

Lord,
help
me know
YOU

experiencing Christ
in a personal way



visit us on the web

interact with the author
comment on the book
start a discussion group
share your story

www.LordHelpMeKnowYou.com



Lord, help me know YOU

experiencing Christ in a personal way



Shane Walsh



InspireLife Publishing

Copyright © 2009 by Shane Walsh

Published by InspireLife Publishing
a subsidiary of InspireLife Productions
www.inspirelifeproductions.com
www.lordhelpmeknowyou.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise - without prior permission of the publisher.

Manufactured in the United States of America

ISBN-13: 978-0-9842057-0-7
ISBN-10: 0-9842057-0-5

Unless otherwise identified, all Scripture quotations in this publication are taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE® except where noted. Copyright ©1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

Book, Movie, Song references
pages 35, 57 (Chariots of Fire. Dir. Hugh Hudson. Perf. Ian Charleson. Warner Bros Studios, 1981. Film.)
page 61 (John Steinbeck. Of Mice and Men. New York. Covici Friede publishers. 1937)
page 58 (Newton, John. Amazing Grace. 1773. England, London.)
page 91 (Lemmel, Helen. Turn your eyes upon Jesus. 1922. USA, Wisconsin)
pages 83, 84, 85, 174 (Richard Wurmbrand. Tortured for Christ. Oklahoma. Living Sacrifice Book Company. 1967, 1998)

Cover Image ©iStockphoto.com/aurumarcus
Decorative Icons ©Jamey Ekins/Fotolia.com

“I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

(Philippians 3:8)

CONTENTS

Preface	11
Know Me, Love Me	15
Redemption	21
Seven Letters for Seven Seasons	47
The Passion Letter : <i>Love for Christ</i>	55
The Comforting Letter : <i>Suffering with Christ</i>	81
The Encouraging Letter : <i>Faith in Christ</i>	97
The Solitude Letter : <i>Intimacy with Christ</i>	125
The Hope Letter : <i>Like-Minded with Christ</i>	147
The Inspiration Letter : <i>Identity in Christ</i>	161
The Desire Letter : <i>Purpose in Christ</i>	177
Life in Christ	195

 *Preface*

There is a saddening pattern in the church. Lost souls enter the body of Christ, are thrust into education and service only to grow weary over time. They struggle with the same issues and sins for years, and many of them never really mature in Christ, even those who appear to be doing His work. Eventually the walk proves to be too cumbersome and many times they leave the body of Christ all together.

It is clear to me that sometimes we focus so quickly on *doing* Christian things that we miss the purest intent of a walk with Christ; simply coming to *know* Him.

I wrote this book because over the years I've witnessed countless people who shared a similar plight as I did. They attended church and did everything they were "supposed" to do, but somehow it did not result in a deep, meaningful, life changing relationship with Christ.

They are missing the same thing I was missing. They are trying their best to *serve* Christ but simply do not *know* Him. There was a time when I thought the journey through which I came to truly know Christ was unique to me, but during a study of the book of Revelation I read the seven letters to the churches and saw my story so clearly outlined. I had read those letters countless times, but it wasn't until this moment that I recognized what they represented.

Christ had taken me through seven seasons of growth in my relationship with Him, and I saw through His letters to the churches in the book of Revelation that those seven seasons were not unique to me, they were universal to us all. Within these seven letters were key aspects of the relationship Jesus desires to have with all of us. These letters reveal who He is and who

Lord, help me know YOU

He wants to be in our lives. They are the outline of His plan to reveal Himself to each of us. They are His desperate plea for our devotion and attention and His promise of new life.

This message is specifically for those Christians who have “accepted” Christ but still feel like something is missing. I’m not talking about Christians who are happy where they are, I’m talking about those of us who are struggling to walk it out, or who have given up completely. I’m talking about those who want to serve God but don’t understand why they don’t have the will-power to sustain. I’m talking about those who have “gone through the motions,” or done all that they are “supposed to do,” but who do not know in absolute certainty that they *know* Jesus Christ. I’m talking about those who look around the church at leaders who have fallen and think, “What hope do I have to know God if they don’t even know Him?”

