

# Moments *for* You

Volume 61, Number 2

Theme: Know

THAT YE MAY KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, AND WHAT THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS. EPHESIANS 1:18

Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God. Deut 7:9

THAT YE MAY KNOW THAT YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. 1 JOHN 5:13

We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience. Romans 5:3

BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD. PSALM 46:10

NOT REDEEMED WITH CORRUPTIBLE THINGS, AS SILVER AND GOLD. 1 PETER 1:18

The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of wrath. He knoweth them that trust in Him. Nahum 1:7

# KNOW

Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, abounding in the knowledge of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58

FOR THEY KNOW HIS VOICE. JOHN 10:4

I know that the Lord is greater than all gods.

We know that we have passed from death unto life. 1 John 3:14

AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD. ROMANS 8:28

This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH. JOB 19:25

FOR I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED, AND AM PERSUADED THAT HE IS ABLE TO KEEP THAT WHICH I HAVE COMMITTED UNTO HIM AGAINST THAT DAY. 2 TIMOTHY 1:12

## Do You Know God?

Of course you know there is a Supreme Being, the Creator and Up-holder of all things. But *do you know God*, the holy and righteous God before whom you will stand some day? Do you know that He cannot look upon sin (Habakkuk 1:13), or allow the sinner to go unpunished? Can you look forward to meeting God calmly and without fear?

God has revealed Himself to us in His Son, Jesus Christ. Christ's mission was to declare the heart of God, to make known His hatred of sin and His love for sinners. God so loved the world that He gave the dearest object of His heart—His own Son! God so hated sin that He forsook His Son when He became our sin-bearer and our substitute on Calvary's cross.

In virtue of that cross and the work accomplished on it, God is now shown to be "just and the justifier" of the ungodly when we put our trust in His Son Jesus (Romans 3:23-26). Do you know God in this way? "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent" (John 17:3). To know God through Jesus Christ is to have eternal life and salvation.

All who know Him say: "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid" (Isaiah 12:2). *Do you know God?* Or do you say, "Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of Thy ways" (Job 21:14)?

When judgment strikes, it will first fall with awful force upon "them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:8). Are you sure that this does not include you? *Do*

*you know God?* Before it is too late, "Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace" (Job 22:21).

—Adapted from Echoes of Grace.

## WE KNOW

*"Be it known unto you ... that through this Man [Jesus Christ] is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins" (Acts 13:38-39).*

Sir Ambrose Fleming, a renowned British scientist, said: "We must not build on the sands of an uncertain and ever-changing science, but upon the rock of the inspired Scriptures, which do not comprise the guesses of fallible minds, but the utterances of holy men of God who spoke by the Holy Ghost."

Friends, listen to the witness of some of these "holy men of God."

SOLOMON, who was wiser than all men, said: "Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, that I might make thee know *the certainty of the words of truth?*" (Proverbs 22:20-21).

LUKE, the Evangelist, wrote: "It seemed good to me ... to write ... that thou mightest know *the certainty of those things*, wherein thou hast been instructed" (Luke 1:3-4).

JOB, the Patriarch, said: "*I know that my Redeemer liveth*, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25).

PAUL, the Apostle, said: "*I know whom I have believed*, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

JOHN, the beloved Disciple, said, "*We have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love*" (1 John 4:16). —Echoes of Grace

## KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES

*“From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures” (2 Timothy 3:15).*

It is a wonderful thing to know the Holy Scriptures. Timothy knew the Word of God from childhood. He was familiar with the prophecies concerning the coming of Messiah, so that when the Lord Jesus was presented to him, he was prepared to believe in Him. “From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15).

Simply knowing the Scriptures does not produce salvation. One may know the Bible; he or she may be able to quote many verses word for word, but that in itself does not save. The Bible *reveals Christ*, and when one believes in Him, he is saved. That is what happened in Timothy’s case, and thank God, in the experience of millions more.

—H. A. Ironside

## HOW TO KNOW THAT YOU KNOW HIM

*“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).*

There are some things in life that you want to be really sure about. Your salvation is such an issue. Since the Bible warns that many are deceived about this crucial matter, you especially need to *know that you know* your eternal destiny.

### GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM

Christianity is not just knowing about God or knowing certain doctrines or following certain moral precepts. It is essentially to *know* God. Jesus said, “This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou

hast sent” (John 17:3). Christianity, at its heart, is knowing God personally through Jesus Christ, who revealed God to us. You may have been raised in the church and you may have always adhered to Christian morality. But if you do not know God personally, you are not saved.

