

# I Know Whom I Have Believed

## *Cultivating your relationship with Jesus*

(An expository study in 2 Timothy 1:8-12 esp. Verse 12)

*Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, [9] who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, [10] but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, [11] to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. [12] For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. (2 Timothy 1:8-12)*

Why is the Christian faith different from every other major world religion? What marks the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ and makes it different? When does a follower of Jesus Christ start impacting the life of those around them? The answer to each of these questions can be summarized in a single word, relationship.

The Orthodox Jew believes they have a relationship God through the Torah, the law of God. It is their obedience to these laws that determine a right or wrong standing before God. When they fail in their obedience, they become unsure of God's relationship toward them.

Similarly, the Orthodox Muslim, and in greater degree the radical Muslim, have their relationship with the Quran and its codes. The proper number of prayers, the proper amount of time spent in Mosque, and even the proper approach to Jihad determines a proper or improper standing with



Allah. They seem never sure if they've secured Allah's favor. Unfortunately, martyrdom during Jihad is the only secure path to afterlife paradise. It is that tragic deception that marks the radical Jihadist. Even the most moderate devout Muslim can never be sure that they have done enough to be headed to paradise.

The Buddhist, the Hindu, the Eastern Mystic and the New Age enthusiast have a relationship that is predominantly with the self. The inner self. They search inwardly to achieve a peace with the universe around them. Some refer to it as "Nirvana" or what they see as "ultimate peace and tranquility". Yet their search is constantly hampered by the awareness of their humanity and failings which stand in conflict with their goal for unbroken inner peace.

In contrast to the central point of these religion's, a Christian's life is centered on the person of Jesus Christ. It is in identifying with His life, death, burial and resurrection that we have a relationship with Him. This abiding relationship is with a resurrected Christ that sees them, speaks to them, commands and comforts them. This is what marks their life. Who could argue that having a relationship with a person is immensely different than having a relationship to a law, or a code or the inner self!

Once a person comes to faith in Christ, from the moment they are born again by the Spirit of God, a relationship with Christ begins. The soul is saved from the eternal penalty for sin, i.e. separation from God, and in an exchange, they are forgiven of their sin and gifted with the assurance of eternity in the presence of God. As the Apostle Paul stated; *"For the*

*wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”(Romans 6:23)

But what now? The fact remains, as a Christian, there is yet a life to be lived here on earth. This relationship with our resurrected Christ is of paramount importance for every Christian. To know the Lord and His ways is the lifelong pursuit for us all who call upon the Name of Jesus. There are, however, different kinds of knowing.

For example, I might say I know my boss at work, but this is immensely different than knowing my wife at home. I might say I know my next-door neighbor but that is very different from the way that I know my children. I have a much deeper relationship with my wife and my children than I do with my boss or my neighbor. Which brings me to the purpose of the title of this article.

The apostle Paul makes a profound statement in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, Chapter 1 and verse 12. He says; “...*for I know whom I have believed...*”

In the pages that follow, we will set out on a journey to discover exactly what Paul meant by that statement. Is possible for every Christian to know whom they have believed in the same way that Paul did? My hope for you is that something of both, - eternal and present value, will become yours as you read. My hope is that our Savior will fill you with truth that revives your soul.

### ***A Twofold Command***



*“Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,”* (2 Timothy 1:8)

Notice that the word, **ashamed**, appears three times in the chapter. It is a verb that means: “*a feeling or fear that **prevents** a person from doing a thing.*” (Vine’s dictionary of N.T. words) Thus, Paul is commanding Timothy to ignore any feelings that would **prevent** him from speaking about the Lord Jesus and His testimony, or of the apostle Paul.

Feelings can often prevent us from doing things that could otherwise be good for us. Years ago, as a Jr High School student who had never dressed out for Gym or spent much time throwing a basketball, I experienced this kind of fear. Many of my classmates were very good at basketball but when I tried it, I was very clumsy and uncoordinated. That made me embarrassed and fearful to keep playing. My feelings prevented me from trying harder and, perhaps, improving at the sport. Can’t say I’ve ever learned to like basketball! I might be tall and lanky, but I am still as uncoordinated as they come.

If we’ve been born again by the Spirit of God, (Jhn.3-3); if we’ve tasted and seen that the Lord is good (Ps. 34:8); if we’ve become a follower of Jesus Christ (Lk. 18:22) and been given an opportunity to speak about His intervention into our lives, then the same exhortation is for us. We are not to be ashamed to speak out about Jesus, Paul, or our own faith. Don’t let anything or anyone prevent us. That was the first command to Timothy.



