UNDERSTANDING ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS

SECRETS TO KNOWING THE LORD INTIMATELY.

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Introduction

"**When it comes to faith, don't just believe, also understand.**" There are many passages of scripture in the Bible that we have believed for years without a proper understanding. For instance, consider John 3:16, which says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Out of this scripture, we have believed in the greatness of God's love, which is true. We have also believed that God sent Jesus Christ to the Earth so that we would not perish but have everlasting life, which is also true. We have further believed that anyone can escape damnation in hell by believing in Jesus Christ, which is again true.

Lastly, we have believed that everyone can believe in God because faith is simple, which is also true. However, a second look at this scripture and cross-references

reveals something higher than the love of God, not perishing in hellfire, believing, etc.

It may come as a surprise to some believers, but the main purpose behind God sending his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us goes beyond simply escaping hell, believing in God, and experiencing everlasting life in Christ. Whilst these are important aspects of our faith, they are not the main purpose. So, what is the main purpose?

The answer lies in having an everlasting life. However, this concept of everlasting life has often been misunderstood as simply living forever with the Lord Jesus Christ in eternity. But the true meaning of everlasting life is not limited to the future hereafter. There are several instances in the scriptures that write down that everlasting life is not just about living forever, but it encompasses a much bigger picture.

John 3:16 presents "**everlasting life as a present possession of the believer in Christ Jesus here on earth and not a future hereafter experience.**" It says, "but have an everlasting life." The word "have" is a possession word and not a future possession that has been traditionally presented to the body of Christ Jesus. If someone says, "I have a house in Accra, Ghana, or Texas, USA," what are they saying? Are they talking about something in the future or the present moment? They are communicating something in their possession and at their disposal.

Similarly, when John 3:16 says "whosoever believes in Jesus Christ has everlasting life," it is something in the believer's possession and disposal. What is everlasting life for the believer in Christ Jesus? The verses John 3:15-16, 36, 5:24, 6:47, 17:2-3, and 1 John 5:10-13 reveal that eternal life means knowing the true God and Jesus Christ.

In other words, everlasting life is your personal relationship and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ

and the true God. This is why God showed His great love towards us, to be in a relationship with Him. God sent Jesus Christ to bridge the gap between our relationship with Him, caused by sin.

God made it simple and easy for us to have a common platform to fellowship with Him: the platform of faith.

That is why God did what He did with Jesus Christ to give us everlasting life here in this life and the life to come. This is the missing link in religious teachings which are so focused on using Jesus Christ and God as a means of escaping hellfire and the fear of punishment, rather than emphasizing the importance of relationship and fellowship with Him. Thanks to God's special grace upon me, to present this masterpiece to the body of Christ Jesus, explaining how and why you can have a vibrant relationship and fellowship with Him here on earth.

Join me as we journey into this awesome masterpiece to know and understand the true meaning of everlasting life and its application in this life and the life to come. You

are holding a revolutionary book on your high road to experiencing heaven-on-earth realities as you learn and understand the concept of everlasting life in the scriptures.

Chapter 1: The Misconception of Eternal Life.

It is essential to understand what eternal life truly means and what it does not. Firstly, eternal life is not merely living forever. The notion that eternal life is living forever is incorrect, as everyone lives forever regardless of whether they receive salvation or not. This means that every person on earth will live forever with God, which is not taught in the Word. Moreover, people will continue to exist after their life on Earth ends. The book of Luke provides several scriptures that support this truth. In Luke 16:19-29, we learn about a rich man and a beggar named Lazarus.

When the beggar died, he was carried by angels into Abraham's bosom, while the rich man was buried and found himself in hell, tormented. The rich man cried out for mercy and asked that Lazarus dip his finger in water to cool his tongue.

However, Abraham informed the rich man that he had received his good things in his lifetime. The story concludes with Abraham reminding the rich man that his brothers had Moses and the prophets, and they should listen to them. These verses provide several lessons, but it is vital to focus on the misconception of eternal life presented to the body of Christ using this story to elucidate us.

In these passages of scripture, there are several important lessons we can learn. However, I want to focus on the misconception of eternal life, using the story depicted in these verses. It is important to note that eternal life is not merely living forever as most people believe. A careful

study of the verses reveals two destinations for life, one for a rich man and the other for a poor man named Lazarus. After their physical life ended, one went to Hell, and the other to Paradise. (Paradise was where redeemed souls under the old covenant were kept before the finished works of Christ Jesus brought them into Heaven, as described in Ephesians 4:8-10). Although both continued to exist for eternity, one was in Heaven, while the other was in Hell.

Could we say that since they all lived on after their life here, they were experiencing eternal life? Certainly not! One was separated from the Lord, and the other was brought near to the Lord by their own choice. Why? Because of eternal life! One had eternal life, and the other had eternal damnation.

Do You Know that Damnation Is also Living Forever

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. Beloved, for us to have a proper understanding of eternal life and our relationship with the Lord, we need to know the contrast between everlasting life and everlasting condemnation, because there is a link between eternal life and eternal condemnation.

The question of whether a person lives on in the hereafter is a settled matter in the Word of God. However, experiencing eternal life or eternal damnation in the hereafter is not the first time a person will face this reality. It is a full consummation of a reality that is chosen in this life.

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). The reason the vengeance of the Lord will be the eternal punishment for some people, nations, religions, and religious people and leaders is that they did not know the true God, and the true God is only accessed through the gospel of Jesus Christ, (Ephesians 2:18, 3:12, John 14:6).

Most people think the greatest sin in the universe is killing, fornication, and adultery however, the senior sin which is sending innocent people to hell in their numbers is not knowing God and it is possible through Jesus Christ. And why don't people know the Lord? The same verses explain why "not knowing God or in other words not having eternal life"

What happens when Someone does not know the Lord?

"2 Thessalonians 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." Everlasting punishment in destruction from the presence of the Lord and His glorious power is the lot of anyone who does not have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

When does everlasting destruction occur? Is it here in this life or in the hereafter? Even though the above scripture depicts the final consummation of the permanent separation of people from the presence of the Lord and His glory in everlasting destruction, it is because they choose not to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ and refuse to be in a relationship with the Lord.

Putting this scripture and other scriptures in juxtaposition, you will notice that the first time any person did not obey the gospel of Christ Jesus, who is the mediator in knowing the true God as John seventeen states, is not when they will be in everlasting destruction hereafter, but they made that choice in this life.

It can be said that the choice of "Eternal life or eternal damnation is made during one's time on Earth. This means that when an individual passes away, they are not faced with the decision of where to spend eternity – that decision was made during their lifetime.

In fact, physical death is simply the fulfillment of the reality that was chosen during life.

This concept is illustrated in Luke's sixteenth story, where it is written that the man in hell "lifted his eyes being in torments…." After his death, there was no debate or struggle in the spirit realm about his eternal destination. The man's eyes were opened for the first

time in eternity, and he found himself in hellfire, separated from the Lord's presence and glory. This man's experience in hellfire did not surprise him, but he was pleading for others. In eternity, you will be acutely aware of the choices you made in this life, whether it was a choice to know the Lord for yourself or a choice that separated you from the Lord, His presence, and glory!

When did this Eternal Damnation and Separation begin

Death means more than dying physically!
Either eternal life or eternal damnation placement is chosen here in this life before death consummates this reality whether in the presence of the Lord or separated from His presence.

Adam passed on Spiritual Death to Humanity

Physical death is not the first death of anyone in this here but a consummation of a life that was separated from the presence of the Lord, and His glory. In the lineage of Adam and Eve, all were dead in sins and trespasses, (Ephesians 2:1-10, Romans 5).

When Adam and Eve sinned against God's commandments, God told them "You shall surely die the day you eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil," Genesis 3:17, but the scriptures made us understand when Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they did not die physically at that moment. Genesis 5:5 reveals that Adam lived to be 930 years old!

Instead of dying physically right away, they died spiritually the instant they ate the fruit. This marked the start of the spiritual disconnection from God's presence

and His glory, as Adam transferred it to humanity. The physical death they experienced was only a consequence of the spiritual death that had taken root within them.

This is a profound statement that is often misunderstood. Most people tend to view things solely from a physical, natural, and emotional perspective, without realizing why death is clear in their lives.

