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KNOW THE TRUTH
Mini Book
Part 1

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Introduction

In the Gospel of John, Jesus said, **“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;...And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”** (John 8:31.32). Reading this verse in an English version of the Bible will not help us to know the Truth. Our English Bibles do not always give us the correct information that the Hebrew and Greek gives us.

In the beginning, the Bible was written in Hebrew, Chaldees, and Greek. The beginning of the Hebrew language is uncertain. It is first spoken of in Genesis 14:13 where Abraham is called **“the Hebrew.”**

Certain parts of the Old Testament were written in Chaldees, such as parts of the book of Daniel and Ezra. The Chaldees language is sometimes called Aramaic.

The Greek language is the language in which the New Testament is written. This writing of the Scriptures began during the Greek captivity, when the Jews began speaking Greek.

Why is this important to understand when we are searching to know the Truth? Simply because the Hebrew and Greek languages have many words which are not comparable to the English language. Being that the original manuscripts were written in Hebrew, Chaldees, and Greek, we must also find the true meaning of what is written in these languages.

The Bible tells us, **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...”** (2 Tim. 3:16). The word **“inspiration”** in 2 Timothy 3:16 means “it came by the unction of the Holy Spirit, from the spirit of man, not from the mind of man.” The Bible also says, **“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”** (2 Peter 1:21). The word **“prophecy”** in 2 Peter 1:21 means “given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit (spoken as the Holy Spirit put the words in their mouth).” In other words, it was not according to man’s wisdom, but totally by the Holy Spirit.

If we are to believe the Bible, then we must believe what God said and inspired to be written, not what man said. God speaks from the spirits of men, whereas men speak from their minds, which have been corrupted by the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17; 3:6).

To know the Truth, we must understand what the Greek word translated to the English word “know” means? Jesus said, **“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;...And ye shall know (ginosko) the truth, and the truth shall make you free”** (John 8:31.32). The Greek word “ginosko,” is a word which carries its meaning all the way from the Hebrew into the Greek. It is sometimes used in the Hebrew and the Greek to express the reproduction of another “after its own kind.”

In the Old Testament the same word in the Hebrew is “yada.” In Genesis 4:1 it says, **“And Adam knew (yada) Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain...”** In Matthew 1:25 this word is used in the Greek language, where it speaks of Joseph and Mary, saying Joseph, **“knew (ginosko) her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”** It is also used in Luke 1:34, where it says, **“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know (ginosko) not a man?”**

One primary meaning of this word “ginosko” is, “to know to the degree that it will reproduce itself in the same likeness and image of that which is known.” This word has many other meanings, which does include “to have intellectual knowledge of.”

We should be interested in its primary meaning. When we truly know (ginosko) Jesus, He

will reproduce His likeness and image in our lives. Therefore to truly know Jesus is to be like Him, to bear His image.

Another place this word “ginosko” is used is in Matthew 7:21-23, where Jesus said, **“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven...Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?...And then will I profess unto them, I never knew (ginosko) you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”**

Wouldn't it be sad, if people spent their whole lifetime preaching and teaching what they thought was the Word of God, including prophesying, casting out devils, and many other wonderful works, and then Jesus would say to them on that last day, **“I never knew (ginosko) you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”** What a way to end up in eternity, in the pits of hell, because they never truly knew Jesus. Because they never let Jesus change their lives into His image and His likeness.

How many Christians are willing to do what Jesus said we should do that they can spend eternity with Him forever and ever? Jesus said, **“If ye continue in my word...”** (John 8:31). How many want to continue on in their life, thinking they are doing what the LORD said to do, and in the end find out what they did was not what the LORD said to do?

It is a choice the LORD left up to each individual (to choose who they will follow)? Will they follow Jesus (Who is also the Word of God)? Or will they continually follow the teachings of men?

KNOW THE TRUTH

In John 14:5, **“Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know (eido) not whither thou goest; and how can we know (eido) the way?”** In John 14:6, Jesus said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life...”** To know the Truth, we must know (ginosko) Jesus.

Notice in John 14:5, Thomas did not use the Greek word “ginosko” where the English uses the word “know.” The word “know” in John 14:5 is the Greek word “eido.” This Greek word has an entirely different meaning than the Greek word “ginosko.” Yet, for those reading their English Bibles, it seems to be the same word.

How can anyone “know” the Truth, if they do not “know” what Jesus was saying? Anyone who thinks these two Greek words mean the same thing are mistaken, and even deceived by the devices of the Devil. Christians should not be ignorant of Satan’s devices (2 Cor. 2:11).

What was Jesus saying to His disciples in John 14, when He said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life (zoe)...”**? When Jesus said He is the life (zoe), He was talking about “spiritual life,” not “soul life” (psuche).

When man was created in the beginning in Genesis 2:7 he was given “soul life” (“nephesh” in the Hebrew--“psuche” in the Greek). Mankind continued to live by his “soul life” all the way from Adam until Jesus.

