

## WHO DO YOU KNOW

I'd like to start by sharing a story from 1 Samuel chapter 5.

The Ark of the Covenant, which represented God's presence among them, was kept in the area of the Tabernacle called the Holy of Holies. The Israelites carried it into battle hoping to obtain a victory, but they were defeated and it was captured by the Phillistine army.

Here's an surprising note about this story.

Temple worship went on unabated for 20 years after the ark was taken. They knew all of the processes and steps of worship according to the law. All they lacked was God.

Years later the religious sect of the Pharisees made a lifelong commitment to study every word written in the Torah. They studied the Ten Commandments and even added hundreds more. They meticulously followed the letter of the law and created their own code of conduct and considered themselves superior to all other people because of their dedication to it.

Jesus told them, "you search the scriptures thinking that in them you will find eternal life, but they testify of me and you won't come to me that you could have the eternal life."

Another interesting note.

The Pharisees were the only people that Jesus ever rebuked in the scriptures.

Jesus scolded them,

"You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks, he lies, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The Pharisees were also the ones who conspired with the Romans to crucify Jesus.

From these Scriptures it doesn't appear that scholarly Bible study and rigorous religious activity produce a true knowledge of God and the relationship that God wants with His people.

When Jesus met the woman at the well in John 4, she brought up a religious argument. She said we worship like this and you people worship like that.

He told her, an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

When Jesus met with Nicodemus secretly, probably in the middle of the night, He didn't tell him brother you've got to be more disciplined and you really need to read your Bible more.

He said that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. Unless you're born again you'll never see the kingdom of God and unless you're born of the spirit you'll never enter it. John 3

Jesus also declared that intelligence and natural wisdom would not help anyone to know God. Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. "Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. Matthew 11.2

Jesus scolded the Pharisees again, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. John 8.54

The word translated "to know" in the scriptures is the Greek word *ginōsko* - *to know*, through first hand *personal experience*.

Jesus said, it's the Spirit who gives life. My words are Spirit and they are life. Your flesh profits absolutely nothing. John 6:63

Jesus also said, "you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

Please note, He did not say, all you need to do is study my teachings and it will set you free. He said that the Holy Spirit was given to lead you into all the truth. I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life

The Greek word translated as "truth" meant, "reality." Jesus was saying the Holy Spirit has been given to lead you into your reality and your life which is your oneness with me because of my supernatural sacrifice.

Let me be perfectly clear. I AM NOT AGAINST READING THE BIBLE. I read the scriptures every day. But if intelligent people studying the letter of the Word would have brought about the manifestation of God's kingdom and transformed them into Christ's likeness, than the Pharisees would have done it a long time ago. They had to memorize the entire Bible to even become a Pharisee.

The scriptures give us an incredible picture of the expression of Christ's eternal life on this earth. Which is the same life that we have been saved into by His supernatural sacrifice. John 1.12

Let's look at a few more statements of reality from Jesus.

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. John 14.16

"I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. John 10.14

Jesus explained quite plainly what eternal life actually is.

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17.3

It seems pretty clear from the scriptures that you can't study your way into the knowledge of God. It requires revelation from the Holy Spirit for us to know Him.

The Apostle Paul prayed for believers in Ephesians chapter 1, that they would receive a spirit of wisdom and revelation to know three things.

*I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know and experience first hand.

\* what is the hope of His calling.

We were created by Him and for Him to be the expression of His life on this planet and the ambassadors of His kingdom.

\* what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

Jesus said everything that the Father has is Mine and I've sent the Holy Spirit to declare, disclose, and transmit it to you.

\* and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Jesus said, whoever believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these.

One of Paul's goals was, "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection.

He explained in 2 Corinthians chapter 3 verse 18, how exposure to God by the Holy Spirit brings supernatural transformation to our lives.

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

He also declared that he was not preaching the gospel of the Kingdom to expand their Bible knowledge. It was presented with the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power that their faith would not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 2 Corinthians 2.4

Let me close with one more scripture.

God's covenant with His people was not to forgive their sins and ask them to try harder and do better to fix up their old lives inherited from Adam and Eve.

I'll let God explain His Covenant with us.

For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord.

I will put My laws in their minds and I will inscribe them on their hearts.

And I will be their God, and they will be My people.

No longer will each one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Please note, the operative words in this Covenant from God are; I WILL, I WILL, and I WILL.

God is the only one in the universe who could do this for us. HE ALREADY DID THEM and gave His Holy Spirit to us to guarantee that it will become our reality.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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