

Foundation 9: Welcome In

“You shall know The Truth”

*“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make
you free.” (Jn. 8:31a-32)*

Truth is a person.

Jesus said *“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”*

Nothing about our walk with God is theoretical. Everything about our walk with God is ACTUAL. The truth of God’s Word is not theoretical because the Truth is a Person. His Name is Jesus.

When we encounter Who God is, it is a transformative experience - resulting in measurable testimonies of breakthrough! Everything about knowing the Truth (Jesus) liberates. *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me ... to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound ...”*

Knowing God is not a process of accumulating knowledge about Him. It is actually KNOWING HIM. Jesus expected every part of our fruitfulness as believers to stem from our moment-by-moment relational connection with Him.

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”
(Jn. 15:4-5)

Jesus was clear about the source of His effectiveness: He only did what He saw His Father doing and said what He heard His Father saying. Jesus was operating in perfect connection with His Father! Through His blood you too now have perfect and complete access to your Heavenly Father. Like Christ, we simply cannot do the Christian life apart from an ever-active connection to our Father.

Jesus said (in John 15) *“apart from Me, you can do nothing.”* You never again need to be apart from Him! He has removed the separation. You don’t just have an opportunity to know ABOUT the truth; you have the ever present invitation from your Savior to know The Truth, Himself.

Welcome in.

Two Types of Knowledge - Scripturally

Scripturally, there are two types of knowledge. Let’s first look at Genesis 2:8-9:

“The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow

that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Now let's continue in Genesis 2 by looking at verses 16-17 *“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

So what was in the garden?

- First there was *“every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.”*
- What else was there? *“The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”*
- And what else? Remember, there was one other ... *“The tree of life.”*

God said *“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat ...”* except what?

“The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

So they were allowed to eat of the tree of life.

Jesus said *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* (Jn. 14:6) Adam and Eve were allowed to be in communion with Jesus. They were allowed to eat of that tree. *“I am the vine, you are the branches.”*

But what tree did they choose to eat from? *“The tree of*

the knowledge of good and evil.”

For years I read about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And I think all of us that have read about it have probably come to the same conclusion ... Well, duh, it was bad! It was the “knowledge of evil”! See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. The knowledge of evil was bad; duh!

Do you remember what God said would happen when they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Why did He say “don’t eat of that one.” Because in they day they would eat of it, they would die. As we have previously discussed, they died spiritually. They continued to live for a time physically, but they died spiritually. What does it mean to die spiritually? Spiritual death is to be disconnected from the source of scriptural / eternal life - to be disconnected from God.

The “knowledge of good” part of that tree was just as bad as the “knowledge of evil.” Knowing “good” apart from God is just as damaging as knowing evil apart from God. Why? Because both took Adam and Eve apart from God and thereby produced spiritual death. Knowing good is not the same as knowing God!

Adam and Eve had the tree of life available to them - Jesus! *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* The tree of life was there for the receiving - relationship with Jesus was completely available to them. But instead, they chose the tree of the KNOWLEDGE of good and evil. And the knowledge of those things apart from knowing God.

Relationship with God in the New Covenant

It's often been said "Christianity isn't a religion; it's a relationship." So true!

However, much of what the church has been experiencing as "relationship with God" is not relationship with God ... it is relationship with a set of theology that is good - which we attempt to know in separation from God.

Let's look at 2 Peter 1:1-2 *"Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you **in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,**"*

It does not say "in the knowledge ABOUT God and of Jesus our Lord." It's in the KNOWING of Him! That's a big difference. This is an invitation. Christianity is not the knowing ABOUT Him. It's the knowing OF Him. If God wanted His children to just know ABOUT Him, He would have only given us the Bible. He didn't just give us the Bible. He also caused His Holy Spirit to come LIVE in us! *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and **make Our home with him.**"* (Jn. 14:23) The Father and Son have made their home with you! Holy Spirit lives in you! You are not alone ... your heart is HIS home!

Let's look at Hebrews 8. We'll look at verses 7-12

“For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.””

The writer of Hebrews (likely Paul) is talking about the nature of the New Covenant here. What's the backbone of the New Covenant? *“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”* When you draw near to God, He is not bringing your sins to remembrance. *“Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”* Isn't that incredible! He who repeats a matter separates close friends and the enemy's been repeating your sins to you to separate

you from a Friend that sticks closer than a brother ... and your Friend's Name is Jesus! That's the reality of the New Covenant: that your sins and lawless deeds are remembered no more. No more!

