

2025-12-27 Knowing God & His Love

Russia Ukraine war going into its 4th year

No nations willing to help Israel deal with Gaza

Another terrorist attack in Israel with 2 killed

Anti-Semitism growing all over the world

Even among some American conservative leaders

In your own lives many of you experiencing family divisions, conflicts

Estranged from children who have turned away from God, divorces

Children struggling with their identity, lots of health problems

What do you need to survive, thrive & be fruitful in the times we are in?

You need to know God, know His love & be able to follow His guidance

Many of you already know God, but, like Rabbi Sha'ul

You & I should always be striving to know Him better

That's why many of you are here – because learning about

The Jewish culture Yeshua lived in enables you to know Him better

Lost & Found message on 11/15 was about the understanding

That if you truly love God

You will care about how He feels about things

Looked at what Bible says about how God feels about what happens

Among His people & here on Earth

Positive feelings, compassion, joy, love

& negative feelings like betrayal, disrespect, being ignored, doubted,
jealousy, anger

Came across scriptures in which God Himself speaks about knowing Him

Ruach Ha Kodesh directed me to share them today

First time Bible says anything about knowing God

Is in a request by Moses just after Israelites worshipped the golden calf

*Exodus 33:13 Now then, I pray, if I have found grace in Your eyes, show me Your ways, so that **I may know You**, so that I might find favor in Your sight. Consider also that this nation is Your people."*

How many want favor with God?

Here we learn that to live a life experiencing the favor of God

You must know Him

Hebrew = Yadah – know - perceive, understand, experience

Comprehend, have (knowledge), same word used for sexual intimacy

Moses wanted to know God so he would find favor with Him

So he asked to know God's **ways**, in Hebrew d'rah-kheh-khah

Manner, character, course of life, word used for path

Similar to how we know other people

We get to know them observing their ways, values, character

So, God appeared to Moses & declared His character traits

Exodus 34:6 Then Adonai passed before him, and proclaimed, "Adonai (LORD), Adonai, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth,

7 showing mercy to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, ...

Compassion, grace, slowness to anger, love, kindness, truthfulness, forgiveness

Character traits we value, consider virtuous, wonderful, God is good

7... yet by no means leaving the guilty unpunished, ...

Reminds us that God is also just, to be loving He has to be just

Moses came to know God because God told him of His character traits

Bible tells **us** about God's other character traits, so we can know Him

*Jeremiah 22:16 He pled the case of the poor and weak, so it went well. Is not this **knowledge of Me?**" ...*

Caring for the needy is part of God's character

Because He loves all His creations, including the needy

So, if you know God you will care for needy & it will go well for you

1 John 4: 8 ...God is love.

Knowing God means knowing love, because He is love

& His love is agape, selfless, self sacrificing

Rabbi Sha'ul wrote down his prayer for you & I to know God's love

Ephesians 3:18 so that you, with all God's people, will be given strength to grasp the breadth, length, height and depth of the Messiah's love,

19 yes, to know it, even though it is beyond all knowing, so that you will be filled with all the fullness of God.

Messiah's love, the love of God is so immense that it is beyond all knowing

You'll never get to know all of it, yet you can know it more every day

List so far of God's character traits

Compassion, grace, slowness to anger, love, kindness, truthfulness, forgiveness

Justice, He delights in loyalty & knowledge of Him, He cares for needy

He is immeasurable love

How does it make God feel when His people know Him?

*Hosea 6:6 For I delight in loyalty and not sacrifice, **knowledge** of God more than burnt offerings.*

Your knowing God is more pleasing to God than your sacrifices/burnt offerings

Since in our times we cannot make sacrifices or burnt offerings

This means God delights in you **knowing** Him

More than the things you do sacrificially for Him, serving, giving, loving

Important because many of us keep busy doing good for God, ministry

Sacrificing our time & energy to Him

So much that we don't have time to spend with God, getting to know Him

Jeremiah 9:22 Thus says Adonai: "Let not the wise boast in his wisdom nor the mighty boast in his might nor the rich glory in his riches.

