

## The Evidence of Spiritual Life, Part 4 | Knowledge

### I. The Knowledge of God

- II Peter 1:2; Romans 8:29, 11:33; Colossians 2:3
- The grace we need to mature in Christ comes as we are increasingly exposed to the knowledge of God.
- There will absolutely never come a time—both now and into eternity—that we will be able to fathom the totality that is our infinite God. This is why Christians must *continually* be conformed to the image of Christ
- So many Christians are okay not learning anything more about God than what they hear from the pulpit on Sunday. The atrocity of this is compounded by the fact that a lot of so-called pulpits are filled with nothing but lies while others have partial truths mixed with feel-good humanism.
- The state of the church and the state of the country is evidence of the fact that Christians aren't learning, knowing, understanding, and living according to the truths of God.
- If you have been truly born again, then you will desire to know more about God. A lack of interest in the things of God is often a glaring sign that a person hasn't truly been saved.

### II. A Warning Concerning Knowledge

- I Corinthians 8:1b-3
- We should all know by now that obedience is doing the right thing in the right way for the right reason and in the right power. But most of our obedience is often relegated to simply doing the right thing and sometimes doing it the right way. In the same way, if our knowledge of God is nothing more than a factual collection of information concerning what God would have us do and how He would have us do it, then that knowledge can and will definitely puff us up.
- However, if we are truly learning and growing in the necessity, nature, and focus of doing the right things for the right reasons, we absolutely won't be able to become arrogant in that knowledge. To be arrogant is to reveal that we don't understand the motivation.
- Therefore, the relationship between the knowledge of God and the love of God is directly connected. As we study, learn, and grow in our knowledge of God, it should multiply our love for God to such a degree that we fade into the background as He becomes our sole aim in life.
- When it comes to an evidence of spiritual life, if your knowledge of the Bible produces nothing but pride and arrogance, then you may very well not truly know God. There are many unsaved Bible scholars who approach the Scriptures from a dry academic perspective. They know so much about it, but they don't believe any of it.

### III. The Product of the Knowledge of God

- Philippians 3:8-11
- Paul's knowledge of the Law produced a human righteousness in his own power, but Paul describes that the knowledge of Christ produces the following 8 things:
  - **The righteousness which comes from God**
    - Though we may experience a level of moral excellency in our lives when we are born again, it's the knowledge of Christ that enables us to grow in our righteousness.
    - If you feel stuck in your Christian life—like your spiritual maturity has plateaued—it's likely because you have stopped truly studying the Word to better know God. You may be studying it to learn more stuff, but you aren't studying it to really know the God Who saved you.

- **The power of His resurrection**
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- **The power of His resurrection**
  - If you have been resurrected with Christ, that same power is yours to grow in Christ. If you would describe your walk with God as anything but powerful, that should give you pause.
  - If you are born again, you will not always feel up to the task. No, no! The reality is that whether we're saved or not, we cannot do anything God wants us to do in our own power. However, through His strength we can do all things to which He has called us.
- **The fellowship of His sufferings**
  - A professing believer who is doing everything they can to avoid suffering in this life—especially the suffering associated with being a Christian—likely isn't born again. Their focus is on themselves and their comfort.
  - Of course, the life of a Christian is not one of masochism and self-flagellation. We should be wise enough to avoid hurting ourselves, but the things we cannot control (like persecution) are things that we shouldn't inherently be trying to avoid. In fact, we should be living a life so similar to Christ's that it would make all the sense in the world for scoffers and scorners to hate us the way they hated Him.
- **Being conformed to His death**
  - Are you willing to die to self and to put to death the deeds of the body? If not, then you likely do not have spiritual life. But if we do have spiritual life, the more we learn about God should motivate us to be conformed to His death by crucifying the sinful flesh within our hearts.
- **The resurrection from the dead**
  - The knowledge of Christ produces the righteousness of Christ by the power of Christ so that we may experience the suffering of Christ that leads to the death of Christ and the resurrection of Christ.
  - In the same way the knowledge of God encompassed the entirety of Christ's earthly life and helped Him glorify God in it, the knowledge of God will do the same for us.
- **The ability to battle lies** (II Corinthians 10:3-5)
  - The greatest threat to our faith and moral excellence is any "knowledge" that contradicts God's Word. Any idea, opinion, speculation, feeling, thought, or belief that disagrees with the Bible is dangerous and deadly. We must destroy the speculations that contradict God's truth, and take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
- **The ability to teach others** (Romans 15:14)
  - Who are the people in your life God wants you to be able to admonish (teach & warn) with His truth?
  - If you are not actively involved in the spiritual maturity of God's people, you are not growing in the knowledge of God, and therefore, may either be unsaved or still very spiritually immature.