

SECTION IV

MATURING AS THE LORD'S DISCIPLE

In this section you will learn six truths that will enable you to mature in Christ. Many Christians fail in their Christian walk because these truths never became vital in their lives. Learn these six truths and you will be positioned to become all God wants you to become.

Discipleship - Session 19

Knowing God

Things we will cover this lesson:

1. What really is eternal life?
2. Who has eternal life?
3. Proofs of knowing God.
4. Getting to know God by examining Jesus' prayer in John 17.

Assignment:

1. Continue ALONE prayer log. (One day -- 1/2 hour.)
2. Communing Word log.
3. Pray 2 Peter 1:1-15 into your life.
4. Pray the 6 Marks into your life.
5. Also go over the material you learned this session. Look up all the scriptures. Put this lesson to practice in your daily life.

KNOWING GOD

Begin by asking the question: What Is Eternal Life? Answer please.

Now let us look at the answer from the Bible:

John 17:1-5 ¹ 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, ²"as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³"And **this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ** whom You have sent. ⁴"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (NKJV)

Note verse 3: In this verse we get a true description of what eternal life really is. Normally people think of eternal life as living with God forever in heaven. That is true, but according to this verse, it is much more than that! **Eternal life is knowing the Father and the Son!**

Let us look at some more verses that speak about eternal life.

John 10:27-28 (Note: To whom does He give eternal life? To those who hear His voice and follow Him!)

John 5:39-40 (Note: They must **come to Him to get life**, i.e., knowing Him.)

1 Timothy 6:12 (Note: Eternal life is something you are **to lay hold on**. Learn what it really is! It is not just somewhere you are going to spend eternity.)

John 11:25-26 (Note: Jesus is the resurrection and the life. It is not a doctrine; it is a person.)

Do you see how eternal life is much more than just a place you live forever?

Next let us consider verses that speak of *knowing God*.

1 Corinthians 1:21 (The world's wisdom does not know God.)

Philippians 3:7-14 (Note: Paul willingly gave up all that He might know Christ!)

1 John 2:3-5 (**If we know Him** we will keep His commandments.)

1 John 4:7-8 (Loving others is the proof that we know God.)

1 John 5:20 (Jesus has given us an understanding to know God.)

How much do you really want to know God? You can know Him!

Understanding how God feels about us.

Part of knowing God is understanding how He feels about His children. What does Jesus think of us? Does He see us as helpless, little frail, constantly failing children? Or does He by faith see us as powerful and strong, doing what is right? I believe our answer can partly be found in seeing how He prays for His own. (See Hebrews 7:25.)

John 17 is the prayer of Jesus. Now look at how Jesus prays for His disciples in verses 6-20. Remember this was prayed for them the very night they all run from and forsake Jesus! Jesus knows they are going to forsake Him, yet He prays this wonderful prayer for them like they are the very best of followers. Why? Because He knows the power of the Gospel to change people! He sees them by faith. He loves them and greatly believes in them.

For a wonderful exercise in how Jesus by faith sees you and feels about you, do the following: In John 17:6-20 below, put your name in place of “them”, “they”, etc. Personalize this prayer of Jesus for His followers who were with Him then. Hear Jesus praying like this for you now.

Example if your name is Bill:

John 17:6 ⁶“ I have manifested Your name to (Bill) whom You have given Me out of the world. (Bill is) Yours, You gave (Bill) to Me, and (Bill has) kept Your word. (NKJV)

As you do this exercise your heart will be warmed with the depth of the love you will feel from Jesus. This is getting to know Him.

John 17:6-20

⁶“ I have manifested Your name to _____ whom You have given Me out of the world. _____ is Yours, You gave _____ to Me, and _____ has kept Your word.

⁷“Now _____ has known that all things which You have given Me are from You.

⁸“For I have given to _____ the words which You have given Me; and _____ has received *them*, and has known surely that I came forth from You; and _____ has believed that You sent Me.

⁹“I pray for _____. I do not pray for the world but for _____ whom You have given Me, for _____ is Yours.

¹⁰“And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in _____.

¹¹“Now I am no longer in the world, but _____ is in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name _____ whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*.

¹²“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

¹³“But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that _____ may have My joy fulfilled in him(her)self.

¹⁴“I have given _____ Your word; and the world has hated _____ because _____ is not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

¹⁵“I do not pray that You should take _____ out of the world, but that You should keep _____ from the evil one.

¹⁶“ _____ is not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

¹⁷“Sanctify _____ by Your truth. Your word is truth.

¹⁸“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent _____ into the world.

¹⁹“And for _____’s sakes I sanctify Myself, that _____ also may be sanctified by the truth.

²⁰“ I do not pray for _____ alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through _____’s word;

(NKJV)

Our ultimate goal in knowing God is to know the Father like the Son knows the Father. See this perfect relationship expressed in John 17:21-22 and verse 30 of John 10:27-30.

God is conforming us to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29); therefore, our goal is to know the Father like the Son knows the Father and to know the Son like the Father knows the Son. (John 17:3)

You were created for the purpose of knowing God. Nothing else in life is going to satisfy you until you get to know Him. People are always trying to fill this deep longing with wrong things such as selfishness, power, money, alcohol, drugs, sex, lusts, good works, knowledge, etc. Nothing else can fill what God has designed to be filled with only Himself.

SUMMATION STATEMENT: Let this thought get deep inside you: ETERNAL LIFE IS KNOWING GOD! Do you know Him? A true disciple is always about the business of learning the ways of God and ever seeking to know God more. If your Christian life is not a journey in getting to know God, then you must examine whether or not you are a Christian.