



TO KNOW HIM

An In-Depth Relationship
with God

TO KNOW HIM

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Sword of the Spirit Ministries, Inc.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my family: Brian, Caleb and Lydia, Danielle and Forrest, Lane and Layton and Olga.

A special thank you to Jody Gertson for her God inspired poems!

A special thank you to Jody Gertson and Kelly Holcomb for editing!

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NKJV-New King James Version
AMPC-Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
CEB-Common English Bible

First Love

*Remember days of sweet delight
When hope abounded and burdens were light?
Remember the adoration so deep?
I'd think of you as I'd fall to sleep.
Consuming passion, poetry written.
All was new, and I was smitten.
Thoughts bombarded both night and day.
You came to mind at work and play.
Knowing you felt the same way too
Gave my heart peace when days were blue.
Without much fuss, yet many a reason
I felt the shift; another season.
Daily duties stole time away.
I'd make excuses, pause and say:
Tomorrow I'll have more time to talk,
Sup with you, or take a walk.
Then one day turned to two,
Then a week or more since I'd spoken with
You.
Priorities became centered on me.
My hopes and dreams ~ Oh let me be.
Surely you will understand
The burdens and the great demand.
Time pass by; months then years ~
Until a day came when I froze with fear.
The subtle thought that fluttered by,
Have I been duped and believed a lie?*

*Questions continued in a cunning tone.
Confusion ran rampant and I felt alone.
Deception unveiled, eyes open wide.
Searching for truth I hid deep inside.
God, you are present. You are unending.
Renew the Love I have been fending.
Yes! You are real. Yes! You are true.
Forgive my unbelief. I believe in you!*

Jody Gertson

January 2025

Mark 9:24

Chapter 1

As I sit here in the majestic Smokey Mountains I am reminded of God's creation. **To know Him** is quite easy. You can see Him all around you. I saw Him this morning in the sunrise as we were driving here. I tried to capture that moment with a picture on my phone, but it was still not like seeing it for yourself.

I saw Him this afternoon in the beauty of the Smokey Mountains. I know you have seen Him too in a sunset, a rainbow, a baby's smile or laugh, and in all of creation itself.

Romans 1:20, Ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—God's eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they are understood through the things God has made. So, humans are without excuse. (CEB)

I hope to reveal to you God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit in a way you have not seen before.

Some believe God is way up there and they are way down here and there is no way to have a relationship with Him. Some don't believe in God at all and still others have a distant relationship with the One who created them.

God does love you; He created you and He wants a relationship with you. That is why He sent Jesus to die for us. To bridge the gap between God and man and Jesus did exactly that! I now can have a personal relationship with Him through Jesus and you can too!

My brother in the Lord, Russell, thought he was just part of the masses of people. He had no clue nor any teaching about the things of God. A man came up to him and told him God wanted him to be happy. Russell said that was

the first time he knew God knew him as an individual. He knows each one of us as individuals. You are not part of the masses left alone to fend for yourself.

Matthew 10:30-31, But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (NKJV)

God values you! You are important to Him. You can become a son or daughter of God by asking Jesus to forgive you of your sins, believing He arose from the dead and confessing Him as your Lord and Savior.

Salvation is the most important thing you can do but there is more to knowing Him. A depth that is so deep, once you go there you will never want just a casual relationship anymore with Him. Just like you crave a relationship with your spouse, children, family members,

grandchildren, etc., you will crave to be in the presence of God.

You are important to God!!

Dear Child

*Patience my dear child
Listen quietly
For I have much to tell you
Stop talking now, I plea.*

*For you have been attentive,
And in thought you hear so well
To sermons of my sacrifice,
How I saved you from hell.*

*Yet somehow you have missed it.
Why complicate the facts?
You will NOT get to heaven
By your good deeds or acts.*

*You forgot to ask Me in
I stand outside and knock.
Please open up my child,
So together we can walk.*

*You are so impatient,
This causes me to sigh.*

*In Me you could have such peace,
For this I chose to die.*

*The old self will be washed away
If on Me you choose to lean.
For I will wash your garment
And make you come out clean.*

*A new creation you will be
When from your heart you ask.
Just seek me and I'll come in
Don't make this such a task.*

*I promise you much freedom,
Yet persecutions there will be.
But to those who persevere,
In heaven, you will be.*

*Jody Gertson
December 1990*

Chapter 2

Mark 5:30, And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My clothes?” (NKJV)

The woman with the issue of blood pursued Jesus. She had obviously heard about Jesus and how He healed. Her faith grew as she heard more and more testimonies of how Jesus healed. She took a risk and made her way to Jesus and touched the hem of His garment. She was made perfectly well by the power of God, but Jesus turned and asked, “Who touched Me?” This woman had a “come to Jesus moment”. She came and fell at the feet of Jesus and told Him the whole truth. She got **to know Him** in a real and personal moment.