There is a vast difference between knowing *about* a person and knowing that person. I may know many things about the President by reading the news or watching TV. But I do not know him personally. I’ve never met him or spent any time with him. In the same way, you may know a lot about God, but if you have not entered into a personal relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ, you do not know God personally.

It’s easy to claim that you know Him, but it’s also easy to be mistaken. John mentions someone claiming, “I know him”, but because this person’s life does not back up the claim, John bluntly says that this person “is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:4). In the parable of the sower, those represented by the rocky soil that received the word with joy certainly would have claimed to believe. The same would be true of the thorny soil. But only the fourth type, the good soil, brought forth fruit with perseverance (Luke 8:5-15). That parable shows that if a person truly believes, he will endure trials and root out the weeds of the world. How can we know if a profession of faith is genuine, saving faith? Look at the fruit that comes from it.

### KNOWING THAT WE KNOW

John writes, “Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments” (1 John 2:3). We need to be careful to not reverse the order of Scripture. We are not saved by keeping God’s command-

ments. We are saved by faith alone, but genuine saving faith *necessarily* results in a life of obedience to Jesus Christ. Knowing God changes your heart and life. Jesus said, “If ye love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). He added, “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him” (John 14:21).

“He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked” (1 John 2:6). This verse points back to Jesus’ words about the vine and the branches. There Jesus said, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me” (John 15:4). John says that if we are abiding in Christ, He will be our supreme example for living.

### WALKING THE WALK

John’s words show us that the Christian life is a walk. That is a helpful metaphor that the apostle Paul uses often (Ephesians 2:10; 4:1; 5:8; Colossians 1:10). Walking is not as spectacular or swift as running, leaping, or flying, but it is a steady, sure movement in one direction. It implies progress toward a destination or goal. A walk is made up of many specific steps, but it points to the overall tenor or general quality of a life, not to any one step.

Thus John is saying that you can know that you truly know Christ if you walk in obedience to His Word. But someone may say, “As far as I know, I do believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I seek to obey Him. But, I often fall short. Since I can never walk perfectly in this life, how can I have complete assurance that I truly know Him?”

The issue is purpose, direction, and focus. If the purpose and direction of your life is to please God by obedience to His commands, you can know that you know Him. It does not mean that you never fail, but that when you do, you get up and keep walking in obedience, seeking to please God with all your life.

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones says: “If you have the life, it is bound to show itself, and if it does not, then you have not the life.... You cannot be receiving the life of Christ without becoming like Him. You cannot walk with God without keeping His commandments. You cannot know God without immediately, automatically loving Him. Love always manifests itself by doing what the object of its love desires.”

So ask yourself, first, “Do I know Christ?” Have you trusted in Him as the propitiation for your sins? If so, ask, “Do I obey His Word and seek to walk as Jesus walked?” If that is the direction and focus of your life, then you can know that you know Him.

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## YE MAY KNOW

*“Ye may know that ye have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).*

Many believers lack the assurance of their salvation. Oftentimes this is due to a failure on the part of other believers to adequately instruct and follow-up the new converts. It is extremely important after one is saved that he faithfully study the Scriptures so he “may know” he is saved.

One who has sincerely received Christ need never doubt his salvation. The Bible assures us that we “are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation” (1 Peter 1:5). This is because God has “begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrec-

tion of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3).

It seems that the word “know” is one of John’s favorites. He uses it no less than 177 times in his writings. He was not one to dwell on uncertainty—he dealt with facts. We need to do the same. We are not to wonder about our salvation, but believe and thank God for it. Martin Luther was asked one time if he “felt” that his sins were forgiven. “No,” he replied. “I don’t *feel* that they are forgiven. I *know* they are because God says so in His Word.”

God’s Word makes it clear that nothing other than the sacrifice of Christ is sufficient for salvation. If anyone is to be saved, there is only one way: we must come to God through Christ, and receive salvation as a free gift. It is not what *we* do that saves us, but what *Christ has done*. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us” (Titus 3:5).

—Adapted from *Living Confidently* by J. Allen Blair.

## GOD’S KNOWLEDGE

*“God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things” (1 John 3:20).*

All of us have moments when our hearts condemn us, but God knows that we belong to Him even when we are having doubts. He knows it, John assures us, because He knows everything. That is the doctrine of omniscience, which simply means “all knowing” (omni = all; science = knowledge). God has perfect knowledge of everything—past, present, and future.