Secondly, Paul also commanded Timothy to: “...share in the suffering for gospel’s sake!” Many of us in the west (USA) don’t have an understanding of suffering for the gospel’s sake. Christians in 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries certainly understand it in a real sense. In 2025, according to Open Doors Ministries, severe persecutions are taking place in many countries. Some examples are: N. Korea, Somalia, Yemen, Libya, and Nigeria to mention a few. Here are some statistics to take note of.

- In 2024 4,476 believers were killed for their faith. 2 in 5 are persecuted for their faith in Asia and 1 in 5 in Africa.
- Last year in 2024, over 4,740 were imprisoned for their faith in Christ.

These are true - life and death, examples of suffering for the sake of the gospel. Here in the U.S., we have experienced persecution but most of our sufferings are a bit different. Our hardships as believers often effect our relationships at home, educational institutions, workplaces and the circle of people in our life path.

Jesus predicted such conflicts in relationships for the follower of Christ. He said; *"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'* (Matthew 10:34-36). Let’s not misunderstand His words. Jesus does not ever want a divided family unit, but He foresaw what would happen when some believe and others reject His offer of salvation.



Often, as Christians, we see a divide in families, friends, and work associates simply because we want to adhere to biblical values and hold fast to the truth of Christ! It is a spiritual battle. As Paul reminded the believers in Ephesus, we, like Timothy, need to *“...be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Putting on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* *“...For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”* (Eph. 6:10-12).

It was a twofold command for Timothy then, and it remains a twofold command for us today. Don't be ashamed to speak out about Jesus and remain willing to share in the sufferings for the sake of the gospel.

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### ***A Welcome Reminder***

Next, we find Paul giving Timothy a welcome reminder of what God, in Christ, has done. Connecting the last word of verse 8 to verse nine we read; *“God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.”* (2 Timothy 1:8b-9)

When someone commits to a life of loving, following and serving the Lord Jesus, it can become trench warfare, a battlefield of cultures and/or interpersonal boxing matches with adversaries of the faith. This was the case with young Timothy. There were those in Ephesus, who questioned his authority and capability to lead. Paul is giving Timothy a welcome



reminder about three things. Timothy's salvation, his calling and God's timing of it all. This can serve as a welcome reminder for us as well! Let me explain.

When we think about our salvation it is always good to remember what we've been saved **from** and what we are saved **to**. I know that for me God saved me from an eternal consequence of my own foolish choices earlier in life. There were destructive things, things that were base and things that could have ended my life prematurely. Had Jesus not revealed Himself to me and, by His grace, rescued me I would not be writing this article to you now. Like anyone else before getting saved, I was sentenced to be a recipient of the wrath of God. Romans 5:9 tells every believer; "...*having now been justified by His blood, we shall be **saved from wrath through Him**.*" First Thessalonians also reminds us that "...Jesus... delivers us **from the wrath** to come." (1:10). Putting these two facts together we see that we are **saved from** wrath.

But now consider what we are saved **to**! The apostle Peter summarized it this way; "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again (saved us) **to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,...***" (1 Peter 1:3-4/parentheses added). And there it is! Saved from wrath! Saved **to** an inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled and reserved in heaven for you and I! Oh, bless the Lord.

The second amazing thing that Paul communicates to Timothy about his salvation is that it came with a calling. A "holy calling!" Not because



Timothy or Paul is holy, but because God, who has called them, is holy! And as if that wouldn't set Timothy on a firm foundation for his work there in Ephesus, Paul reminds Timothy that their calling took place even *"...before time began."* Can you fathom that? Can you wrap your head around the fact that God had determined them to be saved and called into their ministries before time began? This was a welcome reminder. Now take a deep breath! What is true of them is also true of others in the Bible and of you and me as well.

When the prophet Jeremiah had doubts about what he could or could not do for the Lord, the Lord spoke to him and informed him: *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."* (Jeremiah 1:5). Did you catch that? Before he was even conceived and started being "formed in his mother's womb" God Almighty had already purposed the trajectory of Jeremiah's life and "ordained" certain things to be so.

The patriarch David declared; *"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."* (Psalm 139:13-14). Yes, this would be a welcome reminder to Timothy and can serve as a welcome reminder to us.

Allow me to make this very personal to you, the reader. Oh, beloved of Christ, cast those doubts and uncertainties aside. Your Heavenly Father has had His eye on you all along the way. He has already determined the trajectory of your life and has purposed certain good things for you, even before time began. Let your soul know it well and learn to trust.