Death is not merely physical but also a spiritual state that results from being separated from the Lord's presence and His glory.

Death Equivalents Separation

The word "die" in the Bible does not mean ceasing to exist the way most of us think of it. We think that when a person dies, it is all over, but that is not true. The Bible teaches that physical death is the separation of the soul

and the spirit from the body, but we continue to live as the rich man and Lazarus lived on when their spirit and soul were separated from their body (Luke 16:19-31).

Here are just two of the many scriptures that talk about this reality:

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Revelation 20:4 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James 2:2 6 When we put these verses together, we see that it is the spirit and soul

that leave the body at death, and then the body passes out and returns to dust.

These martyrs were brutally murdered for their faith in Jesus Christ in this life yet in the life hereafter they lived and reigned with the Lord Jesus Christ because of their relationship with Him in this life despite the tribulations and trials of their faith.

In the Bible, death simply means separation, separation to be with the Lord and His glory or separation from the Lord and His glory. It never means ceasing to exist; no one ceases to exist. No one's life just "ends." A person's life does not end when his or her physical body dies. The person continues to live; it is just a matter of where the person will live.

There are only two outcomes as to where people will continue to live after their bodies are separated from

their souls and spirits. There is no purgatory or a third place, the way some believe. Believers will go into the presence of the Lord. “To be absent from the body . . . [is] to be present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8, Those who have not accepted the Lord will live a life separated from God for all of eternity: “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:15.” Do these eternal destinations just happen to a person? Certainly not! One had eternal life and the other had eternal damnation, and this is a result of the choice to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord or reject Him. Those are the only two options, even though today’s culture and modern civilization have hovered so far away from scriptural principles and a biblical way of thinking that we hear a lot of myths and funny things about eternity. For instance, when people die who have lived a life of total rebellion toward God and never cared anything about Him, some will say, “Well, at least they’re at rest.” They are not at rest! Their lives just got

worse and worse. This is the torment of a life separated from the presence of the Lord.

That is simply wrong thinking, most ministers deceive themselves and the loved ones of the deceased one, especially when they are influential in society. Eternal life or damnation has no respect for who you are in society but whether you know the Lord for yourself, Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

The idea that when someone dies that means it is all over is certainly not what the Bible teaches. When Genesis 2:17 says that Adam and Eve would surely die

the day they ate the fruit, it was saying that they would instantly be separated from God.

Eternal Life and Eternal Death which One will You Choose

John 3:15-18 THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM should not perish BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. HE THAT BELIEVETH ON HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED: BUT HE THAT BELIEVETH NOT IS CONDEMNED ALREADY, BECAUSE HE HATH NOT BELIEVED IN THE NAME OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD.

John 5:24,29 Verily, verily, I say unto you, HE THAT HEARETH MY WORD, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM THAT SENT ME, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Either eternal life or eternal damnation the placement is chosen here in this life. The scriptures quoted have many insightful truths and teachings about volition, grace, truth, and understanding eternal life. I am not offering all in its depths in this book but understanding eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Adam being the first man in the lineage of humankind scintillated a spiritual death in humanity and the domino effect on humanity was a spiritual separation from the Lord, His presence, and glory resulting in all kinds of

physical manifestations of a falling from His presence and glory which included sins and physical death, etc.

Now God in His eternal counsel and purpose decided to bridge the gap between His presence, glory, and the spiritual separation of humanity from God's presence and glory, Romans 3:23, 6:22_23. He did that by sending Jesus Christ as the appeasing sacrifice to satisfy His holy justice for man's disobedience which God Almighty did foreplan as He used the skin of an animal to cover Adam and Eve before sending them out from the garden as a shadow of a perfect Lamb of God Who is Jesus Christ to take away our sins which had caused spiritual separation from the presence of the Lord and His glory and to bring us back to our relationship we once had with Him before the fall which the new testament term as eternal or everlasting life, (Genesis 3:21_23, John 1: 29, 36, Romans 6:22_23).

Jesus Christ is done with His part of bridging the gap between us and God's presence and glory to bring us into eternal life with the Lord instead of eternal damnation. Therefore, choosing to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ is choosing to know the only true God. **Apart from Jesus Christ, there is no other way to be in a relationship with the true God.**

This is where many religions and religious people get separated from the Lord and therefore there is an impending eternal damnation and destruction upon anyone who rejects and refuses Jesus Christ as the only way to be in a relationship with the true God. This is exactly what the book of John is teaching us, (John 3:15-19, 5:24-30).

This is a matter of volition for each of us when we hear the gospel of Christ Jesus the Lord. Your volition will either make you have eternal life with the Lord or eternal damnation from the Lord, His presence and glory in this

life before the final consummation of your choice in this life. The day one receives the Lordship of Jesus Christ into his life he has passed from death, which is a spiritual separation from the Lord into eternal or everlasting life which becomes your possession in Christ Jesus because of your union with Him.

Conversely, anyone who rejects and refuses Jesus Christ as their Lord in this life has consciously and unconsciously chosen eternal damnation in this life, so when that person dies in this physical life, he lives on eternally but eternally separated from the Lord, His presence, and glory. This is a total consummation of his wrong choice in this life.

Is There no Hope

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; WHICH IS CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY: There is more than enough hope for eternal life with the Lord in Christ Jesus! Individuals, communities, societies, nations, cities, countries, and every tongue in the universe eternal life is placed upon Jesus Christ because He is the appeased sacrifice of God for humanity to be in a relationship with the true God.

That is why Jesus Christ emphatically said He is the way, the truth, and the life no man in the universe can be in relationship with the true God without Him. This is the exclusivity of eternal life with the true God. This is the reason for His coming here on earth to break the sin gap

between our relationship with the true God we had with Him in the garden.

Satan knows and is jealous of our relationship with the Lord we had with Him in the garden. This is why Adam and Eve were tempted to break away from that intimate relationship with the Lord to be self-dependent from the Lord. Since that time henceforth, he has raised men and women in the name of religious freedom who have given their God-given consent and cooperation with the devil and set the masses to be self-dependent and independent, drafting masses in eternal damnation. Satan knows and understands that anyone separated from the true God through Christ Jesus is eternally damned even in this life before death consummates it.

What Is the Way out

Receive Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and set a vibrant relationship with Him in motion. In the next chapters, I will show you how you can have a vibrant relationship with the Lord in this life and enjoy the secondary benefits and blessings of the true God for yourself, (Romans 6:22-23). **What is eternal life?** This is all this book is about. Eternal life is your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We will go into great depths on this.

Also, eternal life is not living forever in the blessings of heaven as opposed to being tormented in hell. John 3:36 and 5:24 show that eternal life is a present-tense possession of the believer. This may sound new to most people because of the word “eternal or everlasting.” There is an adage that says “A word has no meaning

unless it's used in a sentence" meaning we cannot presume what something is when we have not read it in the entirety of its context! Everywhere the word "eternal or everlasting" was used in Scripture, it is presented as a possession of the believer in this life and not the life to come. Therefore, eternal life has nothing to do with living forever in heaven. Living forever in heaven is a great blessing for the believer, however, do you know that one-third of the believer is already in heaven? Ephesians 2:6-7.

Being separated from your physical body to be with the Lord is not your first time with the Lord as a believer if you do know and understand who you are in Christ Jesus and the eternal life Christ Jesus had given us. Physically separated to be with the Lord in heaven is just a consummation of your eternal life realities here on here. This is a big statement! **The day you received salvation, eternal life was your possession and reality.**

All you need now is to know and understand what this eternal life is that Christ Jesus the Lord has given to each believer and learn how to develop and appreciate it and you are holding the right tool for the adventure of "eternal life" Jesus here defined eternal life as knowing God the Father and Jesus Christ. The word "know" is speaking of intimacy instead of mere intellectual knowledge. Therefore, eternal life is having an intimate, personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus the Son.

According to John 3:15-16, this intimacy with God is what salvation is all about. Forgiveness of our sins is not the point of salvation; not perishing in hell is not the point of salvation, not being eternally damned is not the point of salvation but intimacy with the father is. Of course, Jesus did die to buy forgiveness for our sins because unforgiven sins barricaded us from intimacy with God. Sin was an obstacle that stood between God and us. It had to be dealt with, and it was, (Ephesians 2:12-14).