23 But let one who boasts boast in this: that he understands and knows Me. For I am Adonai who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth. For in these things I delight." It is a declaration of Adonai.

God delights in those who know Him, & boast about it

Rather than boasting about your wisdom, strength or riches

& He delights in love, kindness, justice & righteousness on earth

Meaning He delights in people who manifest these virtues

What is needed for you to know God & His love?

*Jeremiah 24:7 Then I will give them a heart to know Me—for I am Adonai—and they will be My people, and I will be their God. For they will **return to Me with their whole heart.***

God has to give you a heart to know Him for you to know Him & His love

He will give you that new heart

When you return to Him with your whole heart

That's something you do by an act of your will

& will have a chance to do right here a little later

But, you can't give yourself a new heart, a heart to know God

Only He can do that

How did God make giving people a new heart possible?

Jeremiah 31:30 "Behold, days are coming"—it is a declaration of Adonai—"when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—

31 not like the covenant I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they broke My covenant, though I was a husband to them." it is a declaration of Adonai.

This new covenant will be different from the Mosaic/Sinai/Old Covenant

Which Israel broke many times by their disobedience

32 "But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days"—it is a declaration of Adonai—"I will put My Torah within them. Yes, I will write it on their heart. I will be their God and they will be My people.

Putting His Torah in you – give you the ability to remember God's Word

Writing His Torah on your heart – giving you a love for God's Word

That's what will transform your heart into a heart that knows God

The result will be God becoming your God, & you becoming one of His people

33 No longer will each teach his neighbor or each his brother, saying: 'Know Adonai,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest." it is a declaration of Adonai...

All those who have entered into this Brit Hadashah will know God

Under the Mosaic Covenant the leaders & prophets knew God

Moses, David, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel

But not all the people who were covered by the covenant knew God

They knew the covenant, attempted to live according to its requirements

But didn't know God

But under the Brit Hadashah all who enter into that covenant will know God

Even the least of them – children, orphans, the poor, gentiles

How will that be possible?

33... "For I will forgive their iniquity, their sin I will remember no more."

That forgiveness is possible because Messiah, who brought the Brit Hadashah

Sacrificed His life to pay penalty that you owe for your sin & iniquity

Your iniquity – avone, your evil inclination, your carnal nature, flesh, old man

Will be forgiven

& your sins will be – kha-tah-ah

Unintentional violations of God's laws be forgiven

This is in fulfillment of a prediction made by King David

Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Even transgressions – pasha, intentional violation of God's laws

Will not be covered over, atoned for by sacrifices

As they were in King David's time they will be remembered no more

Not forgotten, because what is forgotten can be recalled

But remembered no more – meaning they are erased

Means they no longer exist

So, God establishing the Brit Hadashah, writing Torah on your heart

Enables you to turn to Him with all your heart & fulfill

Jeremiah 24:7 Then I will give them a heart to know Me—for I am Adonai—and they will be My people, and I will be their God. For they will return to Me with their whole heart.

We'll pray for you to enter into the Brit Hadashah later

To know God & His love you must trust in His promises, that they are true

& that He is faithful to keep them

Trust is an act of your free will, you have to set your will to trust His promises

Here are some of His promises you must trust

Hebrews 11:6 And without trusting, it is impossible to be well pleasing to God, because whoever approaches him must trust that he does exist and that he becomes a Rewarder to those who seek him out.

You can only come to know God if you believe He exists

John 14:6 Yeshua said, "I AM the Way -- and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

You must come through Yeshua, be one of His sheep, to know the Father

John 17:17 ...your word is truth.

You must believe that the Bible, God's Word is the source of truth

Same as believing Yeshua is the truth because He is the Living Word

What can you do to get to know God & His love?

