The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” **Let the one who is thirsty come**; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.*

*He touched me, Oh, He touched me,
And Oh, the joy that fills my soul,
Something happened and now I now,
He touched me and made me whole!*

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