

# Knowing That I Know Him

## Introduction:

- A. Text: 1 John 2:3-6 – Our topic for today is **How Do We Know That We Know The Father?**
  - 1. Our Lord desires for us to know the Father – John 17:3.
  - 2. We need to do as Paul encouraged the Corinthians to do, *“Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves”* (cf. 2 Cor. 13:5).
    - a. John tells us several things in 1 John which will prove if we are or are not of the faith; whether we know God or not.
- B. This morning we examine what it means to *“know”* God and what John reveals will prove if we do.

## I. The Meaning of **“Know”** in 1 John.

- A. The word *“know”* (and related words) appears about 40 times in the book of 1 John.
- B. In 1 John the word *“know”*, and its related words, all come from only two Greek words.
  - 1. **OIDA** — “signifying, primarily, to have seen or perceived; hence, to know, to have knowledge of” (Vine, page 628).
  - 2. **GENŌSKŌ** — “signifies to be taking in knowledge, to come to know, recognize, understand, or to **understand completely**” (Vine, page 627).
- C. The difference between these two words in 1 John.
  - 1. “(b) while **ginōskō** frequently implies an active relation between the one who knows and the person or thing known . . . , **oida** expresses the fact that the object has simply come within the scope of the knower’s perception” (Vine, page 629).
  - 2. This is seen in 1 John.
    - a. 1 John 5:13— John said, *“These things have I written unto you, that ye may know (oida) that ye have eternal life, [even] unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God.”*
      - 1) The things he was writing was written so we could understand we have eternal life.
    - b. 1 John 2:3— *“And hereby we know (ginōskō) that we know (ginōskō) him, if we keep his commandments.”*
      - 1) Here John uses the same word twice with slightly different meanings.
      - 2) In the first usage John is saying we can “understand completely”.
      - 3) In the second usage John is saying we have an active relationship with Him — that we have an intimate relationship with Him.
      - 4) 4:6— *“We are of God: he that knoweth (ginōskō) God heareth us . . .”*
        - a) Those that have this intimate relationship with God will hear the words of the apostles.

## II. To **“Know”** God Is the Same as Having Fellowship With God.

- A. And having fellowship with God is the same as having salvation, redemption, justification, reconciliation, and so on...
- B. As we have pointed out, to *“know”* God in our text means to have an intimate relationship with Him.
  - 1. The only place where we can have such a relationship with the Father is in the light (cf. 1:6,7).
    - a. cf. 1:6— Those in the darkness are not in fellowship with the Father.
- C. Simply notice the parallels between 2:3-6 and 1:6-10.
  - 1. Knowing Him (2:3) = having fellowship with Him (1:6).
  - 2. Keeping His commandments (2:3) = walking in the light (1:6,7).
  - 3. The disobedient is a liar and truth not in him (2:4) = those walking in darkness are liar and do not the truth (1:6).
- D. Since we learned that to be in the light and in fellowship with God is the same as having salvation, redemption, etc ..., then we should be able to plainly see that to *“know”* God is the same as being in fellowship with Him, having salvation, reconciliation, redemption, etc . . .
- E. 1 John 5:13— *“These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, [even] unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God.”*

### III. The Things John Says Will Show If We Know God or Not.

- A. **Hearing the Apostles** – 4:6.
1. We cannot have fellowship with the Father without having fellowship with the Apostles.
  2. Lk.10:16; cf.1 Cor.14:37.
  3. One does not come to “*know*” God through some “better felt than told” religious experience.
  4. If we do not listen to the Apostles, we cannot have this intimate relationship with the Father.
- B. **Confesses Christ** – 4:1-3.
1. This would include verbally (cf.Rom.10:10) and by our manner of life (Matt.10:32,33).
- C. **Keeps the Commandments of the Lord** – 2:3,4.
1. The Alien thus must obey the Lord’s commandments to have eternal life – cf.Heb.5:8,9.
    - a. What has He commanded for the Alien to do?
      - 1) Mk.16:16; Jn.3:16— He must **Believe** that Jesus is the Son of God.
      - 2) Rom.10:10— He must have enough faith to **Confess** it before men.
      - 3) Acts 2:38; 17:30— He must **Repent** of his sins.
      - 4) Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16— And he must be **Baptized** to contact the blood of Christ.
  2. The Erring Child of God must be obedient also.
    - a. 1 John 1:9— We must **Confess** our sins for them to be forgiven.
    - b. Acts 8:22— We also must **Repent** of them and **Pray** to God for forgiveness.
  3. Many claim to “*know*” God while refusing to obey His commandments – cf.Titus 1:16.
  4. Disobeying the commandments of the Lord is what separates us from God; thus, we should see that obedience is always a must for us to “*know*” God.
- D. **Does Righteousness** – 2:29; cf.Acts 10:35.
1. Righteousness is “whatever conforms to the revealed will of God” (Vine, page 970).
  2. For us to do or work righteousness we must make our life to conform to the revealed will of God.
- E. **Witness of the Spirit** – 3:24; 4:13.
1. The Holy Spirit is given to those who will leave the darkness and will enter into the light.
    - a. Acts 2:38— Repent & be baptized for the remission of sins and for “*the gift of the Holy Spirit.*”
    - b. Eph.1:13,14— The Holy Spirit is the earnest, or down payment, of our inheritance.
  2. Rom.8:16— “*The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God:*”
  3. Christians know they know God because the H.S. has been given to them for this purpose.
    - a. If a Christian we know we have the H.S. and if we have the H.S. we know that we know Him.
- F. **Loves the Brethren** – 4:7-12; 3:14.
1. Without love for our brethren we **cannot** “*know*” the Father – 4:20.
- G. **A Clean Conscience** – 3:19-21.
1. Those in the light, in fellowship with God and “*knowing*” Him, can boldly approach Him in prayer.
    - a. Thus, a clean conscience is a proof of one’s “*knowing*” the Father.
  2. Note: The clean conscience of this passage is the one that has been cleansed through obedience to the gospel of Christ – cf.1 Pet.3:20,21.
- H. **Refrains From Sin** – 5:18; 3:6.
1. This goes back to our always keeping His commandments.
  2. The one that “*knows*” the Father strives always to walk in the light, refraining from sin.
- I. **Witness of God** – 5:8-12.
1. Those who believe in Jesus and have obeyed the will of God are assured of fellowship with the Father because He has given us eternal life – surely if we have eternal life, we “*know*” Him.

#### Conclusion:

- A. Do you have an intimate relationship with Him?
- B. If you remain in the darkness then you do not.