How do you get to know a person? Listening to them

Same with knowing God

Include listening for His voice, His thoughts in your times of prayer

You can get to know another person by reading what they write to you

That's what the Bible is, God's letters to you

You can get to know God by experiencing His presence in worship, prayer

& also through challenging times

You can get to know God by following another person's example

As Paul encourages doing

God will reveal Himself to you through circumstances He arranges

To guide you in being led by Ruach Ha Kodesh

When you're seeking direction someone will say something to guide you

Ex: buying this facility, when it appeared we weren't even close to affording it

& in the natural we would have given up

An anonymous donor gave us a huge donation

Convincing us we were on the right path

Philippians 4:9 Keep doing what you have learned and received from me, what you have heard and seen me doing; then the God who gives shalom will be with you.

Pat C.'s example to me of God's love

Spending time with Him, worship, prayer, study, listening

Malachi 3:10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. Then there will be food in My House. Now test Me in this"—says Adonai-Tzva'ot—"if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out blessing for you, until no one is without enough.

You can get to know God by putting Him to the test by tithing \$

But also giving Him your time, your energy

What prevents you from knowing God & His love?

*Jeremiah 4:22 "For My people are foolish. They do not **know** Me. They are senseless children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they do not know."*

Foolishness prevents you from knowing God

Hebrew - Ay-veel - morally bad, who despises wisdom & discipline, mocks at guilt, is quarrelsome

*Jeremiah 9:5 "You dwell in the midst of deceit. In deceit they refuse to **know** Me." It is a declaration of Adonai .*

Deceit, by satan will keep you from knowing God

He works hard to keep you away

Unwarranted fear can keep you from knowing God

This fear is different from the fear of the Lord

Just after God spoke the 10 Words from Mt. Sinai

Exodus 20:18 All the people witnessed the thundering and the lightning, and the sound of the shofar, and the mountain smoking. When the people saw it, they trembled and stood far off.

Trembled in fear, unwarranted fear

Why was their fear unwarranted? God had done 16 miracles for them

Delivered them from slavery in Egypt by 10 miraculous plagues

Protected their first born sons from the 10th plague

Parted the sea for them to cross, dried up the sea floor they walked on

Destroyed the Egyptian army by bringing the sea back

Turned bitter water sweet, fed them with manna

Provided water from a rock, defeated attacking Amalekites

Yet they were trembling in fear of God who had just spoken His laws to them

Why? Because they had all broken His laws many, many times

& God had not given them the sacrifices or priesthood yet

So they did not know about His merciful atonement, forgiveness

19 So they said to Moses, "You, speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, or we will die."

They were in fear of that the Lord who had rescued them

16 times would kill them if they listened to Him any more

20 So Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, for God has come to test you, so that His fear may be in you, so that you do not sin."

God's display of power on Mt. Sinai that caused them to have unwarranted fear

Was meant to give them fear of the Lord, a good fear

A fear of judgment that would keep them from breaking God's laws

21 The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

What effect did this unwarranted fear have?

Just 3 days before God had told Moses His plans for Israel

Exodus 19:6 So as for you, you will be to Me a kingdom of kohanim (priests) and a holy nation.' These are the words which you are to speak to Bnei-Yisrael (Sons of Israel)."

Israel was to become a kingdom of priests, all Israelites were to be priests

What are priests? Men & women, who hear from God

& speak His Words to the people

& hear from the people and speak their words to God, interceding for them

Priests need to hear from God

& the Israelites were supposed to become a nation of priests, all priests

Who heard from God, but they said to Moses

Exodus 20:19... do not let God speak to us, or we will die."