Anyone who views salvation as only forgiveness of sins and stops there is missing eternal life, (John 17:2-3). Salvation was intended to be presented as the way to come back into harmony with God. Instead, it has often been presented as the way to escape the problems of this life now and the judgment of hell later.

It is possible to become born again with that kind of thinking, but often, people who are saved through that type of ministry view the Lord as someone to help them in times of crisis but do not come to know Him and have an intimate relationship with Him.

The church has been preaching forgiveness of sins instead of a relationship with God. Forgiveness of sins is an essential step to a relationship with God that cannot be bypassed, but it is not eternal life. Jesus did not die for us out of pity for our impending doom, but He died for us out of love for us (John 3:16) a love that yearns to have once again that intimate communion with humanity that He had originally created us for (Genesis 3:8 and Revelation 4:11).

The vibrant, first-century church lived a relationship with God and proclaimed Jesus as the only way for others to obtain this relationship (John 14:6).

Without modern technology or huge sums of money, they turned the known world upside down with this Gospel (Acts 17:6).

Today, the twenty-first-century church, with all its advantages, has made less and insignificant impact on our world because we are preaching on sin and its effects instead of a relationship with Almighty God. Most non-Christians are so occupied with their "hellfire and torment on earth" that they do not really think or care about their eternal futures and destinations. They are fed up with religion. They are looking for something that will fill the emptiness inside. Only an intimate relationship (eternal life) with our Father can do that and this book is the long-awaited yearning solution to having a healthy living and vibrant relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 2: The Purpose of Our Salvation

Titus 1:1-3 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; IN HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH GOD, THAT CANNOT LIE, PROMISED BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN; BUT HATH IN DUE TIMES MANIFESTED HIS WORD THROUGH PREACHING, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior;

Beloved, the subject of salvation is a very crucial pillar in our walk with the Lord that requires and demands a careful study of it to know and understand from the scriptures the sole purpose of it.

This is when we will genuinely enjoy all the benefits of our salvation in the Lord because a purposeful Christian life is a profitable Christian life.

Throughout the Scriptures without any opacity, there are many reasons why the Lord Jesus Christ saved us and made us anew in Him, however, a careful studious study of the Word reveals a sole purpose of our salvation which is the climacteric bedrock for others. In other words, all the other purposes of our salvation hinge on the sole purpose of our salvation. Let us look at some of the secondary purposes of our salvation before we look at the sole purpose of our salvation. Will minister in depth in the next chapter on the secondary purposes of our salvation. Do you know that not to perish in hell is not the sole purpose of our salvation? Do you know that escaping hell is not the sole purpose of our salvation? Do you know that forgiveness of our sins was not the sole purpose of our salvation? Do you know that the new birth that is to be born again is not the sole purpose of our salvation?

Do you know that working for God is not the sole purpose of our salvation? Do you know that all the new creation realities in Christ are not the sole purpose of our salvation? etc. I know by now you may be saying in your mind and heart this must be another heresy from Andrew.

Certainly not! These are all blessings we experience out of our eternal life with the Lord but not the main blessing! For example, marriage, the sole purpose of marriage should not be “I want to have children” which most women their sole goal in marriage is to have children rather the sole purpose of marriage should “I want to have a vibrant relationship with my spouse” out of the vibrant relationship children, home, business, money, care, protection, love, security, etc. will be added to this marital relationship.

The sole purpose of the marital relationship was not to just give birth but rather a vibrant relationship with each other and out of it will be many impartations and blessings from that relationship.

Any relationship that is not built upon a vibrant relationship struggles to keep a healthy relationship and sad to say many believers' relationship with the Lord is at the surface level. It is scripturally true that all these realities are our possessions in Christ, but they are not the main reason for our eternal life as children, houses, and cars are not the main blessings in marriage but a vibrant relationship and intimacy with your spouse, so God expects us to have eternal life with Him by knowing Him intimately. These blessings are fruits of our eternal life and not the root. Reading these verses slowly and meditatively you will see straight forward that the sole purpose of our eternal salvation is eternal life and John 17 and other places state it clearly "It is knowing the true God and Jesus Christ".

John 3:15-16, 36 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. He that believeth on the Son HATH EVERLASTING LIFE: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him. In a statement or sentence ‘but or nevertheless’ is a negating word or finality, an objection, an exception, a restriction, etc., meaning it is presenting something opposite to what has been said previously. Look at a few examples to make my point clear.

Numbers 13:27-28 And they told him, and said, "We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey, and this is the fruit of it. NEVERTHELESS, the people that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

This was when Moses sent twelve spies to spy the promised land the Lord God had promised them, and this was the report of ten of the spies. They initially brought good news and hope to the children of Israel a ray of joy started sparking on their faces being in the wilderness all these years.

However, they brought a negating and impossibility analysis and defeated mindset to the camp that made the promise of God look foolish in their sight till Caleb still the people with an encouraging faith and positive words to enable them to have their possessions. Hallelujah!

The second adduce is John 3 verses 15 and 17.
John 3:15-16 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

The book of John 3 says anyone who believes in Jesus Christ will not be separated and be destroyed in hellfire is scripturally true however, the same scripture presents something higher and exceptional than not perishing in hell but being with the Lord Jesus Christ that is “eternal or everlasting life” and “eternal life” the same author said in chapter 17 of the same book is “knowing the true God and Jesus Christ”. The same truth he communicated in one of his epistles in 1 John 5 verses 12 and 13.

Apostle John is not teaching that escaping hell is not important, he is not teaching us all the new creation realities in Christ are not necessary, however, he added an exceptional blessing to just using Jesus Christ to escape hell rather aiming at building a strong healthy relationship with Him in this life. This is the sole purpose of our salvation in this life and the life to come. The extent you know and understand this truth and begin building a relationship with the Lord, you will be experiencing heaven-on-earth, where you live more of heaven here on earth than the normal Christian life

where people are only saved and stuck till they physically metamorphosis into heaven before they enjoy "let your kingdom be done here on earth as it is in heaven". You can experience and enjoy heaven-on-earth as you build a vibrant relationship with the Lord. Are you not excited about this truth? Awesome!

A Challenge

I am throwing a challenge for us all concerning the sole purpose of salvation-oriented believers and the secondary purpose-oriented believers' case study. This assumption is based on our teaching and preaching emphasis on repentance, hellfire, condemnation, and punishment-oriented messages and believers versus a vibrant relationship with the Lord messages and believers. If hellfire and heaven is not real, will you still be in church or relationship with the Lord? I can bet you with my life if there is somehow a way for dead people

who were in total rebellion towards God in this life to be visibly seen like a worldwide television in the sky where everyone can see the enjoyment they are enjoying with the righteous in Christ who had a relationship with the Lord in this life. What do you think will be the response of all who are using Jesus Christ as an escape boat from hellfire and the fear of punishment?

Certainly, thousands upon thousands of people will renounce Jesus Christ, insult Him to His face, condemn pastors, put them into prisons, and even kill a lot of them. Why? Most modern preachers are only focused on repentance, the danger of hellfire, condemnation, etc. as if what Jesus Christ came to do is for us to escape hellfire and punishment than relationship with Him.

This kind of preaching and teaching has raised many people who if it is announced or revealed universally there is no life or separation after death will run from God in their thousands because they only see God as a wicked God who wants to throw us in hellfire if we don't receive Jesus Christ in our lives by force. Instead of

seeing and relating with the Lord as a loving Father who yearns for our fellowship and relationship most believers see God as a wicked God. And it will surprise you there are many pastors too who will just renounce Jesus Christ and live independently from Him. Why? To them God is a means to escape hellfire and damnation and not the means to build a healthy and vibrant relationship with Him.

This way of seeing and relating with the Lord has affected our preaching and everything we do for God. We do things in fear of punishment and rejection when all is said and done here, but it should not be so! Everything we do in the Lord and for the Lord should be motivated by love and out of our relationship with the Lord.

