

TO KNOW GOD, IS TO BE KNOWN OF HIM

The desire of all who claim to be God's children should be that of wanting to know Him; to know Him as Lord of our life, as we seek and acknowledge Him in every aspect of circumstance that we face. Walking with Him day by day in the newness of life in Him. The key word here is **relationship**, for it is in relationship that we are connected with our Lord in good times, and in bad times. **Relationship binds us to Him, while empowering us with spiritual and physical strength. This should be our most important and determined purpose while here on this earth.** Paul counted everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege of knowing Christ YAHSHUA his Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him; perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly that was his determined purpose (Phil. 3). For this reason, he was empowered by God's strength in his trials, which were many in his life time as God's minister. Paul's life is an example of someone's determined purpose to know God. It shows in his bodily and emotional sufferings when persecuted for the sake of the Gospel, without losing focus of his desire to know God. Suffering persecution for the sake of the Gospel is a true sign that we are in relationship with God.

The misconception that we are exempt from trials and sufferings when we walk close to the Lord, is one that has caused confusion and weakness of faith, for we were called to be molded into the image of God's Son (Rom. 8:29). That means, our old and sinful nature, which is the soul comprising of the intellect, the emotion, and the will must submit and conform itself to God's nature. The molding process is hard and painful, for we were born in sin, carrying the weight of iniquity of our forefathers. For this reason, we tend to be evil and contrary to God's nature, as He has said, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" (Jer. 17:9). The Lord, often calls us to the still waters, a place where we can be alone with Him. It is a place where we are spiritually refreshed in His presence, for water speaks of the Holy Spirit. His comforting presence refreshes us, and leads us close to God, by convicting and shaping our nature to His nature. The closer we get to Him the more that we see ourselves for what we are. YAHSHUA said to His disciples when life was so busy for them without even the leisure to eat, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place, and rest a while" (Mark 6:30). That's what we should do today in our busy life style, and not run away from His presence. YAHSHUA wants our friendship with Him, as He told the disciples, "You are My friends if you keep on doing the things which I command you to do" (John 15:3,14). Friendship is strengthened by doing what is pleasing to a friend and vice-versa.

The Word of God says, "Because he has set his love upon me, therefore, will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he knows and understands My name; [has a personal knowledge of My mercy, love, and kindness – trusts and relies on Me, knowing I will never forsake him no, never.] He shall call upon Me and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show My salvation" (Ps. 91: 14-16). Loving the Lord in obedience and submission, we are delivered from evil. Knowing Him

personally, we will be saved from the tribulation to come, our prayers will be answered in time of our trials, for He will never forsake us. Deliverance, honor and long life are the rewards as a result of our relationship with God.

YAHSHUA expressed His desire for relationship with the nation of Israel by saying, "How often I have desired and yearned to gather your children together as a hen [gathers] her young under her wings, but you would not!" (Luke 13:34b). He continues inviting us to come to Him for rest and comfort- the fruit of His presence. No matter where we are. Be it in the valley where darkness abounds, where fear and anxiety take hold of us, or be it on the top of a mountain. His voice must be heard by all who walk with Him. It will be only in His presence that we will have a glimpse of Whom He is. He said, "the sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me; I give them eternal life, and they shall never lose it or perish throughout the ages; and no one is able to snatch them out of My hand" (John 10: 27-28). We will never come to know Him walking away from Him. The measure in which we know Him is measured by the time spent with Him. Mary knew YAHSHUA better than Martha, by choosing to sit at His feet to hear His word. God talked to Moses face to face, so close he was to God, like no other prophet. The secret of the Lord is for those who listen to Him; for those who desire to know Him.

Before He went back to heaven, YAHSHUA invited the disciples to have breakfast with Him, after a night of toiling and not being successful in their effort to catch fish. Answering to the call, the disciples saw a fire of coals with fish lying on it [cooking] and bread (John 21:9). YAHSHUA'S calling to have breakfast with Him, remains to this day. We may not find fish lying on a fire of coal, and bread, but we do have His Word, the living Word of God, ready to satisfy the hunger of our soul. That's the best time of the day to be in the presence of our Lord, before other things occupy our minds with the worries of the day. Starting the day feasting at His table, for sure we will be victorious in the challenges the day will bring. It is He Who will calm the storm; it is He Who will fight for us in the valley of sufferings. To know Him is to be in perfect peace, which we so much lack. The Bible tells us that "God will guard him and keep him in perfect peace those whose mind is stayed on Him, because he commits himself to Him, leans on Him and hopes confidently in Him" (Isa. 26:3). YAHSHUA invites all who are weary and burdened to come to Him for rest (Matt. 11:29). The burden of the soul becomes heavier at times, because our relationship with God is non-existent. Our relationship with Him is like a telephone line connecting to the person we want to talk to. God is everywhere. As a matter of fact, He fills heavens and earth (Jer. 23:24). He is only a prayer away, as the song says. Valleys and deserts are places where we will know Him better, if we do not give up; where the strength of our relationship will be established. Walk the Via Dolorosa with Him and imagine what He suffered for you; imagine the extent of His love for you; receive His love and walk with Him continuously, for He will never leave you.

To be known of Him is to be rewarded with heaven. YAHSHUA said, Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven.** (who has a relationship with Me). "Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many

mighty works in Your name? And then I will say, to them openly, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly” (Matt. 7:21-23). Aren’t those people out there performing miracles, prophesizing, driving out demons in the name of YAHSHUA today, professing to be His people? But He said, I never knew you – I do not have a relationship with you. These are a specific group of people, specifically mentioned: they are those who perform miracles, they cast out demons and they prophesize. We are familiar with these people, and many who preach the prosperity Gospel. They, perform the works of miracles in the name of YAHSHUA for their own gain. These are not known of YAHSHUA, neither He knows them; they are under the condemnation of His judgment. “Depart from Me, I never knew you” will be His words to them. Choose my friends, choose to walk with Him!