

Knowing God John 1:1-14

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 19

God wants to be **Known!** Jesus came to reveal him. (Heb. 1:1-3; Jn. 14:1-7;21)

Christianity is not a “Religion” but rather it is the result of a “relationship” with the one who is “life.” During Jesus’ great prayer for us on his last earthly night, he revealed: *“this is life eternal,*

that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3)

Knowing God is what Paul described as *“the Mark for the prize of the high calling of God.”* (Ph. 3:10,14)

What does it mean to “Know God?”

1. THE DEFINITION

A. WEBSTER’S: To “Know” implies to: 1) Perceive directly 2) Have understanding of
3) Recognize (discern) the nature of 4) Have experience of;
5) Be familiar with (certain of) the truth of 6) Have a practical understanding.

B. KNOW IN THE BIBLE:

1) “Yada” is the primary O.T. Word used. (947x) It’s a general word that can mean to:

Know (750x), Perceive (18x) Understand (7x) Certainly (7x), Acknowledge (6x)

Acquainted with (6x) Consider (6x), Declare (6x), Teach (5x)

Ps 100:3 *“Know ye that the LORD he is God”*

Pr 3:6 *“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

2) In the New Testament God uses:

a) ginos’ko used 223 times and means to: be aware of, or perceive

Eph 3:19 *“to know the love of Christ, which asseth knowledge, that ye might be filled with ... God.”*

Jn 17:3 *“this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God”*

b) “Eido” is used 667 x with the added meaning of being sure or confident of.

1 Cor 2:12 *“that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”*

Eph 1:18 *“your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,”*

2. THE DISTINCTION (Knowing about or truly “Knowing” God.)

A. KNOWING “ABOUT” GOD IS...

1) Informationally based. (Head knowledge)

2) It’s the “broad way” that requires no real commitment. Mt 13:20-21 *“But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, (Doesn’t allow God’s word to penetrate the heart) but endureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.”*

3) Produces a “hybrid” Christianity. Ro. 1:21,22 *“when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...”*

Col. 2:8 *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world...”*

a) We tend to form our own “philosophy”, merging Biblical truths with social norms to create a “personal religion/philosophy”

b) This “hybrid” Christianity is sterile and unable to produce spiritual fruit. (Jn 15)

James 3:15 *“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.”*

c) This kind of “hybrid faith” is:

- (1) Works based: Mt 7:22 *“but Lord, have we not done many marvelous works”*
- (2) Impersonal. Mt. 7:23 *“I never knew you”*
- (3) Impotent (Vain) Mt. 7:23 *“Depart from Me ye that work iniquity”*
- (4) Informational: Mt. 7:26 *“heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not ... a foolish man...”*

B. Truly Knowing God is...

- 1) Inspirationally based. Jn 3:5 *“Except a man be born of water (physical) and of the Spirit, (Spiritually) he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”*
1 Cor 2:14 *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, (ginōskō) because they are spiritually discerned.”*
- 2) **Personal** (individually Based) Jn. 1:12 *“as many as received him... become the sons of God”*
- 3) **Critical!** Mt. 16:26,27; Jn. 3:18 *“Whosoever believeth on him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already!”*

Conclusion:

We can learn about God by recognizing how he works in other’s lives. 1 Cor 10:11

But we really get to “know God” when we allow Him to work in our lives!
We can learn that God wants to be our shepherd from the stories of David’s life; *But it’s not until we’re willing to follow him instead of our natural instincts and inclinations, That we can come to really know that: “The Lord is My shepherd.”* (Ps. 23)

Application: Are you content to merely learn more “about” God?
Or do you want to really *“know him, and the power of His resurrection”?* Ph. 3:10



Matthew 11:25-30 *“O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.*

Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Have you ever really “Come to Him” in repentance and faith?
Are you willing to walk (and work) with Jesus as you Learn and Love Him?