This book tells the story of my journey through my own experiences. I decided to lay my life out openly in this book with the hope that my vulnerability and transparency will help you look honestly at your own relationship with Christ. Anyone who knows me knows I am an *extremely* private person by nature, so this took a tremendous prompting from the Holy Spirit and a huge leap of faith for me. But I felt that to talk about what God *can do* for you without willingly exposing myself would be disingenuous.

This book does not represent a formula to know Christ because there is no such thing. Your walk with Him is personal, and He treats it as such. He is faithful to finish the work He has begun in your life, and all He requires is an honest commitment. This book does not represent some sort of pass or fail test either because there is no condemnation in Christ.

This book simply outlines seven guideposts that you can use to challenge your experience with Him and assess whether or not you have come to fully know Him.

I hope that if you see an area you have yet to discover in Him, you will be compelled to pursue Him in that way. Even greater than that, I hope that if you are someone who has given up on

Preface

the belief that you can serve Him for the duration of your life, you will come to understand one thing - You will serve Him once you love Him, you can love Him once you know Him, and you can know Him once you understand what it means and where to begin.

If you are one of those people doing everything you are “supposed” to do yet you have not fully experienced the easiness of His yoke and the realization of the fullness of life in Christ that He has for you, then I want this book to prove one thing to you - He wants you to come to know Him more than He wants you to serve Him. I hope my story helps you take hold of that truth.

Chapter

1



Know Me, Love Me

“Have I been so long with you, and yet
you have not come to know Me?”

(John 14:9)



Know Me, Love Me

The disciples spent three years with Jesus just walking and talking with Him, and His primary desire was for His disciples to come to *know* Him. He was less concerned with what they did or didn't do, or what they were even going to do.

Peter was a great example of this. Jesus saw the weakness in Peter's heart, even predicting that he would deny Christ when Peter was certain he would not, but Jesus didn't spend a lot of time addressing that particular issue with Peter. Jesus simply made a confident statement of faith, "*Upon this rock I will build my church,*" telling Peter that Jesus not only knew the weakness in Peter's heart, He also knew the faith that would eventually reside there in its place (Matthew 16:18).

Jesus understood that as His disciples came to know Him more, their weaknesses would "fall away" and would be replaced with a greater love for Him. But that process would not be fulfilled by constantly addressing their personal issues and weaknesses. The key to their growth was coming to *know* Jesus to a greater degree, and that is why Jesus pressed this point so intently.

The first step in a walk with Christ is coming to repentance and following Him, then coming to *know* Him, then learning to *love* Him, then starting to *serve* Him. Often times the experience in the church today is coming to *accept* Him, learning *about* Him, and then starting to *serve* Him, with the expectation that eventually we will learn to love Him and maybe even eventually come to know Him.

Growing up in the church, like many others, I fell into that very trap. I learned *about* Christ and was taught to *serve* Him,

Know Me, Love Me

but that never resulted in a *love for Him* or coming to *know Him*. Jesus understood this potential pitfall for even the original 12 disciples. In the Scriptures, we see His frustration that although His disciples spent so much time with Him, they still didn't *know Him*. Jesus asked them, "*Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me?*" (John 14:9). Here Jesus revealed that "knowing Him" was the primary purpose of our time spent with Him and the **foundation** of our walk with Him.

This focus on "knowing Christ" is also illustrated in the story of Jesus' visit with Martha and Mary. His goal was to spend time with them so that they might *know Him*, not so that they could *serve Him*. Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to His every word, but Martha was focused so much on serving Him that she missed the whole point of His visit.