So, they refused to participate in God's plan for them to be a nation of priests

They refused to listen to or know God out of unwarranted fear

Because when their slave masters had authority over them

They punished them without mercy

They feared God, the ultimate authority figure, would also punish them

& not have mercy on them

What happened? Moses went up on Mt. Sinai to listen to God

God gave him the plans for the Tabernacle, then

Exodus 28:1 "Bring your brother Aaron near with his sons from among Bnei-Yisrael, so that they may minister to Me as kohanim—Aaron and his sons Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

So, Aaron became the High Priest and his sons became priests

Making Israel a nation **with** priests rather than a nation **of** priests

Because the people refused to hear from God

But, God had a way to fulfill His original plan

That someday His people would all be priests

& that fulfillment happened 1500 years later on Shavuot in Jerusalem

Acts 2:17 'ADONAI says: "In the Last Days, I will pour out from my Spirit upon everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

When Ruach Ha Kodesh filled **all** Yeshua's disciples

Peter interpreted it as the fulfillment of Exodus 19:6, using similar words

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, the King's cohanim (priest), a holy nation, a people for God to possess! Why?

In order for you to declare the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

So, unwarranted fear can keep you from knowing God, how?

You may be afraid of giving up control of your life

Of being held to a higher standard of morality

Of failing to stop being led by flesh, carnal nature, iniquity

Those were reasons I held out for a few days after reading SOTM

& realizing I needed Yeshua's atonement & His Lordship

That holding out resulted in my being stung by bees twice in 2 days

Which convinced me that I needed to fear **not submitting** to God

More than I feared submitting to Him

What else prevents you from knowing God & His love?

Ephesians 6:12 For we are not struggling against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

Satan & his demons are doing all they can

To keep you from knowing God & His love

There are 4 sources of thoughts you have;

1. Other people, either written, sung, spoken or acted out

2. Your own thoughts from your studies, insight, experience, reason,

Intuition, emotions

3. satan's thoughts disguised as your thoughts or God's thoughts

& 4. Ruach Ha Kodesh

The more you know God, the more you will be able to recognize His voice

& thoughts & fulfill

2 Corinthians 10:5 ...we take every thought captive and make it obey the Messiah.

Taking thoughts sent by satan captive means rejecting those thoughts

That are from satan; conceit, greed, lust, envy, bitterness, hatred

Doubt, unwarranted fear, disobedience, control, low self esteem

Busyness

& replacing them with godly thoughts listed in

Philippians 4:8 In conclusion, brothers, focus your thoughts on what is true, noble, righteous, pure, lovable or admirable, on some virtue or on something praiseworthy.

Add to these gratitude, godly ambition, shalom, joy, hope

Who knew God the best in the Bible; Moses, David, Isaiah?

Matthew 26:7 A woman who had an alabaster jar filled with very expensive perfume approached Yeshua while he was eating and began pouring it on his head.

In John 12 this woman is named Miryam the sister of Martha & Lazarus

She could also be Miryam from Magdalit

8 When the talmidim (disciples) saw it, they became very angry. "Why this waste?" they asked.

9 "This could have been sold for a lot of money and given to the poor."

10 But Yeshua, aware of what was going on, said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing for me.

11 The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me.

*12 She poured this perfume on me to prepare my body for **burial**.*

Yeshua had told them He was going to be murdered

Matthew 16:21 From that time on, Yeshua began making it clear to his talmidim that he had to go to Yerushalayim and endure much suffering at the hands of the elders, the head cohanim and the Torah-teachers; and that he had to be put to death; but that on the third day, he had to be raised to life.

But, Miryam was only one of Yeshua's disciples who knew Him well enough

To understand, believe & act on what He'd been telling them

That He was going to sacrifice His life

13 Yes! I tell you that throughout the whole world, wherever this Good News is proclaimed, what she has done will be told in her memory."

& here we are today telling what Miryam did in her memory

Assuming it's same Miryam from Magdalit, she, Peter & John

Came to Yeshua's tomb & found it empty

Peter & John left But Miryam remained

John 20:14... she turned around and saw Yeshua standing there, but she didn't know it was he.

Yeshua's body was transformed & it was hard to recognize Him

2 other disciples couldn't recognize Him as recorded in Luke 24

15 Yeshua said to her, "Lady, why are you crying? Whom are you looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you're the one who carried him away, just tell me where you put him; and I'll go and get him myself."