Two words are used to identify the creation of man in both the Hebrew and the Greek. In the Hebrew it tells us man was created “a **living** (chay) **soul** (nephesh).” In the Greek it says “a **living** (zao) **soul** (psuche).” When Jesus died on the Cross He gave His “soul life,” (psuche) (John 10:11, 1 Peter 3:18). When Jesus arose again from the dead, He became the firstborn from the dead (Rom. 8:29, Rev. 1:5,18). Following Jesus’ resurrection, those who become “born again,” receive “zoe” (which is the same “spiritual life” that Jesus had within Himself) (John 10:10).

When a person is born again they are no longer in Adam, they are translated into “Christ.” Romans 8:9 tells us, **“ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”** When a person is born again, they pass from eternal death in Adam unto eternal life in Christ Jesus. Jesus said in John 5:24, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life (zoe).”**

Soul life (psuche) is the life of man in the flesh. Spiritual life (zoe) is the very life of God within us.

Those who only study their English versions of the Bible will not know this, for the two words “psuche” and “zoe” are both translated “life” in the English. Isn’t it sad that so many Christians go through life here on earth not knowing (ginosko) the Truth? Oh, how much better it would be if everyone knew (ginosko) the Truth!

Even when Jesus came to the Jews to reveal the Truth to them, they did not know (ginosko) Him. In John 1:10,11 it says, **“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew (ginosko) him not...He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”** No one truly knew (ginosko) Jesus when He came into this world. Mary, Jesus’ earthly mother knew He was the Son of God. Joseph, Jesus’ earthly stepfather knew He was the Son of God. But their lives could not be changed by the indwelling Spirit of Christ in them until they first became born again.

Before a person is born again, everyone's knowledge of Jesus is intellectual knowledge just like many Christians today. They knew what they were told about Jesus, but their lives were not changed by their knowing Him in the Spirit.

In 2 Corinthians 5:16, it says, **“Wherefore henceforth know (ginosko) we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known (ginosko) Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.”** At the time of the Apostle Paul there were many still living who knew Jesus was the Son of God. Many had even seen Him after He arose again from the dead (1 Cor. 15:6). Yet, we are told not to know people after the flesh, not even Christ, but to know (ginosko) them after the Spirit.

How do we know a person after the Spirit? We receive our knowledge by a witness of the Holy Spirit within us. It is a “knowing,” that cannot be explained in the natural. It is a positive knowledge, given to us supernaturally by the Holy Spirit within us.

Jesus knew things “supernaturally” by “a word of knowledge, a word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits” (1 Cor. 12:7-11). This knowledge comes from God as the Holy Spirit gives it, not as man desires to have it.

Many times, Jesus knew what others were thinking, without them saying anything. At times Jesus' disciples had thoughts that Jesus knew what they were thinking without them telling Him. This should be happening in the lives of all Christians. Christians should know the Truth to the extent that whatsoever things happened in the life of Jesus should be happening in our lives also.

God's Love & Man's Love

There are certain things about God that Satan does not have. In 1 John 4:8 it says, **“God is love (agape).”** The type of “agape” that God has, He gives to those who are born again. Romans 5:5 says, **“...the love (agape) of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”** Anyone who is not born again does not have God's (agape) love.

People who are not born again do have (phileo) love. Phileo (love) is the highest form of love a person has in the natural. It is the type of love a mother has for her children, a wife has for her husband, or a husband has for his wife and children.

There are a number of other types of love mentioned in the New Testament Greek. Be aware, for English Bibles do not tell you which love it is speaking of, whether it be “agape, phileo, philanthropia, anthropos, philarguria, etc.” There are many Greek words translated “love” in the English versions of the Bible. If Christians do not know which type of love it is speaking of, they could be in great error in what they believe.

Satan does not have God's “agape,” neither does anyone who is not born again. God's agape (love) is unconditional love. There are no conditions attached to God's (agape) love. Human love has conditions attached to it. Human love changes as the conditions change.

There are certain things about God's love that are the opposite of man's love. Let us look first at God's love. God's love always prefers others before Himself. This is clearly seen in what God did for man. When sin entered into the world, God sent His Son to take the punishment for man's sins upon Himself, that man could be free. That is the love of God. In John 3:14-17 it says, **“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:...That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life....For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life....For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”** The complete Gospel of the love of God is told in these verses. This is the love of God, whereby God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son into the world to take away the sin of the world and set mankind free of all the works of the Devil.

Every evil thing that came upon man in the garden of Eden was laid upon Jesus, and He took the punishment for the sins of the whole world upon Himself. Colossians 2:14 says, **“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.”** In 2 Corinthians 5:21 it says, **“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”**

God loved man so much that Jesus gave His “life in the flesh” (psuche) for the lives of all who will believe upon Him. Therefore, the Scripture says, **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Rom. 10:13). Saved means “delivered and/or protected.” God's love for man was so great that He extended His love beyond the Cross, unto everyone and anyone who will **“call upon the name of the LORD!”** Everything that Satan brought upon man in the garden of Eden was taken and placed upon Jesus.

Satan has no authority in the lives of those who will believe upon the LORD Jesus Christ and receive that which is theirs by inheritance. “In Christ” we inherit all that belonged to Jesus when He died on the Cross of Calvary. When Jesus died for us, He stripped Satan of all His power and

authority over those who believe. Then He arose again from the dead to reign as “Christ” here on earth. All who are in Christ are joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17).