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## ***The Accomplishments of Christ' First Coming***

Paul the apostle writes; “...by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,” (2 Tim. 1:10)

Paul points to two profound accomplishments. (1) He abolished death. (2) He brought life and immortality to light. And he did so through the gospel. In the first of these accomplishments, the word: “abolish” simply means to - reduce to inactivity! Thus, in the life of the follower of Jesus, the gospel message has made physical death, as an end to life, inactive by the promise of eternal life to come. You might recall Jesus’ conversation with Martha about her brother Lazurus. Jesus said to her, “*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die (physically), he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.*” Then He asked her, “*Do you believe this?*” (parentheses added-John 11:25-26). For the Christian, physical death is not an end. It is a graduation and beginning of eternity with Christ. Thus, the concept of death being an end to life is made inactive!

Throughout human history many are held in bondage to fear by the concept of death being the end. But the author of Hebrews reminds the believer of a very special fact. We find; “*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their*

*lifetime subject to bondage.* (Hebrews 2:14-15). Again I ask, do you see it? Jesus' coming, His message and His fulfillment of that message through His death, burial and resurrection brought an end to the fears that death presented and a release from the bondage of that fear to all who believe in Christ. Therefore, for the disciple of Christ, a greater understanding of what is available while living this life can become a treasured possession of every believer. The apostle Paul declared; “...*for in Him we live and move and have our being.*” (Acts 17:28a).

Similarly, thoughts of life and immortality had already existed but were not fully understood until the gospel message was brought. The Hebrew had a belief in the afterlife, but it was obscure at best due to the dispensation of the time. There was a veil over the spiritual eyes of the Jew. And there still is.

We are reminded that: “...their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ... Nevertheless, when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. (2 Corinthians 3:14,16). True spiritual life and immortality were more fully understood because of the gospel message. As the truth is declared by Paul to the Christians in Ephesus; “...*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins...* (Ephesians 2:1)

Being “made alive” is the life that Jesus brought to light when He taught the gospel message. The immortality spoken of pointed to the endless life with Christ for everyone who believed the gospel. Do you believe it?



Have you made that profession? It will be then and only then that the life and immortality that Paul speaks of are truly yours and mine.

So, these are the three things embedded in the first few verses of our passage.

- A Twofold Command / “don’t be ashamed, share in sufferings”
  - A Welcome Reminder - “you are saved and called”
- Accomplishments of Christ’ First Coming – death abolished / spiritual life available

### A Second Birth

But as we read on in verse 11, we come to the reason that Paul made these declarations about the gospel. He says; “*...to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*” (2 Tim. 1:11). To be **appointed** means to be set or made. Thus, Paul had been made a preacher, one who heralds the gospel message. He had been made an apostle, or one who is sent to carry the gospel message further. He was also made a teacher of the Gentiles. One who was to teach the Gentiles about the gospel.

To the Jew of Paul’s day, we should well remember that he or she believed they had relationship with the God on the basis that they were born a Jew. Yes, they were required to keep the laws of sacrifice to remain in good standing with God, but they believed they possessed a relationship with Him simply because they were Hebrews. A Gentile, on the other hand, was everyone else in the world. Therefore, all Gentiles

were not in a right relationship with God unless they had embraced the practices of Judaism. Paul was called to teach the Gentiles about the need to be born again.

He made it clear that there must be a second birth in everyone's life who desires to be in the kingdom of God. To have a relationship with God the Father, through Christ, His Son, a birth of the Spirit, must happen. His own words were: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'* (John 3:3 John 3:6-7). Are you born a second time today? Is this your reality as well?

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***"...For I Know Whom I Have Believed..."***

We come now to the 12<sup>th</sup> verse in our study and I see this as hallowed ground. We read: *For this reason, I also suffer these things; nevertheless, I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.* (2 Timothy 1:12)

There are, in my opinion, two statements made in the last half of the verse that beg a deeper look. Paul starts by validating his sufferings as the preacher, an apostle and teacher and not ashamed of it at all. (*See my previous notes on being ashamed.*) But then he gives us two deep reasons for withstanding the responsibilities and hardships that his life, as a follower of Jesus, have brought.