Titus 3:4-8 But after that, the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us

abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, WE SHOULD BE MADE HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE. THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING, AND THESE THINGS I WILL THAT THOU AFFIRM CONSTANTLY, that they which have believed in God might be careful to keep good works. THESE THINGS ARE GOOD AND PROFITABLE UNTO MEN.

"The sole purpose of our salvation in the Lord is not to escape hell or for our sins to be forgiven but a vibrant relationship with the Lord in this life" The rest are secondary or a fruit of our relationship with the Lord.

The Central Purpose of Salvation and Ministry

Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his

riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, THAT HE UNDERSTANDETH AND KNOWETH ME, THAT I AM THE LORD WHICH EXERCISE LOVINGKINDNESS, JUDGMENT, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

John 17:2-3 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. AND THIS IS LIFE ETERNAL, THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW THEE THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST, WHOM THOU HAST SENT.

Mark 3:14-15 And he ordained twelve, THAT THEY SHOULD BE WITH HIM, AND THAT HE MIGHT SEND THEM forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: Brethren, knowing the Lord has been the central message of God's dealing with man since day one He created man. In the garden even though God gave Adam a responsibility to name the

animal and to farm the land, these were not his primary and central purpose for creation and living.

The original purpose of creation was a relationship, which is why God could come in the cool of the day to be in a relationship with them before Adam could do anything else. In Revelation chapter 4 scriptures say the same original purpose of relationship with the Lord as our chief core existence to worship Him. In other words, our chief core existence in the climax of all things will be the same original purpose in the beginning.

The Gap Man Created

Since the fall of man, man became self-dependent leading to fending for himself outside God's abundance of provision. With this same attitude in our redeemed self, somewhere in our soul and body we think we will be accepted by God through a lot of superior

performance and virtuous deeds. In so doing we have become human doings instead of human beings.

This has affected both believers and pastors all over the world. We think the more we do this and that for God, the more He is pleased with us, but it is not so. We were created anew in Christ Jesus unto good works and not for God's works, (Ephesians 2:10). In the beginning, Adam and Eve needed to work but the work was not why the Lord created them, but a relationship and it is the same for us all whether a believer or a minister. This was a clear cut in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ when He chose twelve disciples.

Why did He choose them? "That they might be with Him, and that He might send them to preach." This ought to be the central arrangement and purpose for any type of ministry. We are supposed to minister unto the Lord before for the Lord. This is the blueprint of God for creating us in the beginning and anew in Christ Jesus." Is it not awesome? Lack of this central arrangement and

focus has made us all human doings more than human beings.
Thinking that the more I do, the more God is happy with me. It is true that we are to bear much fruit in the Lord, (John 15:8), however, this is not to be the sole purpose of our existence. A false balance is abomination to the Lord, (Proverbs 11:1).

The first thing first! Our sole purpose of existence and preaching should be to bring men and women into a relationship with the Lord and not end in repentance, escaping hellfire and its punishment! This is where we discipleship people to know the Lord and to become Christ-like.

Chapter 3: The Root and Fruit of Eternal Life

Romans 6:22-23 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, YE HAVE YOUR FRUIT UNTO HOLINESS, AND THE END EVERLASTING LIFE. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Brethren, I hope by now you have already known what is all about eternal life in this life and the sole purpose of the salvation the Lord had given to each believer because your knowledge and understanding of eternal life in this life will determine your relationship with Him whether it will be based on performance or a vibrant relationship and fellowship with Him.

I am dedicating this chapter to continue with the purpose of our salvation with the Lord in a different dimension because there are a lot of misconceptions and miscommunications about what eternal life is which are seen in our preaching, teaching, and Christian service to the Lord and our fellow brethren.

Now, the above scripture a close study and analysis will let you know the two kinds of everlasting life, namely: “root and fruit eternal life” Even though the Bible didn’t mention root in the above scripture, however, it is logically reasoned if there is a fruit of something, definitely there must be a root or source of that fruit. It is like saying there are a lot of counterfeits in the system, logically once there are counterfeits in the system, it is elucidating us of the original. There cannot be a counterfeit of anything without the original of that thing.

Similarly, there cannot be fruit unto holiness resulting in everlasting life without the root of eternal life. If you are a studious study of the Word of God, you will at once know that we do not have eternal life by our performance but by our belief in Christ Jesus, (John 3:15-15). Romans chapter 6 teaches us two kinds of eternal life. The first kind is eternal life which is a grace gift, “the gift of God is eternal life” and the other kind is “The fruit type of eternal life which has something to do with the believer living holy resulting in eternal life.” Simply put, the first kind is a grace gift that comes through Jesus Christ and the second is a fruit of our relationship with Him, (John 3:15-16, Romans 6:3_4).

How Does a Person Receive the Grace Gift of Eternal Life

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, HE THAT HEARETH MY WORD, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM THAT SENT ME, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life

Titus 1:2-3 IN HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; BUT HATH IN DUE TIMES MANIFESTED HIS WORD THROUGH PREACHING, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

Titus 3:3-8 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God

our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, WE SHOULD BE MADE HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to keep good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. The grace gift of eternal life is found in Christ Jesus alone! He is the originator of our eternal life both in this life and the life to come. How does He dispense this graceful gift to us?

Jesus Christ dispenses the “grace gift of eternal life” to anyone who hears and believes in Him and the one who sent Him. This is exactly what the book of John 3:15-16 and 5:24 teaches us. The day anyone hears and believes in the gospel of Christ Jesus, on the inside of him abides a spiritual reality.

His spirit man is instantaneously in relationship with the Godhead, this is what hearing the preaching of repentance, redemption, salvation, etc. does in any person's life. This is the root of our relationship with the Lord. This grace gift of eternal life on the inside of each born-again believer, God does not want His relationship with us to be in the ethereal and spirit only where our spirits are in constant fellowship with the Lord but also in our day-to-day walk with Him. This is where living inside out of your born-again relationship reality on the inside of you in your daily Christian life counts. Hallelujah!

This is where most of us miss it. We think we are doing something to be in a relationship with the Lord such as holiness, righteousness, purity, and other performances. By doing so, we merely focus on the fruit of eternal life and not the root of eternal life. A person cannot live a holy and righteous life in this life who has not developed a vibrant day-to-day relationship with the Lord Christ Jesus empowered by the help of the Holy Ghost.

Yes indeed, there is a future hereafter eternal life to consummate. Yes, there is the need to live holy and righteous in this life, but these are fruits and not the root of our eternal life with the Lord. Once each believer becomes concerned with the root of eternal life with the Lord, the fruit will be a byproduct. Out of our relationship with the Lord will stem the necessary fruits we need in each believer.

The Purpose of the Grace Gift of Eternal Life

Do you know why God showed us kindness and love despite our foolishness, disobedience, deception, servicing diverse lusts, and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another? Do you know why God did not consider the works of righteousness we have done? But according to His mercy saved us by washing off regeneration and renewing the Holy Ghost?

And justified us by His grace? God did all these because He wants to make us heirs, that is possessors and sharers of the hope of eternal life He proposed and promised before the world began.

This is spelling out the original purpose of God in creating man so we can be in a relationship with Him. This eternal purpose of God is to be in a relationship with Him though our sins were the bridge between this relationship, Christ Jesus was manifested and revealed through the cross and preaching that we might be in a relationship with Him in this life before we finally consummate this reality in the life hereafter. This is what made God become our Savior not so we would not go to hell or to live forever but a vibrant relationship with Him. Once you grab this truth you will begin to experience heaven on earth. Men, I need this!

Koinonia

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY GHOST, be with you all. Amen.
1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SON JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD

Beloved, do you know why the grace of God was given? Do you know why the love of God was shed abroad in our hearts? Do you know why the Holy Ghost was given? Do you know why you were sanctified in Christ Jesus? Do you know why you were called a saint? Do you know why you were called in the beloved? Do you know why you were given the testimony of your salvation in Christ Jesus? Do you know why you have the gifts and the fruits of the Spirit? Do you know why God has made you blameless in Christ? And do you know why God is faithful to you?

All these new creation realities and blessings have only one sole purpose: for us to be in fellowship or communion with Him.