This is just one example of the love of God for those who believe on Jesus Christ. God always looks upon the needs of others before He looks upon His own needs. That is the love of God. Man needed to be delivered and protected from the works of the Devil. Because of the love of God, God did for man what man could not do for himself.

This same love should also be seen in those who are in Christ. Those who know (ginosko) Christ should walk as He walked. They should show the same love for others as Christ showed for them. In 1 John 4:17 it says, “...as he is, so are we in this world.” As the love of God was seen in Christ Jesus, so should that love of God be seen in those who are Christ’s. In 1 John 3:16 it says, “**Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**”

In contrast to this, as we look at the world and those who are still living by the tree of knowledge of good and evil, we see that they always prefer themselves before others. The attributes of Satan show up in those who do not walk in the love of God.

Even in the churches today, many prefer themselves before others. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Many sit in the high places in the churches taking all they can get for themselves, not considering the needs of others.

This is a sign of the last days. The love of God has waxed cold in the hearts of many Christians. Jesus said in Matthew 24:11,12, “**many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many....And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**”

Who is a false prophet? A false prophet is one who prophesies things and they do not come to pass. God never lies, if He said it, surely it will come to pass. In Numbers 23:19 it says, “**God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?**”

Men who walk after the flesh are liars, for they are still living by the knowledge of good and evil. Those who are walking after the Spirit live by the Word of God, led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, and God cannot lie.

The love of God never remembers the sins of those who have repented and turned from the works of darkness unto the light. In 1 John 1:5-7 it says, “**This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto 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 the truth:...But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**”

Once a person is cleansed from sin, God does not remember their sins anymore. This is the love of God. The Word of God says in Hebrews 8:12, “**...I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**”

God cannot lie. If He said it, surely He will do it. Those who walk after the flesh always remember the sins of others, no matter how long ago they had sinned. Satan, never forgets the sins of others. Those who live by the knowledge of good and evil, follow the leading of Satan. God is love (agape), whereas Satan has no love (agape).

Why is it that so many Christians do not show the love (agape) of God in their lives? Simply, because they have not renewed their minds upon the Word of God. They have not hid God’s Word

in their hearts. They continue to live according to the natural man, and do not walk after the Spirit.

What many do not understand is that for them to walk after the Spirit they must continue in the Word of God. Jesus said in John 8:31,32 **“...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;...And ye shall know (ginosko) the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**

Many Christians receive the Word of God and become born again. But they do not continue in the Word of God. Therefore, God cannot “transform” their lives to become like Jesus. They do not bear the image and likeness of Christ. They do not truly know (ginosko) Jesus. All they do is know about Him. All they have is intellectual knowledge of Jesus.

Until we know (ginosko) Jesus, we will still be like the world, knowing only good and evil. The world knows good and evil. The knowledge of good and evil came upon man in the garden of Eden. Those who are not born again are still living by the knowledge of good and evil. This is the opposite of God. God does not live by the knowledge of good and evil.

God lives by His Word. God and His Word are one, they cannot be separated. When Christians walk by sight, they are walking by the knowledge of good and evil. To walk with God, we must walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). Those who do not walk by faith cannot please God. In Hebrews 10:38 it says, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”** This faith is not in man and what man can do. It is faith in God and what God said He would do.

God wants to be the source of all our needs. When men use other means to supply their needs they are in fact turning away from God to the world as their source of all that they need. Many have gone to the ways of this world, saying it is God.

Many have used the Bible deceitfully to obtain the desires of the flesh. In doing so, they are eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thinking they are doing what God said for them to do. They have been deceived, just as Eve was deceived in the garden of Eden. Anytime men put their trust in the world or the worlds system, they are eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This will only produce death. There is no eternal life in the tree of knowledge of good and evil. There is only death in the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17).

The life of God is in the Tree of Life. We must eat of the Tree of Life if we want to maintain the life of God in us. For more information on this, get the books “Two Trees,” by Merle E. Koepke. They will help to understand the truth concerning life here on earth, and everlasting life in heaven.

Our Father's Love

Jesus said in Matthew 23:9, **“And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.”** When we know God as our Father, we should also know Him by His love. A father's love for his children is the highest form of love among humans. God's love is a much higher form of love. God loves His children, more than any human father loves his children.

Until we know God's love for us, we will not trust God the way God desires for us to trust Him. When we trust God, we believe what He says in His Word. God and His “love” are one (1 John 4:8). God and His “Word” are one. (John 1:1) We cannot have God without having His love and His Word.

When Christians do not know (ginosko) God as their Father, they trust in the world and the things of the world more than they trust in God. Trusting in God comes by having fellowship with God. When an earthly father has fellowship with his children they trust their earthly father. Likewise, when God's children have fellowship with their heavenly Father, they trust their heavenly Father. Trusting someone comes by knowing them to the degree that you can trust them.

How many Christians have fellowship with God to the extent that they trust Him in everything? If they do not trust God in everything, who do they trust?

For more information on this subject watch for more mini-books on **“Know the Truth.”** Also, get the book **“God is My Father”** by downloading it from our Web sites at:

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