

IF YOU KNEW ME / *John 8:19*

For John, “knowing God” was a key theme of Jesus’ ministry. To be enlightened by God in order to understand clearly the nature of God and Jesus was both a gift and a prerequisite for salvation. Each individual must be given the ability to recognize Jesus and God. Once given, we must grow in our knowledge of God by knowing Christ better and better.

Knowledge of Christ is not innate

- 1:5 The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.
- 1:10 But although the world was made through him, the world didn’t recognize him when he came.

Knowledge of God comes to us through Christ

- 7:28-29 While Jesus was teaching in the Temple, he called out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I come from. But I represent one you don’t know, and he is true. I know him because I have come from him, and he sent me to you.”
- 8:19 “Where is your father?” they asked. Jesus answered, “Since you don’t know who I am, you don’t know who my Father is. If you knew me, then you would know my Father, too.”
- 8:55 But you do not even know him. I know him. If I said otherwise, I would be as great a liar as you! But it is true—I know him and obey him.

Knowing God is every believer’s opportunity

- 14:7 If you had known who I am, then you would have known who my Father is. From now on you know him and have seen him!
- 14:9 Jesus replied, “Philip, don’t you even yet know who I am, even after all the time I have been with you? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking to see him?”
- 14:17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

Knowing the Father through the Son was the end result of Jesus’ mission on earth

- 17:3 And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.
- 17:6 “I have told these men about you. They were in the world, but then you gave them to me. Actually, they were always yours, and you gave them to me; and they have kept your word.”