



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 110

To Know Christ

Philippians 3:10 (ESV),

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

Well, Hallelujah for His Word! You know, I was just having a conversation with a dear brother and we were discussing where we are at in this season of our walks personally. One thing we touched on among the many subjects was the point we need to get to where amid all our activities for the Lord we stop and hit the pause button and say it is time to know the Lord.

Let me explain in more detail. We can get so wrapped up in the to-do in ministry and serving the Lord in this life and even with our jobs that we seem to know a lot about the Lord yet at the same time we seem to drift in our knowing Him more relationally. In other words, we have our heads filled with knowledge and our hearts void of true light. Just typing this the Lord reminded me of a Scripture from Luke 11:34-36 (ESV),

Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light."

I am sure there are a lot of teachings we can get from this one passage of Scripture but for the sake of this one, I will highlight the idea of a good perspective. Basically, what we place our focus or perspective on is predominantly what our hearts will be set on. Also with this in mind, we can better understand that this direction of focus and perspective we have is what will inevitably fill our hearts and lives. If our focus is only on academic theological correctness we will have our heads filled with knowledge. But if our hearts are truly set on knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection our

hearts will be filled with the light of that knowing and thus we will be walking in the light.

Let me be clear here, I am in no way condemning theological correctness because let's face it many churches have seemed to leave the Bible on the shelf these days when coming up with their teachings. However, I am saying that many people get so wrapped up in theological correctness and almost leave the relational aspect of Christianity on the shelf to get dusty. A theologically correct person might very well be dry and dark on the inside when it comes to their love and passion for Jesus. A person who may not be clever at speech or academically sound in biblical doctrine might be more passionate in their relationship with the Lord.

I can honestly say that I personally know both. I know one who is absolutely sold out to the Lord and is on fire for Him yet at the same time has a hard time with words and doctrine. And I know such a one who has all the right answers as related to theology and doctrine yet seems to be so far removed from Christ it makes no sense.

Brothers and sisters, my point is that the one on fire for the Lord seems to know Him in a real and tangible way and when talking to them whether they use all the right words or not I understand their heart for Jesus and can clearly see that they know Him. And the other has all the doctrine down like no one else yet seems to have no fire for the Lord and only talks using logic and reason. I tell the truth here, I have a hard time seeing where they know Jesus. Rather it looks like they know about Him.

There are times when we can get so focused on the what where we forget the who. The what is not wrong rather essential, but without the Who it makes no difference. So, the Who is obviously Jesus here and the what is what He calls us to do. Sometimes we can get so wrapped up in what Jesus wants us to do that we forget to take time to know Him and the power of His resurrection. I wonder about you. Have you spent more time being a Martha or a Mary? Martha was busy serving and Mary was busy sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Honestly, I have spent some time answering this question. I feel so wrapped up in what God has called me to do and the busyness thereof and have also felt the necessity to hit the pause button and redirect my focus and perspective on knowing Jesus and spending that time in His Presence. Again, I reflect on Luke 11:34-36, "*The eye is the lamp of the body.*"

In short, your focus and perspective in life are the entrance to your heart and what fills you. If your focus on Christ is only on the doing for Him and knowing

about Him in theological correctness and doctrinal soundness then your whole body would be filled with darkness. Let me explain. The Pharisees for example in Jesus' time. These people were some of the most profound students and scholars of God's Word ever and yet at the same time they didn't even know God. I wonder about us, are we so filled with this knowledge about God that we have somehow failed to know Him more personally.

Let me connect the dots here. I shared about my busyness for the Lord and how I need to hit the pause button. The reason I feel this pause is necessary is not that I am doing something wrong but rather to prevent something from going wrong. You see if I don't catch this I could very easily become just like the Pharisees of Jesus' day. They were effectively theologically and doctrinally sound in their day yet when the Lord came to them they didn't even know who He was. Brothers and sisters that is a scary thing and something that I do not want to happen to any of us.

So the question looms for all of us. Are we ready to get more busy knowing the Lord as well as knowing about Him or are we going to just settle to know some things about Him?

Lord, You are truly worthy and altogether lovely. We thank You for every good gift and perfect gift that comes down from You the Father of lights and with You, there is no variation or shadow due to change. Because of this, we approach You to help us to know You and the power of Your resurrection. We don't want to be stale and lifeless in this journey but on fire for You. Help us, Lord, in Jesus name Amen.

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In Christ's Love,
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