We usually contrast the decisions of Martha and Mary, but we rarely consider Christ's desire in this story. This story is a fulfillment of Jesus' words to us in Revelation, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me*" (Revelation 3:20). Notice that Jesus did not say He stands at the door waiting for us to *serve Him*. This is what He was trying to tell Martha. He was trying to express to her what *His* desire was. This doesn't mean that He didn't appreciate *her* desire to serve Him, but service was not *His* desire. In her mind she was doing all the "right things" and Mary wasn't, but her perception was based on what she *thought* Jesus wanted, not what Jesus *actually* wanted.

Often times, we view the story of Martha and Mary as the balance between our labor for Christ and our time spent in communion with Christ, and that certainly is an applicable context for a mature Christian. The truth is that once we've grown into complete maturity, we allow Him to operate through us, and the communion and service become inextricably linked. When we first open the door to Him, however, His desire is to dine with us, not to be served by us. He desires to establish honest fellowship with us. He wants us to sit at His feet and

Lord, help me know YOU

listen to His every word like Mary, not frantically run about trying to do everything we think we are “supposed” to be doing for Him as Martha did. After all, how can you love someone you don’t know, and how can you fully give yourself to serving someone you don’t love?

Mary is the portrait of Jesus’ desire for us when we first come to Him. Martha assumed she was fulfilling His desire with her *service*, but Mary actually fulfilled His desire with her *attention*.

I suspect the real difference between Martha and Mary is that Martha didn’t even know what she was missing out on when she was given the opportunity to sit at Jesus’ feet and just listen to His voice. Her choice wasn’t the tragedy. The tragedy was that she wasn’t even aware of what she missed out on by her choice. The tragedy was that she didn’t really know Jesus’ **true** desire and instead fulfilled what she *assumed* was His desire.

How disheartened Jesus must have been watching Martha toil, hoping she would stop and just sit with Him.

How many Christians have served Christ but never really sat at His feet? Like Martha, how many Christians have grown



*“Service will
not guarantee
love, but love
will guarantee
service.”*



frustrated through their service of obligation? Do we fulfill His *true* desire by serving Him or by coming to know Him? To serve Him like Martha, we only need the energy and motivation, but to sit at His feet and hang on His every word like Mary, we must adore Him.

Jesus said to Martha, “*You are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not*

be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41-42). He was telling Martha that *knowing* Him was the only thing necessary to please Him. Jesus understands that service will not guarantee love, but love will guarantee service.

We see this same principle in Peter’s walk with Christ. Jesus first called Peter simply to *follow* Him (Matthew 4:18-20). As

Know Me, Love Me

their walk progressed, Jesus tested how well Peter had come to *know* Him (Matthew 16:13-19). When Jesus finally asked Peter to *serve* Him and “*tend His sheep*” He first tested Peter’s love for Him (John 21:15-17).

In this exchange, we see that Jesus wanted to impress upon His disciples how highly He valued love as the motivation for their service. Jesus could have simply commanded Peter to perform this service when He first called Peter to walk with Him, but He didn’t do that. Instead, Jesus took Peter on a journey, constantly revealing Himself to Peter through the experiences they shared together. When Jesus finally called Peter to “*tend His sheep*,” He simply expressed His desire, anticipating that if Peter’s love was sincere then he would gladly fulfill Christ’s desire by choice. Jesus was looking for service motivated by love, not obligation.

This is His true desire for us as well. Just like His original 12 disciples, we will eventually grow to love Him and serve Him, but it begins with coming to know Him. Again, how can you love someone you don’t know, and how can you fully give yourself to serving someone you don’t love?

It is this tragedy of Martha that has plagued the body of Christ. Service out of obligation will always result in frustration and emptiness.

In Jesus’ letters to the churches in the book of Revelation we see an almost desperate plea in His tone. He is constantly requesting that “*those who have ears to hear would listen*” to what He is trying to tell us. He communicates His desire to reveal Himself to us and walk beside us on our journey of faith, and He lays out the depth of the promise of life in Him for those of us who simply respond to His plea.

He desires to take every disciple on a personal journey of revelation with Him, just as He did for Peter, and just as He did for me. I hope you see through my story, that He wants to do the same for you too.

Chapter

2



Redemption

“Do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?”

(Romans 2:4)