

DO WE KNOW GOD PERSONALLY?

BIBLE STUDY BY JAMIE MCNAB

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Most of us in the Western world are fairly blessed. Most of us have been able to follow the ways of God easily. We have enjoyed living in fairly peaceful surroundings.

Most people that we know today will be off shopping or working ... but not keeping the Sabbath.

We have plenty of Bible knowledge. Most of us stand out from "main-stream Christianity". Is that why God called us? For some ... that seems to be the case. Some feel very "lofty" because of their Bible knowledge. None of us should feel superior ... or worse ... smug!!!

Just acquiring "head knowledge" isn't enough on its own!!

One reason for studying the Word of God: God's Word ... the knowledge of his truth teaches us how to live. How our lives should be different. How to produce "fruit".

The second reason for studying the Word of God: We study to reveal to us the Father and The Son to help us so that we can have an intimate relationship with them.

He called us to be part of His family.

John 17:1-3 (The "Real Lord's Prayer")

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And **this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

Are we personally acquainted with The Father? Do we really know God or ... just know about The Father?

John 5:39-40

You search **the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which **testify of Me**. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. (The scriptures tell us about Jesus --- they testify of Him. The scriptures are food to our inner man --- but --- we are not married to the scriptures, but to Jesus)

John 5:39-40 NLT

"You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But **the Scriptures point to me!** Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

John 5:39-40 THE MESSAGE

"You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. **These Scriptures are all about me! And here I am, standing right before you, and you aren't willing to receive from me the life you say you want.**

John 5:45-47

Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. **For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

Luke 24:13-32

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

And He said to them, "What things?"

So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

We are called into a relationship with two beings ... The Father and The Son.

John 20:30-31

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but **these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**

All of the four Gospels are nothing more than biographies of a person ... Jesus. Helping us to come to know The Lord Jesus ... so that we can get to know Our Saviour better.

John 1:43-49

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, **"We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."**

And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My

burden is light." (Jesus has come that we can "know The Father". Jesus came to reveal The Father)

Matthew 11:28-29 THE MESSAGE

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? **Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life.** I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Thus says the Lord:

"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom,
Let not the mighty man glory in his might,
Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;
But **let him who glories glory in this,**

That he understands and knows Me, (I know The Father. I know The Lord Jesus)

That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth.

For in these I delight," says the Lord.

Jeremiah 9:24 AMPLIFIED

But let him who glories glory in this: that he understands and knows Me [personally and practically, directly discerning and recognising My character], that I am the Lord, Who practices loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord.

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. (Not the talkers ... the doers!! There is NO GROUP SALVATION!!!)
Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and

done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

There are lots of religious activities out there ... even in the Churches of God ... but are they just "doing their own thing"?

Luke 6:46-47

“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? (lip service only) Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:

John 15:1-11

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. (Amplified: vitally united)

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; (fruit is what we say and what we do) for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (This is intimate personal ... family ... language)

1 John 1:1-7

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have

handled, concerning the Word of life— the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us — that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (Fellowship = an intimate relationship ... all things in common (Greek) ... koinonia ... sharing ... partnership ... closeness ... intimacy) And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (John is still intimate with The Lord Jesus even after His resurrection)

1 John 3:1-3

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, (Because we are family) for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

We can get to know God today.

1 John 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Jonah 3:4-5

And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

Jonah 3:10

Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

Jonah 4:1-2

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. So he prayed to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; **for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.** (Jonah knew God. He didn't just "know about God")

Luke 15:11-32

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"

"And he arose and came to his father. **But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck**

and kissed him. (The father was obviously out looking for his son's return) And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. (Jesus is talking about what our Father is like. The Father runs to us. He's not stand-offish).

"Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

"But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

"And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

God's desire is for all people to be in His family. It is good and beneficial to know The Truth. We should value true doctrines. The Word is to help us to have a closer relationship with The Father and The Son. **The scriptures reveal the Father and Son to us.**

SO. LET'S GET TO KNOW THEM BETTER.