The Bible is filled with details of God’s knowledge. For example, He knows the number and names of all the stars (Psalm 147:4). He knows every sparrow (Matthew 10:29). He

knows every bird of the mountains and every wild beast in the fields (Psalm 50:11). But most important of all, He knows us and everything about us (Matthew 10:30). In Psalm 139, David assured us that God knows when we sit down and when we stand up. He knows our thoughts before we think them, while they are far away from us. He knows everything that we do. He knows every word we speak before it ever comes out of our mouths.

There is no way that we can possibly keep any secrets from Him (Psalm 44:21). He gave us a demonstration of His mind-reading, heart-searching techniques one day in Bethlehem. The prophet Samuel had arrived in town to choose Israel’s future king. One by one Jesse paraded seven of his sons before Samuel, but God rejected them all. He explained to Samuel, “The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). But when the youngest was brought in from keeping his father’s sheep, God’s spiritual X-ray vision perceived a heart that dearly loved Him and longed to please Him. “Arise, anoint him: for this is he” (1 Samuel 16:12). David had his moments of spiritual failure, as we all do, but few people in Scripture could rival his wholehearted devotion to God. God saw that devotion while David was still a youth.

One of the last things David did before he died was to give this charge to his son Solomon: “Know thou the God of thy father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts” (1 Chronicles 28:9). He knows all of our faults and failures. Not one short-

coming will ever surface unexpectedly to disillusion Him. He sees the whole of our lives, including the temptations we shall face and the sins we shall commit, yet He never stops loving us (Jeremiah 31:3) and He never stops interceding for us (Hebrews 7:25).

There is only one thing that God blots out of His knowledge, and that is our sins. He said, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" (Jeremiah 31:34). That is a blessed promise for every true child of God. God knows whether or not we are truly His children. On several occasions the Lord Jesus demonstrated His penetrating knowledge of people who had professed to believe on Him but whose commitment was not sincere (John 2:23-25; 6:64). He knows the same thing about us. If you have never genuinely acknowledged your sin and trusted Him for forgiveness, do it now. He will blot every sin you ever committed forever from His memory.

—Condensed from *The Joy of Knowing God* by Richard L. Strauss.

## ONE THING I KNOW

A man, born blind, had just been cured in a very remarkable way by the Lord. His eyes, which had once been sealed, now became a mighty proof of the divine power of Jesus of Nazareth. The Pharisees, the resolvers of the religious difficulties of that day, questioned the man about the character of the One who had healed him. This he refused to do, but said: "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see" (John 9:25). This fact was indisputable. There he stood as witness. They were silenced by the statement of a simple fact, stated in a simple way! He said, "I know."

Let us observe a few things this man did not say.

First, it was not "I think." We must relinquish the reign of our thoughts and ideas in these matters. Naaman thought that Elisha would require him to do some great thing for his healing (2 Kings 5:11), and Paul thought that his purpose in life was to torment those who followed Jesus (Acts 26:9). When we follow our thoughts, we often go wrong.

Secondly, he did not say "I feel." Feelings are the evidence of my senses, and are as changeable as the sand of the desert or the waves of the sea. You cannot build on either. It would be a poor thing indeed if the truthfulness of the Word of God depended on my feelings about it. A person suffering from fever will shiver on a summer day. We dare not go by our feelings.

Thirdly, the blind man did not say, "I doubt." Doubts may characterize the skeptic or atheist, but not the one who has proven the truth of God's Word. That Word, when received by faith, banishes every fear. It places the sinner on the ground of being utterly lost. It reveals to him a Savior once dead, now glorified, whose blood cleanses from all sin, and whose work on the cross makes full atonement. It assures him of salvation.

Happy is the soul that can truthfully say, "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." There is no testimony so powerful as that which is drawn from experience. If I speak what my soul knows—not just what I have heard from others—I speak in power. If you know forgiveness of sins, bear witness to that; if justification, or sonship, or whatever truth you have made your own, tell it out faithfully, distinctly, by word and deed, so that the blessed Savior may obtain praise for the salvation He has given.

—J. W. S.

## THAT I MAY KNOW HIM

*“That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death” (Philippians 3:10).*

The first step to a knowledge of God is a personal encounter with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Philip said to Jesus, “Lord, shew us the Father.” Jesus answered him, “He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father” (John 14:8-9). If we would know God, we must begin with Jesus Christ.