First Corinthians one verse nine states the clear-cut line for the Lord sanctifying us in Christ, calling us saints in Him. Why? So, we can be in a relationship and fellowship with Him. This has been God's original blueprint for creating man in His own image; fellowship, fellowship, and fellowship. This is all that eternal life is about. The rest is a secondary matter. The secondary matter was to reach out to us for fellowship.

What Is Fellowship

The word fellowship in Greek is called "Koinonia," which means communication, communion, partnership, intercourse, distribution, association, joint, sharing, and

intimacy. This means God created us anew in Christ Jesus to communicate, communion, partner, distribute, associate, join, share, intimate, and have intercourse with Him. This is the marital commitment the bridegroom, (Jesus Christ) has with the bride, His church, (Ephesians 5:31-32). This is the marital commitment of the church collective and individual believers as well. This marital intercourse and intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ are not when we die physically and go to be with the Lord, but it is developing a vibrant relationship with Him right now.

This is the heartbeat of God for humanity that all will come into relationship with Him in this life. We physically leaving our bodies to be with the Lord hereafter is a consummation of a vibrant fellowship and intimacy with Him here in this life. I found out something interesting about how the author of Corinthians began his letter with the sole purpose of our salvation and ended the book with a re-emphasis on the same truth.

Always remember the divisions in the Bible were added by the translators for easy location and memorization purposes, however, when you are reading it, you should know that it was a whole scroll together. This means that anywhere in the Bible that there is 1st and 2nd of a book in the Bible it was originally one scroll or one book. With this knowledge at the back of your mind, the 1st and 2nd Corinthians were originally one book divided into two for location and memorization purposes. The author reveals at the beginning of this wonderful masterpiece the sole purpose of God calling us into His kingdom and the extent He went through to bring us back unto Himself. Why? Verse nine of 1st Corinthians chapter one reveals the purpose of why He was and is faithful in bringing us back unto Himself. The purpose is He called us unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

This has been His purpose throughout generations upon generations and will always be so even if the church at large drafts from this. Apostle Paul beautifully concluded the book of second Corinthians in the last chapter and the last verse with the same communion and intimacy with the Lord to be with you all. This was a prayer and an emphatic reason we have the testimony of Jesus Christ in our lives.

The Fellowship of the Believers

Acts 2:42-47 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and FELLOWSHIP, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Here we see fellowship with the Lord the early church, apostles, and believers had with Jesus Christ had an impact on the whole congregation to the extent that there was no needy person in their midst. In other words, their relationship with other believers was not based on whether they were a part of my church or not but because the love of God is flowing through them to each other. This gave way for the Holy Ghost to move mightily in their midst. This too can happen in our generation as we learn how to build a vibrant relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ because we cannot give what we do not have, (Acts 3:6).

Walking In the Light

1 John 1:1-7 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, THAT YE ALSO MAY HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH US: AND TRULY OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH THE FATHER, AND WITH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the

truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

The truth of the matter is that the most popular authors who wrote and taught more about eternal life, that is our relationship and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ were Jesus Christ Himself, Apostle John, and Paul. In the few passages of Apostle John's writing in the book of John, he brought upfront the sole purpose of why God so loved the world to send His only begotten son into this world and why His son died for humanity so that we can be in a relationship again as we had with Him back in the garden.

Here too in one of Apostle John's epistles, he begins with the reason Jesus Christ was manifested, seen, testified, and handled by the disciples. Why? "To proclaim eternal life which was the father and made manifested unto us" What was manifested unto us? Jesus

Christ of Nazareth. Why? We would have a fellowship that is a partnership with Him in this life.
This is why Jesus Christ was manifested to destroy the works of the devil, so He can be in relationship with us.

This fellowship with Him is what enables the believer to live a holy and righteous life in this life because that is who he or she is in Christ Jesus. Therefore, living a holy and righteous life is the byproduct of our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and not the root of our relationship. Focusing on the fruit more than the root will eventually kill the plant. Give much attention to the root, water the root, nurture the root and fruits will be a byproduct of the nutrients given to the plant.

Any farmer who is too concerned about the fruits and foods of the plants can damage the plant, similarly, if the church and preaching are too focused on stopping this and don't do this and that, we kill the fellowship of innocent believers with the Lord because the Lord

promised to cleanse us from all sins and we shall not walk in darkness but by His light because of our vibrant relationship with Him.

The antidote to sin is your fellowship with the Lord. Your antidote to walking in holiness and righteousness is your relationship with the Lord. Anything good God created us anew in Christ Jesus will flow naturally without struggles when we build and develop our relationship with Him. Do you want to live righteously?

Do you want to live holy? Do you want to stop sinning? Do you want to walk in the light? Do you want to do good? Do you want to minister to others? Etc. The main key given to us in the scriptures is your vibrant relationship, fellowship, intercourse, partnership, communication, and intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!

Chapter 4: Knowing The Lord Is Eternal Life

John 17:2-3 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give ETERNAL LIFE TO AS MANY AS THOU HAST GIVEN HIM. AND THIS IS LIFE ETERNAL, THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW THEE THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST, WHOM THOU HAST SENT.

Knowing the Lord is the bedrock why Jesus Christ came in the flesh. Everything Jesus Christ did in this life, He did it for humanity so we can know the true God. God the Father Who is the true God sent Jesus Chris here on earth was God manifested in the flesh. He was the express image of God bodily to give the predestinated people of God eternal life, (Hebrews 1:3).

What was this eternal life all about? “That we might know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom God sent.” Jesus Christ was sent as God in the flesh and the express image of God Almighty so we can know the true God.

There were and are many self-appointed gods in this world who claim to be the true God in various forms of religion and sects all over the world. But there is only one true faithful God, and this true and trustworthy God is known through Christ Jesus alone, (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus Christ is the exclusivity of knowing the only true God.

That is why the bible says anyone whether individual or religion who does not believe in Jesus Christ is antichrist and does not have eternal life. This means anyone claiming a relationship with the only true God without Christ Jesus does not know God. Why? In the eternal counsel of God, the only divine person who was born in the order of God is Jesus Christ.

All other individuals are scammers and deceivers because Jesus Christ is the only divine person who was prophesied thousands upon thousands of years ago about Who would bring us a relationship with the true God and in due time, He was manifested to fulfill that purpose of God for humanity to be in a relationship with Him, (Galatians 4).

Jeremiah the prophet prophesied concerning Israel as a whole and the new creation of New Testament church believers. The main reason for the new creation of the New Testament church is for us to know the Lord intimately, (1 John 2:21-25, Titus 1:2-3, Jeremiah 33:31-34). That is why I have said without number that all the effort and the extent of Christ Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection was for us to be in a relationship with the true and only God.

What Is Knowing the Lord

The “know” used in the opening scripture is more than academic knowledge or Bible knowledge but a vibrant relationship with the Lord. The “know” here is talking about intercourse intimate relationship with someone in the context of marriage. Like the Bible said, “And Adam knew her wife” The knew here is not talking about Adam did not know his wife but an intimate relationship with the wife. Similarly, Jesus Christ said He was sent as the perfect likeness to God so that He would give or dispense eternal life unto us and what was this eternal life all about? “That we might know (intimate close relationship with the true God and Jesus Christ.” This is the most central message of salvation in the Word of God yet has not been presented as such.

Knowing the Lord Fortifies your Belief

1 John 5:10-13 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. AND THIS IS THE RECORD, THAT GOD HATH GIVEN TO US ETERNAL LIFE, AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. THESE THINGS HAVE I WRITTEN UNTO YOU THAT BELIEVE ON THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD; THAT YE MAY KNOW THAT YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, and THAT YE MAY BELIEVE on the name of the Son of God.

I want you to pay much attention to this very part because once you catch the truth and revelation here, there is nothing that can move you from the Lord. Do you remember what we said in the “Root and fruit of eternal life” that there are two kinds of eternal life?

One is the grace gift when we hear and believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord eternal life is imparted unto us and the other kind has to do with the fruit which is built and developed by our vibrant relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and out of these results produces holiness, righteousness, etc. Now there is a higher dimension of the grace gift of eternal life "which is knowing the Lord whom you have been at the first level of the grace gift of eternal life."