The first statement is this. He says; “...*for I know whom I have believed...*” (2:12b). Let us be careful now to appreciate the depth of his word. We’ll begin by employing Greek grammar and definition to the word – **know**. The grammar of the word “**know**” here is what we call: present/indicative active. This means that the action is occurring while the speaker is speaking. In other words, it's like Paul is saying “...right now I know...” Now we must consider the definition of this same word.

There are two most common words for “**know**” in the Greek New Testament. The first “**know**” - GINOSKO and it is used approximately 222 times. It means to know something or someone experientially. By contrast, the second word “**know**” and the one being used here is EIDO, and is only used approximately 20 times. The Vines Bible Dictionary of New Testament Words defines this “**know**” as:

- To perceive with sight
- To perceive with mind / understand
- To be acquainted with a person
- To know their inclinations
- To know them intuitively, as opposed to experientially.

(ref: John 21:15, Matt. 2:2, Rom. 8:28, Luke 2:26 and others)

Next, we must lock onto a very important fact in the text. Notice the reason that Paul qualifies himself to exhort Timothy.

- It’s not because he knows [what] he believes,
- Not because of [when or where] he first believed it.

- It's not even because of [why] he believes it.

But...

- It's because Paul knows *"whom"* he has believed.

This is profound to me. Paul is saying, in effect: Right now, as I am writing to you all... I (eido) see Him, I (eido) understand Him, I'm acquainted with Him. I (eido) know what He is inclined to say and do because I know (eido) Him intuitively! Let that sink in for a moment. Wow!!! Oh, what a special intimate and powerful knowing of Jesus! My heart leaps at the prospect of knowing Jesus in the same way. Living each day knowing Jesus in these multiple of ways. That is what Paul meant when he makes this powerful statement! *"...for I know whom I have believed..."*

\_\_\_\_\_ Another question to ask \_\_\_\_\_

This truth also begs another question. **When** did Paul come to know Jesus in these ways? Was it immediately on the Damascus Road? Was it later in life while in the jail cell at Philippi? Was it perhaps on the ship tossed and breaking up in the Aegean Sea? Did this intimate knowing only come later in life while under house arrest in Rome? Was it at any one moment or a combination of them all? I believe we can answer that question by tracking Paul's life.

In Acts 9 we find the man named Saul of Tarsus, who is also Saul the Pharisee, and a man determined to destroy Christians. There on the road to Damascus, he meets Jesus, the resurrected Christ. Convicted of his own rebellion against the Lord, whom he thought he knew, and supernaturally



made aware of his sin, we read that Saul, *"...trembling and astonished said, Lord, what do You want me to do?"* (Acts 9:6). It is no stretch to say that at this moment in time Saul, the would-be apostle, does not know (eido) Jesus. He is beginning to "ginosko" Jesus, but he does not "eido" Jesus at this time. We can agree that it is then and there that his journey to "eido" Jesus starts. But let's keep going.

Much later, after three years in an Arabian desert (about 34-36 AD) and being personally instructed by the Holy Spirit, this Saul of Tarsus, is becoming Paul the Apostle. The solitude of the desert and the Spirit of God have allowed him to integrate his vast knowledge of Old Testament truths into a New Testament reality with Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah. He is being transformed by the... *Christ in him, the hope of glory.* (Col. 1:27).

Then, Paul the Apostle, ventures out to meet the other disciples/apostles and prove that: *"He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy."* (Galatians 1:23). This would now be around 36 AD. Then, for roughly another ten years this new Christian, Paul the Apostle, tried sharing his faith throughout the Jewish community. But Paul's message concerning Jesus, - as the Christ, - was rejected by most of the Jewish leaders he once associated with. He was beaten, left for dead and even imprisoned. At one point he had to be let down, over a high wall, in a basket to escape the threats of death.

As time went on, Paul tell us that; *"...James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me (Paul) and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should*



*go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.* ” (Galatians 2:9). So, Paul then takes a different direction in his ministry. We know by historical accounts that his 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey would have been around 46-48 AD. Paul, accompanied by Barnabas, travels through Cyprus and Asia Minor, establishing churches. A further timeline of Paul’s activities is as follows;

- Council of Jerusalem (c. 49 AD): Paul attends the council to discuss the inclusion of Gentiles in the church without requiring circumcision.
- Second Missionary Journey (c. 49-52 AD): Paul travels with Silas, visiting established churches and spreading the Gospel in new regions, including Greece.
- Third Missionary Journey (c. 53-57 AD): Paul revisits churches and spends significant time in Ephesus, strengthening the early Christian communities.
- Arrest in Jerusalem (c. 57 AD): Paul is arrested in Jerusalem after being accused of bringing Gentiles into the temple.
- Imprisonment and Trials (c. 57-60 AD): Paul faces trials before various authorities, including Felix and Festus, and appeals to Caesar.

