

HOW CAN I KNOW THE LORD?

“How can I know the Lord?” You may want to ask yourself this question before reading any other page on this website. Even though each of us comes from different walks of life and varying backgrounds, most of us need to ask this question—not just at this moment, but each and every day.

I’m going to break down the readers into three different categories of people who are open to asking this question: While there are probably more, I’m going to speak in generalities. The first group is those that have been walking with the Lord for awhile. Their faucet has become a bit dry from serving and giving, and the Bible seems to fall flat when they read it. They are desperately longing for renewal and revival in their heart of hearts.

The second group is probably the largest and most diverse. They are already saved and eager to get started on “the meat.” They hope to be greatly impacted and intensely ready for change, but they are tempted to “fly” through each concept instead of absorbing and examining it slowly. A tendency of theirs might be to think that just by reading these challenges, spiritual growth will occur.

The third group is one of great significance to the Lord. Though He loves us all deeply, He is utterly longing for a relationship with those still seeking Him. They find themselves wondering why God led them to these pages. They’re confused but aware that God is leading them to something unknown.

The gospel of Jesus is clear...all 3 groups have been led here, but His words will have different meaning and application for us all. The truth is this: God was first Creator—He created the world and everything and everyone in it. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God and then became flesh. Jesus Christ was fully God and fully human (that is so surreal, isn’t it?) He was born into this world, lived a sinless life, only to become sin for us—then He nailed that sin on a cross, because there was no other way we could have a relationship with a Holy God--for we know that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. After he died that bloody, cruel death, He rose from the grave 3 days later, appearing to many, probably knowing fully that if He didn’t show the proof, we as humans would never believe Him. THEN, he ascended to heaven...but our Hope didn’t leave us—not only is Jesus Christ standing at the right hand of the Father interceding for us, but God also loved us enough to give us a “Helper,” the Holy Spirit, when we give our lives over to these truths. Because of “God in us,” we have the hope that He will never leave us or forsake us today, and that He will come back and take us to the place He has prepared for us in heaven very soon. (*Genesis 1:1; Acts 17:24; John 1:1, 14; Philippians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 2:14; Romans 3:23; 1 Thess. 4:4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Luke 24:50-51; Acts 7:55; Romans 8:34; Acts 1:8; Hebrews 13:5; John 14:2; Hebrews 9:28*)

For all of us asking the question “How can I know the Lord?” we can look to the Bible to show us the answer. Ephesians 1:17-19a is my prayer for all of you: *“I Keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit*

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of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”

Group one, consider Hebrews 13:8, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*” The same God who saved you all these years ago is the same One who will save you today. He has come to give you life to the full, not to the dull! Before reading each page, stop and ask Him to let His Spirit fall afresh on You and stir in You a whole new way each day. Ask yourself, “How can I know my Lord in a new way today?”

Group two, it is awesome to be enthusiastic about spiritual growth. The temptation is to go from book to book and sermon to sermon looking for a spiritual buzz. In my experience, though, the reading of spiritual books and the learning from great teachers of the Word of God is a huge stimulator for change, but growth in our faith usually doesn’t occur from them alone. Instead, it occurs either as we see God work through our experiences or when we are still before Him, trusting and waiting for His Word to us personally. Put your name at the beginning of Psalm 46:10, “(Name,) Be still and know that I am God.” The question for you is, “Lord, how can I know you in a more steadfast way?”

Last but far from least...group 3...seekers, agnostics, good people who do good things but have no faith in God...did you know that you have a reason for not believing right now? In 2nd Corinthians 4:4 it says, “*The god of this age (the devil) has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*” God is more powerful than the devil, however. He helps us to understand this more clearly in 2 Corinthians, chapter 3...it compares your unbelief to someone wearing a veil on his face...just as he can’t see clearly out of the veil, the same image of a veil over our heart and mind is keeping you from seeing the truth of the gospel.

As the explanation goes along, it tells us in verses 14 & 15 that “*...only in Christ is it (the veil) taken away.*” You HAVE to take a leap of faith—there is no other way. Belief is not even enough. It is faith in the power of God and His gospel that lets us see His truth with clear vision. Without this faith, our sin will separate us from the God of heaven and earth FOREVER! ETERNALLY! And if you think you’ve lived a better life than most people, just know—sin is sin! Romans 3:23 says, “*ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” Then Ephesians 2:8 & 9 digs deeper, “*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--NOT by WORKS, so that no one can boast.*” God clearly puts a stop to anyone thinking that we can make a way to him on our own. “How can I know the Lord?” Take it on faith...don’t wait any longer. The Bible tells us in 2nd Corinthians 6:2b, “*I tell you, NOW is the time of God’s favor. NOW is the day of salvation.*” Get to know the God that knows you inside and out.

If you are ready to ask God to be the Lord of your life, pray something like this: “Father, I know I am a sinner...nothing good I have ever done means anything now.

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Lord, I also know that You love me, and I haven't done anything in my life that is so bad that you will not take me in and love me as your daughter. I believe the truth of the gospel: That you came to this earth, lived and died, nailing my sin to the cross so that I could have a relationship with You. I also believe that You rose from the dead...without that part of the story, there would be no hope in life after death at all. SO, I give up. I surrender everything to You that's been holding me back. Give me the Holy Spirit to me to help me live out my new life in You. Thank you, Lord, for saving me by faith. I can only boast in You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

FOR ALL 3 GROUPS AND ALL OTHERS THAT FIT THEIR OWN UNIQUE CATEGORY, hear His word to us:

Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 6—*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: ...a time to search and a time to give up...”***WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR...GIVE IT UP TO HIM NOW.**

John 17:1 — *“After Jesus said this (He was giving one last speech to His disciples before His death), He looked toward heaven and prayed: ‘Father, the time has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You.’* **JESUS SET THE BAR! HE WAS OBEDIENT TO THE FATHER ON THE TIME OF HIS DEATH. LET’S BE OBEDIENT TO HIM IN THIS LIFE!**

Romans 13:11 — *“And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”* **LIFE IS SHORT! LET’S WAKE UP AND SERVE HIM!**

1 Corinthians 7:29 to 31 — *“What I mean, brothers (and sisters), is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives or husbands should live as if they had none; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.”* **NOTHING IN THIS WORLD COMPARES TO THE JOY OF KNOWING AND SERVING HIM.**

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