Believing Eternal Life and Knowing Eternal Life

I am trying as much as possible to make the message of eternal life clear to the body of Christ Jesus. John the Beloved wrote in the 1st epistle of John chapter 5 verses 10 to 13 the two dimensions of eternal life which I called "believing and knowing eternal life".

What is believing in eternal life? It is the first phase of the grace gift of eternal life where anyone who hears and believes in the gospel of Jesus Christ instantaneously enters eternal life with the Lord Jesus Christ on the inside of him, (Romans 3:26, John 3:16-18, 5:24). The second phase or dimension is where the believer experientially gets to know the Lord and the true God for himself, (John 17:2-3). This is where the relationship sparked on the inside of the born-again believer flows in his day-to-day Christian life in this life. This is the realm and height Apostle John the Beloved is teaching us in his first epistle in complementing what the Lord Jesus Christ said in the seventeenth chapter of John, the gospels and he is emphatically differentiating "believing and knowing eternal life" he spoke about in the gospel according to John the Beloved.

Let us examine it carefully and analytically. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God" Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ

what happened to him? “That whosoever believes in Him (Jesus Christ) should not perish but have eternal life.” Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ has eternal life as a possession because of his union with Christ Jesus. This is what I call “Believing eternal life.” This is not all Apostle John the Beloved said in his epistle. Let us continue! Why did he write to those who believed in Jesus Christ the Son? “That you may know that you have eternal life.” This is interesting because I thought once you have a relationship with the Lord, you will automatically know it. Certainly not! He wrote to those who have experienced the first phase of eternal life in Christ to move on to the next phase which we will all not reach towards the end before we physically separate from our bodies to consummate a reality on the inside of us and the vibrant relationship we built and developed here in this life.

That I May Know

I will continue this section in more detail under "That I may know Him." Knowing the Lord is the most important thing in our Christian way. Why? Apostle John continued "That you may believe on the name of the son of God" This is awesome scripture and revealing! In my book "The Fivefold Aspects of Faith" In that teaching God revealed to me there are five realms of faith operation in the life of the believer. The list is as follows: "Saving faith, pleasing faith, receiving faith, continuity faith, and finishing faith." I am not offering it here but want to use one of the aspects to teach us an important lesson on "knowing eternal life." Continuity of faith or belief in the Lord Jesus Christ is paramount in our Christian race because it is not enough to only believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal savior, (that is saving faith) most importantly you must move on to knowing why you believe in what you believe in.

I read a preface of a book some time back that has always been with me, it says **'When it comes to faith don't only believe, know it**." When I read that I added my version to it which says, "**When it comes to faith don't only believe, know and understand fully**." Why is this so important? Many believers come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior which is okay for the start but amazingly stays at believing in the Lord Jesus all the days of their Christian life. For instance, many believe they are born-again, washed by the blood of Jesus Christ, forgiven, and eternally redeemed once and forever when they heard the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now in Christ Jesus, because they have not learned who they are in Christ Jesus, they haven't learned their new self in Christ, they haven't learned the secret of living inside out of who they are in Christ Jesus, a man of God who perhaps is equally like the believer with only title and gullible masses who don't know and understand

eternal life and eternal redemption will tell you if you sin you can lose your right standing with the Lord Jesus Christ as if salvation was earned by our holiness and righteousness, (Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:19, Romans 4:8, 1 John 2:1-3, 1 Peter 1:1-5, John 10:28-29, etc.). These believers only believe their right standing with the Lord is in how they perform well or not. This has caused many believers to live in fear, guilt, and condemnation all day long! Why? They only believed in the Lord and did not move on to know the Lord for themselves, (1 John 5:10-13). This is just one of the many examples I can mention repeatedly.

Dear beloved in Christ Jesus, God through Christ Jesus gave you a believing eternal life in Jesus Christ so you can know him for yourself. This is what Apostle John was communicating to us all which I call "knowing eternal life." There is a level of knowing that strengthens your faith and belief in the Lord. There is a realm of knowing that enables you to know more than doubt that you are eternally saved and sealed by the Holy Ghost.

There is a realm of knowing that makes you not only believe in God but know why you believe in Him to the point you are persuaded.

Are You Persuaded

Beloved, are you persuaded in your faith in Jesus Christ? Are you persuaded in eternity? Are you persuaded that Jesus Christ is the only way, truth, and life to the true God? Are you persuaded you will live with the Lord Jesus Christ when you die through any means for the Lord? etc. If you are not sure that you do not know the Lord, you believed in him personally. And sad to say many believers are at this level! However, you can change that as you know the truth and the truth you know indeed will set you free to know the Lord personally, (John 8:32).

The Pregnant Woman was Fully Persuaded

I heard a story from a tape I was listening to some time again by my mentor Andrew Wommack. He said there was a brutal killing of believers in the early century because of their faith in Jesus Christ, according to the account, there was a believer who was eight months pregnant in a roll to be killed if they professed Jesus Christ as their Lord. This woman saw her best friends killed brutally for their faith in Jesus Christ and she wanted to die with them too. So, she agreed with her friends in prayer to the Lord for a miraculous delivery of the child so that she could give the baby to the family and die with them.

Lo and behold; she miraculously gave birth as an eight-month-pregnant woman, handed the child to the parents, and died with her friends joyfully.

Why I am mentioning this scenario, is to let us know the only way for us to be fully persuaded by the Lord even at gunpoint and the point of death is when we know the Lord personally. "***When it comes to faith don't only believe; know and understand why you believe fully***"

Chapter 5: Love The Engine of Eternal Life

John 3:16 FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. Love is a powerful force on the face of the earth. It is the main instrument God used to communicate His eternal plan of salvation to humanity. What was this eternal plan of salvation? “That we should have an everlasting life.”

And by God's grace I have proven from the scriptures the sole purpose of this eternal life is for us to know the true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent as the express image of His divine person here on earth to show us the way, the truth, and the life to the true God. This same love of God is what will enable us to build a strong and healthy relationship with the Lord in this life. Meaning, our revelation of the love of God for us will empower us to know Him intimately because the fuel or engine for anyone's relationship whether with the Lord or human is love.

The Love of God and Eternal life

John 17:2-3,23 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. AND THIS IS LIFE ETERNAL, THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW THEE THE ONLY TRUE

GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST, WHOM THOU HAST SENT. I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and HAST LOVED THEM, AS THOU HAST LOVED ME.

God loves us the same as He loves Jesus. A true revelation of this will quicken our faith and allow us to walk in the fullness of God. God's love is the key that opens the door to everything that God is, whether salvation, relationship, peace, joy, happiness, prosperity, holiness, righteousness, etc. "God is love" (1 John. 4:8).

God's love is not one-dimensional. There is width, length, depth, and height to it, which can only be understood through the revelation and knowledge of the Holy Spirit. Those who only have a superficial knowledge of God's love are like a person who looks at a one-dimensional picture of the real thing. In Ephesians 3:19, Paul prays for us to know the love of God which

passes knowledge. How can we know the love of God if it passes knowledge?

This sounds like a contradiction. The Greek word that is translated as “know” in this verse, is Gnosis, which is a verb expressing experiential knowledge which comes through your relationship with the Lord. The Greek word that is translated “knowledge” is Gnosis, which is a noun denoting the act of knowledge. Simply, Apostle Paul is praying that we will experience the love of God which passes mere knowledge of it.

Since a true revelation of God’s love makes us full of the fullness of God, then a lack of being full of God must mean that we lack understanding and experience of God’s love. The result of having understanding and experiential knowledge of God’s love is that we will be filled with all the fullness of God.

Revelation leads to Relationships

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY GHOST, be with you all. Amen. Relating well with anyone is knowing them well and this relationship normally comes from your revelation of that person. A deep relationship is a byproduct of a revelation of who a person is, the worth of his being, character, and personality. Your revelation about the love of God and the grace of God will cause and stir up a deep relationship with the Lord personally because you will know that it is even a privilege for us to be loved unconditionally by the God Who is love.

The love of God wherein He has shown and loved us on the cross in the person of Jesus Christ is for us to be in a

relationship with Him. This is why the requirements of the law that we broke which was death, that is eternal separation and damnation in hellfire was substituted with His life so that we might live an abundant life and enjoy His everlasting life here on earth and later hereafter will consummate it in eternity where we have already experienced and enjoyed this reality here on earth. Simply put, a relationship and fellowship with the Lord is a byproduct of our revelation of His kind of love for us and to us.

