

My Heart and Spiritual Condition Moving From Good, To Better, To Best! Title:

Knowing God

John 17:1–3 (NLT) *The Prayer of Jesus* After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you.² For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him.³ And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.

Jeremiah 9:23–24 (NASB95) ²³Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.

Today, our goal - To Convince you God wants us to know Him in relationship...

- Or remind you
- Or this may re-encourage you
- Or help us draw nearer to God
- Or help us help those around us know how to know God

Knowing God:

John 4:23–24 (NLT) ²³ But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

John 10:14–15 (NLT) ¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.

Revelation 3:20 (NLT) ²⁰ “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

Zephaniah 3:17b (NLT) ...He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”

Luke 15:11–24 (NLT) *Parable of the Lost Son*

¹¹ To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. ¹² The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

¹³ “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. ¹⁴ About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land,

and he began to starve. ¹⁵ He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.” ’

²⁰ “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. ²¹ His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

²² “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. ²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

To Know God, We Must First Be Born Again “Born Spiritually By Surrendering Our Life To Jesus

John 3:3–8 (NLT) ³ Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” ⁴ “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” ⁵ Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. ⁷ So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.”

John 3:16–17 (NLT) ¹⁶ “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

A. We are born sinners separated from God by the curse of sin, by our own sin, and because we are born spiritually dead

Romans 3:23 (NLT) ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

B. Jesus Paid For Sin by Being The Perfect Sacrifice and He Loves Each of Us

Romans 6:23 (NLT) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord

Romans 5:8 (NLT) ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

C. Our Sins Are Forgiven by His Sacrifice When We Are “Born Again” By Faith

We by Faith “Trust/Believe/Repent/Surrender/Call on His Name” or Give Our Life To Jesus And Surrender

To Him As Lord

2 Peter 3:9 (NLT) ⁹ The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

Romans 10:9–10 (NLT) ⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

Romans 10:13 (NLT) ¹³ For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

Matthew 16:24–26 (NLT) ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

Prayer of Surrender To Christ

Dear God,

I confess that I am a sinner and that I need your forgiveness.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died on the cross for my sins, and that He rose from the dead on the third day.

I ask you to forgive me of my sins and to come into my life as my Lord and Savior.

I give my life to you, and I ask for your guidance and strength to live for you from this day forward.

Thank you for your love and mercy. In Jesus' name, Amen"

Step into being a child of God, having eternal life, access to the abundant life of Jesus, and the opportunity to really know God!

How To Develop A Real Relationship With God!:

(Expect a Relationship)

1. Hear God

- a. Talk to God knowing He Hears
- b. Listen To God's Direction – Expect Him to Give You Thoughts and Answers

2. Listen to The Word

- a. Read the Word
- b. Study The Word
- c. Expect God To Show His Alive Word For You For The Moment Through His Written Word

3. Welcome they Holy Spirit and Gifts Working In You, and Through Others.

- a. The Holy Spirit Ministers To You and Gives You Thoughts and Signs
- b. The Holy Spirit Works Through The Gifts of the Spirit Through Other People To You

5. Worship In Spirit and Truth

- a. Set Aside time To Intently Focus on God
- b. Be Thankful

6. Set Aside Time To Be With God

- a. **Alone** – Morning, Be Still and Know That I Am God, Fasting, Jesus Went Away to Be With The Father, Prayer Closet
- b. **Together With Believers** - Appointed Worship Times, Study – (Regular services, small groups, accountability partners, men’s groups, lady’s groups, youth groups, children’s groups), Conventions or Camps or Retreats

7. Step Out in Faith – Take Action on What God is Telling You To Do – Give of Yourself

- a. When We Take Action Based on What God Tells Us To Do, We Then See Him Meet Us and Do More. Ex. Gideon (Judges 6-8)

8. Be With Other Believers -Testimonies, Discussion, Application, Ministry Give and Receive, Counsel, Church family, Prayer

Seekers Find and Know God

Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT) ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

Deuteronomy 4:29 (NLT) ²⁹ But from there you will search again for the LORD your God. And if you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him.

Psalms 119:2 (NLT) ² Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts.

1 Chronicles 28:9 (NLT) ⁹ “And Solomon, my son, learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the LORD sees every heart and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

Psalms 16:11 (NASB95) You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (NLT) ³¹ “The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. ³² This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD.

³³ “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the LORD. “And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

Prayer Questions For The Week:

- Is my relationship with God as close as I want it to be?
- Is my relationship with God as close as He wants it to be?

- **Is there a such thing as have a relationship too close to God? (No – More of God is Better!)**
- **What does God want me to realize?**
- **What do I need to change?**