Mark 5:34, And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction.” (NKJV)

She believed and she received from the One who knows her best.

You too can pursue Jesus and receive the touch that you need from Him. What do you need? Healing, finances, peace, joy, deliverance from an addiction, forgiveness, emotional healing? Pursue Him! Get **to know Him!** Receive from Him!

Jeremiah 29:13, And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart. (NKJV)

Personal Note: I have claimed the promise of God for healing in several different areas in my body and Jesus healed me. To God be the glory! Thank you for being our Father God that we can come to, confide in and trust!

Trust and Obey

Times of uncertainty draw nigh,

Restlessness bids me to fear.

Under a cloud of confusion

Still I know Jesus is near.

Turmoil seems all but distant.

Anxiety knocks at my door.

Needs of security haunt me.

Do I turn to Jesus, my Lord?

Obedience, in part, the solution.

Bold trust is essential as well.

Every decision is weighty

Yet with my Lord, it is well.

Jody Gertson

1998

Chapter 3

There are going to be ups and downs, tests and trials and good and bad times in your life. The devil's job is to destroy you and take you to hell with him. Don't let him win. Don't forget about Psalm 23!

The Lord is your Shepherd, and you will lack nothing. He causes you to lie down in green pastures and He leads you beside still waters. (There is a rippling brook outside my window that does have a calming effect). He restores your soul, and He leads you in paths of righteousness.

When you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you do not have to fear. The valley of the shadow of death represents the powers of darkness attacking your life. But you can walk through the valley. It cannot harm you because when you choose to walk with God, He is with you, and His rod and His staff will

comfort you. His rod and staff represent protection and guidance.

Knowing Him gives you all these benefits. When I go through a test, trial, or bad situation, I have the Good Shepherd to lean upon and help me through it. There is nothing like having peace in the middle of the storm. You may ask, “How can you have peace in the middle of a bad situation?” When you know Him and have a personal relationship with Him, you can experience His peace that keeps you time and time again. It’s unexplainable! It is hard to find words that explain the rest and peace of God.

Once I was going through a very difficult situation. These words from Mark 4:35, “let us cross over to the other side” brought me peace and sustained me through the storm that came my way. Jesus spoke to the storm, “peace be still” and they made it to the other side. I kept

speaking His word but made it personal. “I will make it to the other side” and I did!

He goes on to say that right in the midst of your enemies He prepares a table for you to banquet at. He anoints you and causes your cup to overflow in abundance.

Goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life and you can make your abode in the House of the Lord. I like goodness and mercy following me! How about you? We can always use His grace and mercy.

Lamentations 3:22-23, It is because of the Lord’s mercy *and* loving-kindness that we are not consumed, because His [tender] compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning; great and abundant is Your stability and faithfulness. (AMPC)

His mercies are inexhaustible because they are new every morning and His faithfulness never ceases.

I pray for your eyes to be open to the love that God has for you in Jesus' name.

A Thankful Heart

As troubles come to weight the soul

Toss cares upon the One who knows.

Heaviness, heartache and burdens not rare

Are sent to torment and create despair.

Now take the hurts that linger inside

Kneel down, ask the Savior to reside.

First open up and cast cares at His feet.

Until you sense grace, mercy; a release.

Linger before the God whose great plan

Has hope, joy and peace for both woman and man.

Eternally different; the salve He will pour

Allow God's Son's blood to cleanse and restore.

Return oft' to listen, then share words now true:

Thank you, God, for mercy! Oh, how I love you!

Jody Gertson

4-16-04

Chapter 4

I would be amiss if I did not mention the Person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the 3rd member of the Godhead. Jesus told the disciples when He went away, He would send the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-17, “If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit is our helper, teacher, comforter, and He helps us pray when we don't know how to. Every day I rely upon the Holy Spirit to show me what I need to do.

John 14:26, But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your

remembrance all things that I said to you.
(NKJV)

The Holy Spirit only speaks those things He hears from the Father and Jesus. The Holy Spirit is very reliable. He speaks the truth.

John 15:26, "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. (NKJV)

John 16:13, However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit is the voice on the inside of you telling you not to do that or telling you to do something. Many times, the Holy Spirit has spoken to me. God cares about you, and He even cares about the small things in life. Here is an example; try not to laugh. I was walking

out in the backyard to feed our dog. The year was either 1988 or 1989. As I was walking the Holy Spirit very clearly and loudly said, "Stop and step over to the right." It was dark outside. I stopped and step over to the right. I'm so glad I obeyed!! If I had kept on the path I was on I would have stepped right into dog poop! It taught me to be obedient to His voice. I'm repeating myself, but it is powerful to know that God cares about even the small things in life. This experience showed me how much He loves me. He will do the same for you!