This is the activity of a man faithful to serve and yet, impacted by many hardships. There were times when going home to be with Jesus was very attractive. While imprisoned again we find him writing to Christians in Philippi and saying: *“For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.”* Then he reminds them, *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”* (Phil. 1:;23-24,21)



In fact, it is in this same letter, written about 61AD, and the date is important, that we discover something very wonderful about Paul and his knowing of Jesus. In chapter three and verse eight of Philippians he declares... *“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge [ginosis] of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”* Do you hear him? His ‘knowing’ of the Lord has been steadily growing over the years, deepening.... Then in verse nine and ten he declares; *“...and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know [ginosko] – it’s present tense and it shouts to the future tense as well – ever growing, ever deepening but still more to be experienced] Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,* (Philippians 3:8-10). Oh, my friend in Christ, here it seems to all come together!

So, for years this knowing (eido) of the Lord Jesus is growing. It comes in layers and layers as Paul’s faith is tested, as Jesus’ love for him is confirmed time and time again. He experiences many cruel things by unbelievers and some of the faith. But he also experiences Jesus’ presence in the midst of it all. In one of his letters to Timothy he says; *At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. [17] But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.* (2 Timothy 4:16-17)



And yes, now we've come to our verse in Timothy's second letter. Specifically, it was written roughly about fall of 67 AD. The date is very important because spans some 35 years of Paul walking with Christ. Getting to know Christ more and more until now we find him testifying that *"...I am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.:"* (2 Timothy 1:12b)

- It's not because of knowing [what] I believe,
- Not because of [when or where] I first believed it.
- It's not even because of [why] I believe it
- But because I (EIDO) **know "whom"** I have believed.

Yes, it is important to have our theology correct. It is important to know what we believe, why we believe it and when we started believing it in such a way that our lives began to change. But even more important is to: **"Know whom"** we have believed!

This, my beloved is the deep, personal abiding of Christ, in the person of the Holy Spirit with Paul. Beginning at Damascus and ever growing deeper and deeper throughout his life's journey in God. Jesus calls him "Friend".

Paul is saying that right now - as I'm talking with you that I perceive Jesus with my sight, I understand Him, I'm acquainted with Him and His inclinations and I know Him intuitively, as well as experientially. And because of these combined intimate ways that he knows the Lord, Paul is **persuaded!** A powerful word. Originally, it means; ***"to bring about a change of mind by the influence of reason or moral considerations"*** In



other words, Paul has not a single doubt about what is going to happen to himself when that “DAY” comes. These intimate ways of knowing Jesus ushered Paul into this immovable persuasion.

\_\_\_\_\_ One question answered leads to others being asked. \_\_\_\_\_

Was such a relationship reserved for Paul alone? - I say no. Did any of the other leaders like Peter, John, in Paul’s day know (ginosko & eido) Him? Most assuredly yes. Did other Christians throughout time in the church (ginosko & eido) Him? I say yes. Can you and I know (ginosko & eido) Him? - It must be a resounding yes. Will involve hardships? - Most assuredly yes. As Peter reminds us:

*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, (1Peter 1:6-7)*

What are we to do? - Once again Peter tells us;

*But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, (ginosis) [6] to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, [7] to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. [8] For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge (clear and exact-/Epi-ginosis) of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-8)*

It is a constant layering of these forms of knowing Jesus that produce such a confidence and strength in the saints of old. Knowing Him in these ways will cause your soul to rest in the assurances of His love and promise for our lives. Does it have to take 35 years? - It doesn't have to! That depends upon you and the Lord. How desperate to know Him in these ways are you right now?

I know (ginosko & eido) my wife, Sherry, today much more than I did on our wedding day! Did it involve hardships? Yes, many. Did it come with innumerable joys? Yes! Has it deepened over time? Yes!

How do you come to know Jesus in these ways? I cannot answer that for you, other than what we've just seen in Scripture! But I can assure you that He wants each of us to know Him in these ways! He has made every provision by His Holy Spirit for us to do so. For He has promised,

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)

'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.' Jeremiah 33:3

My hope for you today is that you too will say with Paul; "for I Know whom I have believed." And that you too are persuaded that Jesus is able to keep your life, the life that you have committed to Him, until the Day you see Him face to face. Oh, what a Day that will be.