Look at how powerful some of the other language describing the New Covenant is! *"None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know (Greek: Intellectually know) the Lord,' for all shall know (Greek: see with their own eyes) Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them."* In the New Covenant every believer can have a direction connection with God themselves because of the blood of Jesus Christ. His body was broken and the veil was torn from top to bottom so that each person could enter the Holy of Holies of communion with God.

In the New Covenant, with this sort of individual access available, we are not to be teaching each other saying "Know ABOUT God. Know ABOUT God. Know ABOUT God."

Indeed, in the New Covenant, *"None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them."* We are not going to be telling people "know the Lord intellectually" because EVERYONE (from the least of them to the greatest of them) shall see the Lord with their own eyes! It doesn't matter your station in life is. It doesn't matter whether you have a degree in theology. It doesn't matter if you're a pastor or a "lay person" as some say ... you shall see the Lord with your own eyes! Why? *"Your sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."* Therefore, come

boldly before the Throne of Grace with confidence!

The New Covenant reality is NOT the reality of the knowledge of good and evil.

The New Covenant reality is the reality of KNOWING of HIM!

The New Covenant looks like seeing Him with your own eyes. Grace and peace will be multiplied to you in the KNOWING of Him. Not the knowledge ABOUT Him, but the KNOWING of Him.

You might think “well, isn’t it helpful to know about Him?”

Let’s look at John 5:39. Jesus is talking to the some of the Jews and says this *“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.”*

There’s a way to approach God that’s theological. That approach tries to accumulate knowledge ABOUT Him. There’s another type of approach with God that’s revelational and relational WITH Him.

Jesus continues in John 5:40 by saying *“But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”* Jesus is saying the issue isn’t that they knew the scriptures ... the issue is they knew the scriptures without knowing HIM! They were very fine having the scriptures so long as it did not include coming TO HIM.

You can’t receive revelation from God without entering into deeper relationship WITH Him. Remember, I said there

are 2 types of knowledge. There's the world's knowledge and 1 Corinthians 1:21 makes it clear that *"the world through wisdom did not **know God.**"* They might have known "good" but they didn't know God! You can't enter into **revelation** knowledge with God apart from entering into deeper **relationship** with Him.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life ..." Jesus is the Truth. Truth ... is ... a PERSON.

Softness of Heart

Ezekiel 11:19 prophesies that in the New Covenant God would take out our stony heart and give us a heart of flesh. When you were born again, God took out a hard heart and gave you a heart of flesh that was soft and sensitive to Him. Again, Hebrews 8:10 says *"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts ..."* God doesn't want to write on stones anymore - or on parchments - He wants to write on your heart. Every revelation from God of WHO He is is an invitation to deeper and fresher relationship with Him ... but hardness of heart will hear but not understand. It will see but not perceive the invitation He's offering us.

As we conclude these foundational truths, I want to personally encourage you in this: more than anything else, God is after your heart. He is after knowing YOU. Don't allow what you've learned in these chapters to produce anything other than knowing HIM and being known by

Him! Stay soft to God. To that end, I would encourage you to pray like this:

“Father I don’t want to just know ABOUT You. I want to know YOU.”

“Lord, I’m glad what I know of You, but I don’t want what I know of You to keep me from knowing YOU!”

“Father, forever sensitize my heart to You. I don’t want what I’ve known of You to keep me from knowing You. I don’t want what I’ve experienced of You to keep me from encountering You.”

*“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And **you shall know the truth**, and the truth shall make you free.”*

(Jn. 8:31a-32) There is no graduation in the Christian life from this very thing: knowing God! Disciples shall know the Truth (Jesus) more and more and accordingly become more and more free. (Jn. 8:31-32) We never graduate because the goal of knowing God was never to be ready to be sent off but instead always to be drawn more and more near.

I pray that today your walk with Him would be one step **deeper** and one day **fresher** than ever before. Amen.

Scriptures

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (Jn. 8:31a-32)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (Jn. 14:6)

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me ... to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound ...” (Isa. 61:1 abbreviated)

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” (Jn. 15:4-5)

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“Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,” (2 Pe. 1:1-2)

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” (Jn. 14:23)

“For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I

will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” (Heb. 8:7-12)

“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.” (Jn. 5:39-40)

“For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.” (1 Cor. 1:21)

“Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within [a]them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,” (Ezekiel 11:19)