In Biblical culture it was very important for a person to have a proper burial

Why Israel has been so insistent that Hamas return dead hostages bodies

Miryam's devotion to Yeshua is revealed in her claim I'll "get Him myself"

She could not have carried His body herself, but she would have tried

16 Yeshua said to her, "Miryam!" Turning, she cried out to him in Hebrew, "Rabbani!" (that is, "Teacher!")

Miryam knew Yeshua so well that she recognized the sound of His voice

When He called her name

17 "Stop holding onto me," Yeshua said to her, ...

I believe she was on her knees holding on to His feet

Another sign of how well she knew Yeshua

17... "because I haven't yet gone back to the Father. But go to my brothers, and tell them that I am going back to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

18 Miryam of Magdala went to the talmidim with the news that she had seen the Lord and that he had told her this.

She was honored by the Lord to be the first to proclaim His resurrection

What did Yeshua say about knowing God & His love

*John 10:14 I am the good shepherd; I **know** my own, and my own know me –*

If you are one of Yeshua's sheep you know Him

You may not feel like you know Him but He is watching over you as your shepherd

If you don't know Him, it's not because of Him stopping you

We'll look at what things can be keeping you out

How do you become one of His sheep?

If you're not sure you are one of His sheep pray along with me right now

Lord, I realize I've broken Your laws many times in my life

I take responsibility for my disobedience

I don't blame others or circumstances

I repent – God forgive my sins & count Yeshua's sacrificial death

To pay the penalty I owe, I trust Messiah to be my savior

I believe in my heart Yeshua rose from the dead & He's alive now

I submit myself to Him as your Lord

You are now one of His sheep & you now know Him & He knows you

John 14:7 Because you have known me, you will also know my Father; from now on, you do know him -- in fact, you have seen him."

Since you now know Yeshua, you now also know the Father

Make it your New Year's resolution to be like Miryam

Knowing Him better each day

Understanding the Lord's heart, His plans, His love

Prayer

Thank You that You want each of us to know You personally

Help us to learn Your ways like Moses so we may know & find favor with You

We are so grateful that You are compassionate, full of grace, slow to anger,

Kind, truthful, forgiving, just, concerned about the needy

That You are love & that we can know Your love which is immeasurable

That You delight in loyalty & the knowledge of You

Forgive us for letting our sacrifices of serving become more important

Than knowing You

We want to be able to boast that we know & understand You

According to Your Brit Hadashah, write Your Torah on our hearts so we will return

To You with all our hearts & receive from You hearts to know You

Thank You that Your Brit Hadashah provides that all people can know You

Because You will forgive our iniquity

& remember our sins & transgressions no more

Help us to trust Your promise You do exist & You reward those who seek You

That Messiah is the only way to know You, Your Word, the Bible is true

Show us those who we can follow as they follow You

Give us the faith to test You by tithing

& make our faith grow as You provide for us

Keep us from foolishness, deception, from unwarranted fear of knowing You

Thank you for making **all** who have partaken of Brit Hadashah You cohanim, priests
Filling us with Your Ruach Ha Kodesh & give us the discipline to be refilled often
Give us the gift of discerning of spirits, teach us to take every thought
Captive, rejecting thoughts from satan
Ungodly thoughts from people & even from ourselves
Help us to think godly, grateful, joyful, hopeful, peaceful thoughts
Thoughts that are “*true, noble, righteous, pure, lovable or admirable, on some virtue or on something praiseworthy.*”
We want to know You like Miryam did, understand Your plan
Trust in it, even though it goes against all human wisdom
If you prayed to be one of Yeshua’s sheep for the first time today
Please come up after the service & share that with a Prayer Team Member
& get further prayer, particularly to be filled with Ruach Ha Kodesh
We make it our New Year’s resolution to come to know You better this year