

# To Know God

## **Foundational Text: John 17:1-3**

### Study / Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to know God?
- How do we know God?
- Those who know God will “give Him glory”
- How do we remedy a shallow Christian experience?

**To “know God” is foundational to our Christian experience.** Jeremiah 9:23,24 It is more than “belief” in God, **one must “know”** God (see Genesis 4:1). It is an intimate relationship with God. You and I were created to know God in a personal way - to have a relationship with Him, through His Son Jesus.

- God created us and loves us – Rev. 4:11
- He came to give us Abundant Life – John 10:10
- Thus Eternal Life – John 17:3

Knowing God is life eternal, and life eternal is knowing God. The essential and indispensable nature of being in possession of the knowledge of God is that knowing Him as He is is the power of the gospel to transform the character and recreate us into the image of God. (Romans 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:24) Therefore, it becomes my primary interest to know by what means this knowing can be received.

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

## What does it mean to “know” God and Jesus?

### **A. The meaning of the word ‘know’...**

1. There are two different words for ‘know’ in the Greek
  - a. **oida** – this word suggests a fullness of knowledge, coming from observation
  - b. **ginosko** – this word suggests a progression in knowledge, frequently implying an active relationship between the knower and the object known
2. In **John 17:3** the word is **ginosko**
  - a. So to ‘know’ God and Jesus goes beyond knowledge of facts about them
  - b. It implies a progressive knowledge and understanding which comes by having an active relationship with Them
  - c. “To know the Father and Jesus Christ (for He is the only way to the Father) refers not to merely abstract knowledge, but to joyful acknowledgment to his sovereignty, glad acceptance of his love, and intimate fellowship with his person (through Scripture, that is, through his Word to us; and Through prayer, that is, through our word to him).”

### **B. What is involved in ‘knowing God’...**

1. It involves communication through the **Word** and **prayer**
2. It is also directly related to **keeping the commandments** of the Lord
  - a. As emphatically stated by John in his epistle –  
**1 John 2:3-4**
    1. This is how we know that we know (**ginosko**) Him
    2. Otherwise we lie if we say that we know (**ginosko**) Him

- b. As explained by Jesus to His apostles – **John 14:21,23**
  - 1. Keeping His commandments results in being Loved by the Father and the Son
  - 2. Keeping His word results in the Father and Son dwelling in us
- c. Thus we will 'know' (**ginosko**) them: ever progressing in the knowledge because of an active relationship with God and Jesus!

The personality of God is revealed in Jesus Christ. The knowledge of God as revealed in Christ is the knowledge that all who are saved must have. It is the knowledge that works transformation of character. This knowledge, received will re-create the soul in the image of God. It will impart to the whole being a spiritual power that is divine. **8 T 289**

The Key to unlocking the power of the gospel is not hidden. It is “the knowledge of God as revealed in Christ.” (see Hebrews 1:1-3)

The very purpose of Christ coming into this world as a human being was to give us an untainted knowledge of whom God is so that we may become so attracted to Him that we will allow Him to produce in us a likeness of himself.

John 17:4-6;16:25;17:21;14:6-11;10:30;Matt.11:27

Through this knowledge as revealed in Jesus Christ, we may receive Eternal life.

John 3:1-17 tells of Nicodemus an astute theologian of the Jews midnight encounter with Jesus that open his understanding of this truth. Proverbs 9:10

The full force of this truth can only be appreciated through a correct understanding of what the grace and peace of God are.

God's grace is not merely an attitude maintained on His part toward the undeserving sinner. Rather, it is "the regenerating, enlightening power of the Holy Spirit" (The Great Controversy, p. 394).

Defining the grace of god as being the power of God sets it apart as the supreme force in the universe. It is the one element emanating from a creating and recreating god that lifts the lost from damnation to glorification and without which would be no hope.

2 Peter 1:2,3 describes the very **Source** through which this will come to us: "grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of **Jesus our Lord.**"

## **The Process of Knowing God**

### **A Devotional Study**

**Begin the devotional study with the Epistles of John. Read a chapter every morning until you complete the epistles. Then go to the gospel of John and follow the same process. After you finish the gospel of John start reading Matthew, Mark, Luke and proceed reading the remaining books of the New Testament to Revelation. After you have read the entire New Testament then proceed to the Old Testament beginning with Genesis until the entire Old Testament is read. Follow the same process as describe in this devotional study guidelines.**

**\*Read 1 Corinthians 13 after your morning devotional study every day.**

### **Principles and Bible Tools**

- Before beginning your devotional study, ask God in the name of Jesus Christ for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to guide you in the reading, understanding and the application of His Holy Word to your life. Ask for the Holy Angels to encamp around you and keep back all distractions and interferences from keeping you from hearing God speaking to you through His Holy Word.**
- Use a KJV Bible, a concordance, Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary of the American Language and a note pad to write in your thoughts from what you read and the application to your life.**

**The evening devotional study is as follows:**

**Begin with Steps to Christ and read a section from one chapter a week and proceed to the next until the entire book is completed. Follow the study format as you did with reading the Bible. Once this is completed proceed reading the Desire of Ages using the same format.**

**Spirit of Prophecy Books to be Read Initially:**

- **Patriarch and Prophecy**
- **Prophets and Kings**
- **Acts of Apostles**
- **The Great Controversy**
- **Ministry of Healing**
- **Counsels on Diet and Foods**
- **Medical Ministry**
- **Counsels on Health**
- **Adventist Home**

# **To Know God**

## **Scriptural Support for Grace and Peace:**

Hebrews 4:16 – Come boldly to the throne of grace

2 Peter 3: 18 – Grow in grace

Ephesians 2: 5- 22 – Peace comes with grace

James 4: 5,6 – Grace to the humble

2 Corinthians 12: 7- 9 – Grace is sufficient

## **Peace comes as a result of receiving Jesus Christ**

Galatians 5: 22 – Peace, fruit of the Spirit

Ephesians 2: 14 – Christ is our peace

Romans 5: 1 – Being justified by faith, we have peace through Jesus Christ

John 16: 33 - In Jesus Christ we have peace

Isaiah 9: 6 – Jesus, the Prince of Peace

Isaiah 26: 3 – He will keep me in perfect peace

## **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit....**

**Zechariah 4: 6**

