

Knowing Him, Growing in Him

Is it possible to know a lot about Jesus and actually know Jesus? Last week, we covered Ephesians 4 and learned that we're being built up toward something specific. We are *growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness*. That's the target. You can't get there alone. Growth in the body happens together — not solo. But what actually feeds that growth?

I. Knowledge of the Son of God is the Target — Not the Starting Line

- A. Ephesians 4:13: *until we all reach unity in the faith and in the **knowledge** of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.*
 - 1. This is deep, personal, relationship, and experiential knowledge.
- B. Jesus Himself draws the line.
 - 1. John 17:3 *This is **eternal life**: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent— Jesus Christ.*
- C. This is not just for new Christians.
 - 1. Ephesians 4:13: Paul says *until **we all** reach it ...*

II. The Root System — Rooted, Built Up, Established

- A. Colossians 2:6: *So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue** to walk in him,*
 - 1. How did you receive him? By faith. By trust. By surrender.
 - 2. That's still how you move. Same mode. Same attitude.
- B. Galatians 3:2-3: *I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by **believing** what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by the Spirit, are you now finishing by the flesh?*
 - 1. There is no second-stage Christianity where you outgrow your need for Jesus.
 - 2. The root keeps feeding the branch. Always.
- C. Colossians 2:7: Three images.
 - 1. Colossians 2:7: *being **rooted** and **built up** in him and **established** in the faith,*
 - a) Rooted. Everything the plant becomes, it draws from what the root reaches.
 - b) Built up. This isn't just stability, it's development.
 - c) Established in the faith. Structural. Load-bearing. Firm.
 - 2. Three images. One reality.

III. Overflow is the Diagnostic

- A. Colossians 2:7: *and **overflowing** with gratitude.*
 - 1. Gratitude is the natural, almost involuntary response of a soul that is actually, genuinely resting in Christ.
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 9:15: **Thanks** be to God for his indescribable gift!
- B. So, how's your gratitude level? Gratitude is a gauge.
- C. Three things that tend to kill overflow: Striving, Drift, and Familiarity.

IV. As We Close...

- A. Paul's vision is of a *growing church*.
- B. You can't get there without this: a deepening, personal, relational, *experiential* knowledge of Jesus himself.
 - 1. Not a knowledge about him. A knowledge *of* him.
- C. Paul says we're pressing toward the knowledge of the Son of God until *we all* reach it.
 - 1. Your growth in Christ doesn't just affect you. It feeds this body. It makes the whole thing stronger.
 - 2. A body where people are genuinely knowing Jesus and genuinely overflowing is hard to ignore.