We cannot stress too emphatically that the word “know” means “to come to know by experience.” Paul’s aspiration expressed in Philippians 3:10 is to come to know the Lord Jesus in that fullness of knowledge by identifying himself with Christ and being like Him. It was this personal contact with life, and not mere intellectual knowledge, that our Lord had in mind when He prayed, “This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

How did Paul seek to achieve his goal of knowing Christ more deeply? His goal was a threefold experience.

### POWER OF CHRIST’S RESURRECTION

Christian experience begins with the believing sinner tasting Christ’s resurrection power in regeneration. Writing to believers, Paul said: “You hath He quickened [made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1). Saving faith produces spiritual life; the believer is “born again” (John 3:3,5).

Since Paul was saved when he expressed this desire, to what extent did he want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection? If we are to conquer the daily habits of sin and live in holiness, we must draw from

the power of Christ’s risen life. In Romans 5:9-10, Paul teaches that we are now justified by the blood of Christ and reconciled to God by the death of His Son, but he also adds: “we shall be saved by His life.” To live in the power of Christ’s resurrection is to become more and more dead to the ways of the world and the lusts of the flesh, and to be more like Christ. It was the experiential knowledge of that power—its influence on his own inner life—that Paul pursued.

### PARTICIPATION IN CHRIST’S SUFFERINGS

These sufferings of Christ are not the physical pain and agony of the cross in which He bore the penalty for sins. No one could possibly share these with Him. Rather, they may be what the Lord spoke of when Paul was converted: “I will shew him how great things he must suffer for My name’s sake” (Acts 9:16). These are sufferings in which we may have fellowship with our blessed Lord, such as being the objects of the world’s ridicule and persecution because of our stand for Christ. To know Christ in the fellowship of His sufferings means to bear reproach for His name’s sake.

Most of us would gladly enjoy the fellowship of Christ’s blessings, but how many among us would just as gladly seek the fellowship of His sufferings? Have you ever prayed to God to ask Him that He would grant you the privilege of knowing Christ in the fellowship of His sufferings? Paul did!

### CONFORMITY TO HIS DEATH

Paul concludes his pursuit for knowledge with the expressed desire to be made “conformable unto His death.” His death was the goal of His incarnation; Christ was born to die. He said, “The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). I don’t

believe Paul is expressing a desire to physically die as Christ did, on a cross. Rather, we find Paul's meaning in such phrases as "crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20), "I die daily" (1 Corinthians 15:31), and "always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus" (2 Corinthians 4:10).

Being made conformable to Christ's death is something we all shrink from. We do not surrender our lives easily; we die hard. We struggle frantically to keep the old man alive. But what does God's Word teach us? "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him ... reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:6,11). This is the believer's true position in Christ and it was what Paul was striving for in daily practical experience.

Our Lord's earthly life was so fragrant and beautiful because of His complete setting aside of self in obedience to the Father's will and in service for others. He took upon Himself the form of a servant and was willing to be disowned by the world. He paid whatever price was necessary in order to be the Servant of all. Would you be one with Him in such an experience?

—Adapted from *Studies in Philipians* by Lehman Strauss.

## KNOWING THE UNKNOWABLE

*"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge" (Ephesians 3:17-19).*

### TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST

We can know that Christ loved us and gave Himself for us. We can

know the faithfulness of His love as manifested in countless ways every day of our lives: its tenderness as it comforts us in suffering and sorrow, its fellowship as it shares with us everything it possesses, its patience as it forgives us the seventy times seven. We can also daily add to our knowledge of the love of Christ as we meet with Him in prayer and in the study of His Word, as we fellowship with other saints who know and experience deeply the love of Christ, and as we enter more fully into the fellowship of His sufferings.

### WHICH PASSETH KNOWLEDGE

But there is a love of Christ that is knowledge-surpassing. The expression of Christ's love is knowable, but the essence of it is unknowable. We can never know the love that paid the cost of leaving His eternal home in the Father's bosom in the heavenly glory and of coming to a world that rejected and crucified Him. We can never know the knowledge-surpassing love that voluntarily emptied itself of its inherent glory and was made in the likeness of men and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. We can never know the love that on Calvary's cross suffered the anguish of heart compressed in that cry, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46). We can only confess our utter inability to comprehend such love and tell Him that it makes Him unspeakably precious to us, more precious than anyone or anything in heaven or upon earth. We can respond with a love for Him that sweeps our life clean of all counter-loves and that leads us to go to the uttermost limit of our capacity in both adoration of and devotion to Him.

—Condensed from *The Wealth, Walk, and Warfare of the Christian* by Ruth Paxson.