

Series: Good, Better, Best!



Series Title Explanation: **My Heart and Spiritual Condition Moving From Good to Better & Best!**

Session #1: Follow Me & Continue! (I Know You!)

John 1:43 (NLT) ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, **"Come, follow me."**

John 21:18–19 (NLT) ¹⁸ **"I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go."** ¹⁹ Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, **"Follow me."**

Follow Me, and Continue Following Me!

I Know You:

Psalms 139:1–18 (NLT) *For the choir director: A psalm of David.*

¹ O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. ² You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. ³ You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. ⁴ You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. ⁵ You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! ⁷ I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! ⁸ If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. ⁹ If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. ¹¹ I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— ¹² but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you. ¹³ You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. ¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. ¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. ¹⁷ How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! ¹⁸ I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!

Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT) ⁵ **"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."**

Hebrews 4:13 (NLT) ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

John 2:23–25 (NLT) *Jesus and Nicodemus* ²³ Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. ²⁴ But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. ²⁵ No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart.

Luke 16:15a(NLT) ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts.

John 1:43–49 (NLT) ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Come, follow me.” ⁴⁴ Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown. ⁴⁵ Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶ “Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” “Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied. ⁴⁷ As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.” ⁴⁸ “How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.” ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”

Matthew 10:29–31 (NLT) ²⁹ What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. ³⁰ And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

Your Response of Really Knowing God Knows You:

1. Awe

Mark 4:41 (NLT) ⁴¹ The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”

2. Celebration

Philippians 4:4 (NLT) ⁴ Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

3. Peace

Romans 15:13 (NLT) ¹³ I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

4. Encouragement

John 14:27 (NLT) ²⁷ “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

Matthew 11:28–30 (NLT) ²⁸ Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

5. Vision

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

2 Timothy 1:9 (NLT) ⁹ For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:23 (NLT) ²³ Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

6. Decision - To Follow In Our Calling

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

7. Remaining Faithful

Matthew 25:1–13 (NLT) *Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids*

"Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ The five who were foolish didn't take enough olive oil for their lamps, ⁴ but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. ⁵ When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ "At midnight they were roused by the shout, 'Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!' ⁷ "All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. ⁸ Then the five foolish ones asked the others, 'Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' ⁹ "But the others replied, 'We don't have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ "But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. ¹¹ Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, 'Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!' ¹² "But he called back, 'Believe me, I don't know you!' ¹³ "So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

Hebrews 10:23 (NLT) ²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

Matthew 24:9–13 (NLT) ⁹ "Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. ¹⁰ And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. ¹¹ And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. ¹² Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

James 1:12 (NLT) ¹² God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Galatians 6:9 (NLT) ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

1 Corinthians 16:13(NLT) ¹³ Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.