The Holy Spirit is that voice on the inside of you telling you to go and pray for that person over there or to go help someone. Maybe He is speaking to you to stop watching a TV program or a certain movie. The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts us when we sin.

John 16:7-8, Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to

you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
(NKJV)

When the Holy Spirit speaks to you, instantly obey or when he convicts you, instantly repent. Obedience and repentance are two key ingredients to have an in-depth walk with God.

Time Eternal

Too brief the hours

Impossible the list.

More being added

Eternity at risk.

Each day more decisions

Today will I choose

Exciting self-interest?

Realize what's to lose.

Now is the day, determine to be

All God's created, before time does flee.

Look to the Master. He'll help you to choose.

Jody Gertson

1998

Chapter 5

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit takes you to a whole new depth in Christ Jesus. When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, you receive your heavenly prayer language. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray when we do not know how to pray.

Romans 8:26, Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (NKJV)

Many times, I have sensed a bad feeling about something, but I didn't know why. When this happens, I begin to pray in the spirit because I know God knows what it is about. One time I was praying in the spirit, taking authority in the name of Jesus, and pleading the blood of Jesus over a situation I was having a bad feeling about. I kept praying until I had peace. A few days later I found out someone had tried

to hurt my dad. My dad had done a job for someone, they refused to pay him, and they hit him in the head. I believe my obedience to pray in the spirit for the situation which the Holy Spirit prompted me to pray about stopped that person from causing great harm to my dad. The Holy Spirit will prompt you to pray for people and situations to keep them from harm.

Another time I had a bad feeling well up inside of me. I immediately started praying, taking authority, pleading the blood of Jesus, and praying in the spirit. A few days later my husband called from the hospital and told me he had been in a car accident. When the ambulance arrived, they thought he was dead. But he wasn't. Why? Because of prayer! When we have an in-depth relationship with God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit, He will prompt us to pray. We may never fully know how many times our prayers mean the

difference between life and death. Follow those promptings to pray, it could avert tragedy!

Look To What Lasts

*With God I have His perfect peace.
With Him does all my heartache cease.
Yet burdens and trials still come my way,
But then I have my Lord to say:
“Be patient, Child. Just read My Word.
Ignore the fact all seems absurd.
Faith the size of one small seed,
Can reap all that you’ll ever need.”
“But God....” I cry in deep concern.
“Be still, My child. When will you learn?
Things of this Earth will surely pass.
Dwell only on those things that last”.*

Jody Gertson

1999

Chapter 6

We do have some responsibility. God provided salvation for us and a way **to know Him** in a deeper measure.

Philippians 3:10, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; (NKJV)

The amplified classic says it like this: For my determined purpose is that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly]..... Wow, if we would only put this verse into practice! It is our responsibility each day **to know Him** in a deeper and more intimate way!

When I first started my Christian walk, I didn't know what I was doing. All I knew was that I wanted **to know Him!**

So, I started my walk with Jesus pursuing the One who first loved me. God wants a deeper walk with each one of us. We have that deeper walk through His Son, Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

John 14:6, Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (NKJV)

Life is so much better and easier when you know the One who loves and cares for you!

One time there was a group of us ladies praying. A great presence of God came into the room. We experienced His love so strongly that night. We did not want that experience to end. There are no words to explain the love and presence of God we felt. There is nothing to compare to Him! I am forever addicted to His love and presence and forever changed by His love and presence!

He created us with free will. We must make the choice. The only thing left is to answer this important question: what choice will you make **to know Him**? Now pursue Him the way He has been pursuing you all your life!

Do You Know Him?

*Ponder this question: Do you know the One
Risen from the grave after three days?*

It was done!

Incarnation. Human. God in the flesh.

*No sin did He know; then He took our sin to
His death.*

*Come to the cross. Leave each burden there.
Enter into covenant with the Lord, He does
care. Open up your heart. Believe on His name.
For God knows your hurts. Every sin and it's
shame!*

*Place every burden in His nail scarred hands.
Exchange them for His yoke. Trust in His plan.
Acknowledge your sin to the One who forgives,
Cleanses, and then restores you back to Him.
Every good and perfect gift comes from above.
Receive the Prince of Peace.
Receive the God of Love.*

*Jody Gertson
11.11.2023*

Again, we ask, what choice will you make **to know Him**? Pray this prayer with us and let it be a new beginning for you.

Dear Jesus,

I want to know You! I want You in my life! I ask you to forgive me of all my sins and to come and live in my heart. I believe You were raised from the dead. I confess You as my Lord and Savior. Amen!

You can contact Dana Moomey at
www.sosministries.life on the contact page.

Dana has also written a children's book called
"God's Angels Keep Me Safe." This book can
be found on Amazon.

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Thanks for reading! Leave us a review on
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