That is why the bible entreats us to keep ourselves in the love of God and as we do that, we are looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Please read it for yourself!

The Love of God and Eternal life

Jude 1:21 KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE Love Of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ UNTO ETERNAL LIFE.

What does it mean to keep yourself in the love of God?

"*To keep means to attend to carefully, take care of, or maintain*." Love "*means affection and unconditional love of God*." In context, in the last days, a lot of apostasies and heresies will color and corrupt the grace and the love of God for us to be in relationship with Him and it is seen everywhere in our days. What will keep us on our feet in building and burning our relationship with the Lord personally?

Here at large we mention two things, one is praying in the Holy Ghost which builds us up in faith and the other one in connection with eternal life is keeping yourself in the love of God and our longing to meet the Lord Jesus Christ face to face to consummate our relationship with Him. This imperative sets up the believer's responsibility

to be obedient and faithful by living inside out His salvation while God works out His will in us.

This refers to the perseverance of the saints, the counterbalance to God sovereign preservation of believers in Christ Jesus cooperating with the Lord by building a vibrant relationship with Him. An eager anticipation of Christ's coming to provide eternal life in its ultimate, resurrection form (Titus 1:2, 3:7; 1 John 3:1-3), which is the supreme expression of God's mercy on one to whom Christ's righteousness has been imputed. Paul called this "loving His appearing" (2 Tim. 4:8), and John wrote that such a steady anticipation was purifying (1 John 3:3).

This is why I always say, and I am saying it again, holiness and righteousness are the fruit of our relationship with the Lord and not the root.

The Love of God and the Love for God

1 John 3:14-16 We know that we have passed from death unto life BECAUSE WE LOVE THE BRETHREN. HE THAT LOVETH NOT HIS BROTHER ABIDETH IN DEATH. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. HEREBY PERCEIVE WE THE LOVE OF GOD, BECAUSE HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US: AND WE OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE BRETHREN. Men! This scripture is loaded with radical effects of the love of God for us and our love for Him, respectively. Let us examine it closely.

Verse fourteen of the scripture says that “We believers have passed from death unto life.” This is exactly what John chapter five verses twenty-four said. Death as I have explained earlier is more than a physical death where your spirit and soul are separated from the body into eternity whether in heaven with the Lord or in hellfire with Satan because people choose to be in a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ Who is the only mediator to knowing the true God, (1 Timothy 2:5, John 17:2-3) or a spiritual separation from the Lord His presence, and glory, (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). Separation to be with the Lord is the reality of the born-again believer. Why? Because we have eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. And, the reality of all those who will reject the Lord Jesus Christ in this life, (John 3:16-18).
Proof of eternal life.

Becoming a Christian is a resurrection from spiritual death to life and a turning from hate to love. Love for the brethren and brotherly love is proof of the eternal life of God on the inside of us and our relationship with Him in

Christ Jesus. We can only give what we have received and what we have received from the Lord Jesus Christ is His unconditional love for us, and through revelation of this love of God for us will automatically radiate towards the brethren and everyone. This will cut the hatred that is so rampant in our day and age.

Here again, apostle John clearly shows us that the flow of the love of God through us to people is the sure acidic test of whether someone has experienced the new birth/ eternal life or is still in the darkness of spiritual death separated from the Lord, His presence and glory. Does it mean everyone who does not love his neighbor as himself does not have eternal life? Certainly not so!

You could be born-again and yet still exhibit hatred to some degree and this happens because either the person doesn't know the love of God by revelation for himself or has not developed his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ because out of your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, His love will flow to you and through you to people. Having said that, we are in our physical bodies

where we cannot explore and manifest the full density of the love of God in this life especially when people are abusing us.

This is where we stir ourselves up in the love of God then, it will flow to us and through us because love is the fruit of the Spirit on the inside of each born-again believer, (Jude 1:21, Galatians 5:22-24). In verse fifteen, apostle John said hatred is spiritually the same as murder in the eyes of God, i.e., the attitude is equal to the act, (Proverbs 6:17). Hate is the seed that leads to murder, as seen in the example of Cain's hatred for Abel that resulted in murder. This is a sign of a person who does not know the Lord Jesus Christ. A person who has not received eternal life or does understand eternal life with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Proof of the Love of God for us

The last verse of the scripture in study here says, “Hereby we know, that’s experiential and practical knowing.”

With this phrase, John introduces the standard of the love of God to us and through us that it is reflected in genuine Christian love for others. It becomes the measuring stick for every expression of love. Christian love is self-sacrificing and giving. Christ’s giving up His life for believers epitomized the true nature of Christian love for others. What was the sole purpose of His love for us “To have everlasting life which is knowing the true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent as the mediator to know Him.” This is the kind of love that will draw many people to the Lord to be in a relationship with when we experientially practice the love of God in our lives. And God is calling all Christians to that same standard of love for one another as He had for us, amen!

Chapter 6: Knowing God and Answered Prayers

1 John 5:13-15 These things have I written unto YOU THAT BELIEVE ON THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD; THAT YE MAY KNOW THAT YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we wished of him.

The Word indeed says whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. It is true that ask and it shall be given, look for and you shall find, and knock and the

door will be unto you. It is true the fervent prayer of the righteous avails much. It is true whatever you shall ask the Father in the name of the Lord, He will give you, etc. However, do you know the fastest and surest way to see a hundred percent answered prayers is by knowing the Lord intimately?

This kind of prayer and answer is based on relationships and not religion. There is a vast difference between relationship prayer and religious prayer. Jesus Christ in Matthew 6 taught us some of the religious types of prayers many are still practicing today. He also taught us relationship prayer through sermons and a lifestyle. We will look at them in contrast to know which one the best prayer is to pray as a believer.

Religious Prayers

Matthew 6:5-8 And WHEN THOU PRAYEST, THOU SHALT NOT BE AS THE HYPOCRITES are for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward... But thou, when thou prayest, enter thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

There is a vast difference between relationship-based prayer and answers and religious performance and answers.

Here Jesus Christ is teaching about the right and wrong motivation for praying and who is the focus of the prayers. Without knowing the Lord intimately your prayer life can become a religious type of prayer which the Word said is an expression of hypocrisy. In other words, professing to know God is a type of religious relationship.

In a contrasting comparison, Jesus Christ said a person who has a relationship with God the Father should have the right motivation in prayer because our heavenly Father does not need to show desperation in prayers. As a Father, He knows your needs and requests before you even enter your closet. This is the same thing Jesus Christ said when He raised Lazarus from the dead. Let us look at it. John 11:41-42 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, FATHER, I THANK THEE

THAT THOU HAST HEARD ME. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

Clear from this scripture and Jesus Christ's prayer life reveal the sure lasting key to constant manifestation of answers to prayer is the "Father and son relationship with the true God." Look at the first sentence in His prayer "Father I thank you that you have heard me." This is too huge. Jesus Christ coupled the prayer of thanksgiving and a vibrant relationship with the Father of His expected provision to release the greatest power to raise the dead who have died for four good days.

Simply put, Jesus Christ was saying because of my relationship with You, I know by revelation that You are the God of all possibilities and there is nothing too hard for you to do. On your side it is a done deal, I am here to manifest it so that these people can believe and benefit from our vibrant relationship and communion. Jesus Christ said, He always knows that God the Father hears

and answers His prayer all the time. Why? Because He knows the Father experientially.

Martha Knew the Secret of Jesus Christ Answers to Prayer

John 11:22-23 BUT I KNOW, THAT EVEN NOW, WHATSOEVER THOU WILT ASK OF GOD, GOD WILL GIVE IT THEE. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Beloved by experience and scriptural truths and insights I can boldly say the guaranteed way to experience and enjoy a hundred percent answered prayers is by knowing the Lord for yourself. Here Martha by her association with the Lord Jesus Christ taught her, His secret to unprecedented, answered prayers. Why was His secret “relationship, relationship, and relationship with the Lord”? That is Natural.

