

# Sermon Notes

by Pastor Jamie Tonge



## To Know God and make Him known.

### 1. Knowing God.

In 1978 Prince Philip came to visit the processing plant where I worked. I met him, I talked with him, I showed him how things worked, can I say I know the Queen's husband? Could I go to him at Buckingham Palace and call to see him 'hi Phil; remember me your mate Jamie from Campbell's soup? Obviously not, he, will not remember me. I can not say I know Prince Philip, even though I can say I have met him.

For some of us that is what our relationship with God is like. We have met him but we can't say we know him, he is someone we know about but don't actually talk to or really have any form of interaction with he is someone who is distant and remote to our life, and we have some form of understanding who he is and what he is like and it is usually a warped impression second hand from someone who has misrepresented him. This is not how he wants it to be, his understanding of relationship is more like parent and child than my experience with Prince Philip.

Ephesians 1:17, Colossians 2:2-3, 1 John 5:20.

The word know used here is the Greek word *ginasko* meaning to know absolutely

It is found 224 times in the NT and always used in this context.

It is not just knowledge - gnosis, or understanding - sunesis.

### How do I know God?

### How does God want to know us?

All the way through the Bible God is seeking a close relationship with his creation just like the one at the beginning of time with Adam and Eve this is God's benchmark for our relationship with him and it continues to break out throughout the Bible. (If we ever wonder why creation is so hated it is because it shows how God really intended our relationship with him to be.) Gen; 1:26-30 2:7-25.

Genesis gives us the standard which God set and what He wants with us today.

- God made man in his own image.  
*Tseh-lem* - representative figure, having authority. Gen; 1:27-28.
- God made man in his own likeness.  
*Dem-ooth* - resemblance, shape, model. Gen 1:2
- God breathed his life into man. Gen; 2:7.
- God gave him an environment to live in. Gen; 2:8
- God gave them a task, responsibility, and privilege.  
Task - care for the garden Gen; 2:15  
Responsibility - obey God's command 2:16-17.  
Privilege - name the animals and rule over them Gen; 2:19.
  - God talked with them Gen; 1&2.
  - God walked with them Gen; 3:8.

God wants to have a close and intimate relationship with us it was His purpose from the beginning this is why Jesus came its why he paid the price he did for us so that we could once again walk and talk with him. So that we could know God. That we should walk and talk with him exercise our God given authority and show his love to a world with out hope.

The whole bases of our faith and doctrine, the church and its reason to exist, is to know God and to make him known.

*John 3:16 Personal relationship with God.*

John 3:16 tells the whole purpose of God in one verse. The word “believe” in this verse has to do with our relationship with God not just an acceptance that He exists. ( Greek word: pisteue, pist-yoo-o, to have faith in, to entrust, commit to, put trust in. found 247 times in NT used in the same context. ) It is from this basis that we must live our life.

To only know about God as an academic exercise or interest is to completely miss the reason for faith (James 2:19 tells us that the devil believes ),

To have a faith to give purpose for life and rules for living will only give us a religion without the power to change and equip us for the life we live, at best it gives a structure that helps us, biblical principals work who ever applies them in to there life, for example to forgive some one will allow the forgiver to move on and find freedom.

*Romans 12:2 Gods personal plan for your life.*

It is His desire to have a personal relationship with us to be part of our life and give us the power for us to live out His will and purpose in our life. And then receive us into His eternal kingdom.

Rom: 12:2 tells us...*his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*Revelation 21:1-7 Gods eternal plan for you.*

Rev: 21:1-7 gives us a picture of the heavenly place He has prepared for us also John 14.

His will is the best thing that could happen to us it was what we were born for.

Is that were you are today or like many of us we have lost sight of that amazing personal friendship with Him.

We are not alone in this there were many who experienced the same thing in the early church, two churches were written to with this in mind as well as the seven churches in revelation some of whom had lost there first love, its easily done.

God is jealous of our first love. Rev: 2:3 – 4.

One of the greatest obstacles that we face in our walk with God is losing our first love Rev: 2:4 the message puts it like this

*‘..you walked away from your first love’.*

Its even more helpful when we see the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse

*‘I know your persistence, your courage in my cause.’*

The church in Ephesus was the same as us they lost sight of there relationship with God because of there work for God,

Jesus did not condemn them for their commitment to the cause of the righteousness of the gospel their defence of Christ, their unwillingness to compromise and their stand for Him, no it was not this, indeed other church's were roundly condemned for their failure to stand for these principals. It was the loss of their first love, Christ is a very jealous lover he will not share his bride with another His relationship with us is the most important thing to Him.

As the hymn puts it

*"Where is the blessedness I knew when first I saw the Lord,  
where is that soul refresh view of Jesus and his word".*

Suzette Hattingh, said that when she was leading the prayer team for Rinehart Bonkie's crusades there came a time when she lost sight of her walk with God even though she was spending an average of 8 hours a day in prayer and prayer meetings, the Lord spoke to her and called her to the place of intimacy with Him. We can so become taken up with the ministry even of prayer and lose sight of the relationship with Him.

Paul's letter to the Galatians and the letter to the Hebrews both deal with this issue.

*Galatians 1:6 says*

*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ....*

*Heb: 2:1 says*

*We must pay more careful attention, therefore to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.*

*# Careful attention – superabundantly*

*# drift away – carelessly pass.*

The motivation of why we serve is more important than the serving, its more important than the things we do.

We don't have to do any thing but we 'get to',  
when it's a privilege to do then he is pleased.

Now we must qualify this statement, If I as a child of God do not want to serve Him and His people then there is something wrong, in the same way as human beings we all have a healthy desire to work and be active, when people find themselves out of work they become depressed and feel useless even to the point of losing the will to live, so a healthy Christian will have a desire to serve the kingdom of God. In the same way when we are unwell we are not able to work or we don't feel up to working, so it is in the Christian life the reason we don't want to serve him is because there is something amiss in our walk with God.

No one stops belonging to a family because they refuse to work, they may well be told by the other members of the family what is expected of them and even find a level of rejection but they still belong to the family. So it is in the kingdom of God we are still a child of God if we are not serving Christ but it is a sign there is something a miss.

Renewing our passion for Jesus

We need to keep feeding our own heart, like a steam train the fire must be constantly maintained if the fire man stops putting coal on the fire it will not be noticed for a start as the coal that is already burning will keep the head of steam up. However the lack of new coal will soon cool the fire and the steam will lose its pressure and the train slow down and eventually stop.

So it is with us we must constantly feed the fire of our spiritual life by maintaining our life with God by:

1. Talking to and listening to God.
2. Reading the bible and applying its truth.
3. Regular fellowship with other Christians.
4. Active participation in worship.
5. Prayer alone and with other Christians.

Jesus modelled all of the above 5 principals in his own life on earth. If we wish to have a healthy relationship with God then we would do well to do them too.

- So where are we at in all this?
- Were do I fit in the picture?
- How is my relationship with God?

I, am not here to make any judgments on any one my only desire is that we all have a healthy relationship with Him and one another so that we may all live out what He has willed for our life.

For those who have given up and being in Church is just something I do because some how I know he is the answer but I don't know how it will ever happen.

He is closer than you think and to day is your day to start if you are ready to take hold of God and obey not question His word to you, start by choosing to do things His way not your own, repent of your arguing with Him and apply the 5 things above into your life .

May be you are one of Gods gofers you are always going because no one else is, well I have news for you the truth really is that you have got on a merry go round of work and you can not get off, choose to obey Him to day and apply the five principles above and begin to enjoy who you are in Him and what you do for Him and you will achieve far more than you ever dreamed you could.

Maybe we are some were in between these two or a combination of both or some thing else what ever let's take some time to look at how we Know God.