Whatever You ask of God

Martha's statement "Now, that's at this time, the present" reveals she did not only believe Jesus could raise Lazarus from death but by her association knew He had built and developed a special relationship with God the Father so strong that His prayers can bring some good from sad news. And indeed, good news came from sad news why? Jesus Christ had built His relationship with the Lord that with Him all things are possible, and He is the God of all possibilities. Hallelujah!

But this was Jesus Christ the Son of God

Religion and religious people will form a doctrine and debate now from what I am sharing with us “Oh, this was Jesus Christ, and we are just human beings.”
No this is not the case for the new creation born-again Christian. Jesus Christ said, “The works I did shall you do also, and even greater works than this shall you do because I go to be with the Father.” Jesus Christ did not do anything exclusively because He was the son of God or the express image of His person in the flesh but everything He did, His prayer life, and relationship with the Father were a prototype to emulate so that we can see and manifest His power when we pray. What is the secret to this? Our relationship with the true God and Jesus Christ our Lord. That is why Jesus Christ said our Father who art in heaven expressing a wide range of vibrant relationships with the Lord personally.

You can experience tremendous, answered prayers anytime you pray. You can see manifestations of a higher realm when you pray. You can see the death raise, cripples cleansed, blind eyes seeing, etc., when you pray

always. What is the secret? “Knowing the Lord.” This is the confidence and boldness that will usher the believer into the supernatural and release God’s power on the inside to affect any situation once we build a vibrant relationship with Him.

Confidence In Prayer

Do you know that a clear sign that a person does not know the Lord is a lack of confidence, assurance, and boldness in approaching God in prayer? And do you know that confidence, assurance, and boldness are an acidic test of your relationship with the Lord? When you know the Lord, His goodness and faithfulness to us and for us it will empower you without fear that anytime you pray, He hears it, and the manifestation is on the way.

How does this confidence, assurance, and boldness come?

The Word of God is your source of confidence, assurance, and boldness in the Lord.

That is why in the book John says, “If you abide in me and my Word in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you.” Simply put, God has tied our confidence, assurance, and boldness in answers to prayer by His Word. It is His Word that reveals His expected provision for you. Whatever you need it has been expected by Jesus Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. Whether salvation, healing, prosperity, peace, joy, happiness, marriage, finance, breakthrough, etc., (Ephesians 1:3, 2 Peter 1:3-4).

You are to simply go to the Word and find where God by grace through faith has made that expected provision, then appreciate and release it, (Philemon 1:6). This is the kind of prayer that builds confidence, assurance, and boldness in the believer knowing the Lord had done His part as Jesus Christ prayed “Thank you, Father, that You always hear me.”

Why this confidence, assurance, and boldness? Because He knew the Father intimately.

I pray for you in Jesus' precious mighty name that as you develop your relationship with Jesus Christ and the true God may you experience and enjoy every minute of answered prayers, amen.

Jesus Christ and Paul, I know but who are You

The book of Acts 19:13-16-, shows us the importance of knowing the Lord intimately for yourself even if you have a religious, church type of background or come from a Christian home. This was a story of a priest called Sceva, who had seven sons who had seen deliverance done by Apostle Paul and their father. These boys thought because their father was a priest, they could cast

out demons from a person because their father was a man of God.
In other words, they think using the authority a person has with God can do the same thing they do. In verse fifteen of the passage, it reads “Acts 19:15, And the evil spirit ANSWERED AND SAID, JESUS, I KNOW, AND PAUL I KNOW; but who are ye?”.

Here the demons are not saying they are in a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and Apostle Paul they recognize their vibrant relationship with God the Father which gives them authority over all things including themselves which these guys did not have.

What were they missing and lacking?

The clear thing they were missing and lacking was their personal relationship with the Lord. They were using their exposure to ministry and the ministry experience of someone to confirm their authority over all things in casting demons which does not work that way! This is

not only the trend of religion and religious people but a chronic epidemic illness in the body of Christ in general. Most people think because they have an association with a man of God or from a Christian background things will just yield unto them. Demons, mountains, and problems do not move because you are religious but because you know the Lord Jesus Christ for yourself!

You can Start with Someone's Relationship with the Lord but Do not End There

Beloved we all started our relationship with the Lord through someone's personal relationship with Him. What do I mean by this? When we came into Christ Jesus, we did not know a shadow of a thing about God, of God and His kingdom. God placed people there to help us to know Him for ourselves in the faith. We started listening to their tapes, reading their books, and devotionals, etc.

What is this supposed to do in our Christian Walk? To grow in the Lord and to know Him for ourselves.
Like a mother and a child. The child's life is dependent on the mother's breast milk, however, when the child sucks the breast milk for some time, in his DNA God has made it in such a way that they will grow naturally to a point they can stand on their own.

The mother's duty was to help, feed, and guide her child to the right growth and nourishment. Similarly, this is how the Christian Walk has been structured by the Lord Jesus Christ the day He gave the ministerial gifts to His church, (Ephesians 4). This was the ministry style of Jesus Christ. This was the ministry style of the Apostles and Apostle Paul.

The Mistakes of Pastors

Even though God instituted men of God in the body of Christ Jesus as overseas over His people, the main reason He did this was not so the nonexpert would know God through the clergy, but the clergy are guides and mentors to help people know God for themselves. However, in most places if not the greater part of the body of Christ consciously and unconsciously in the attempt to help the people of God to know God personally they tend to wield that relationship towards God to themselves making most believers men of God-centered relationship more than God-centered relationship.

They stress the importance of reading their books, devotionals, and messages rather than the Word of God only thinking they are helping the nonexpert to know God for themselves, but it is empowering men's relationship more than God. Please do not misunderstand me, I am not saying listening to a tape is evil, I do. I am not saying reading a book is evil, I do. This is one of my books you are reading, I am not saying do not read

devotionals, I do. But it should not replace knowing God for themselves.

"**If you are a clergy and your people know your voice, tape, and books more than the bible you are not helping them to know God for themselves but reproducing yourself in them instead of Christ.**" God did not call you to reproduce yourself into His church but to reproduce Christ in them. God called us to commend His people to Himself and the Word of His grace and not ourselves. Read it yourself.

Who should the Clergy Commend the People of God to

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I COMMEND YOU TO GOD, AND TO THE WORD OF HIS GRACE, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all of them which are sanctified. **If people know you more as a clergy more than God Himself there is something seriously wrong with that picture. If**

people know your book, tape, and devotion more than the Word of God, something is missing.

I do read Christian books and listen to tapes a lot more than the average Christian does regularly, but it has made me come closer to my personal time in the Word, since day one I received salvation till now! There is nothing I read from a Christian book or a tape I listened to that I do not go beyond what is being said or written. That is why I could get books out of a book I read and books out of a message I listened to. That is why I can detect imbalances in most places. Time will not allow me to share with you, I can tell you where I get all that I know from. From books, commentaries, and tapes of men of God I admired. Of course, I have many things I received from the Lord through my quiet time and reading the Word of God regularly.

What am I saying? All that I am sharing with you is that, as servants of the Lord, we cannot substitute individual believers' opportunity to know the Lord for themselves

by making it a general rule in our ministries to only stick with our teachings, preaching, and books.
We do not know it all! The individual believers' opportunity to know the Lord intimately is even an opportunity for them to know whether what we are sharing with them is of God because the Spirit in them will bear witness, (1 John 2:20; 27).

This is supposed to be the norm in Christian circles where individual believers can affirm and confirm every message heard and every Christian book read. **Once a nonexpert can find and bear witness to what you are saying from the scriptures by themselves, it builds confidence, and assurance in your books and messages. Sad to say, in most places it is not like that.**

Noble Christian

Acts 17:11 THESE WERE MORE NOBLE THAN THOSE IN THESSALONICA, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. How many know that Apostle Paul was a great apostle and teacher of the word of God? How many know that Apostle Paul had a supernatural preternatural experience on the day of His conversion?

His salvation experience was spectacular and miraculous, yet this great Apostle and teacher of the Word of God did not mistake the church of God for taking everything he was saying by words without affirming and confirming them from the scriptures daily if what Apostle Paul was sharing is true or not.

The scriptures referred to here are not necessarily talking about the whole written word of God but precisely "The Law, Prophets, and Psalms" because the whole Bible collectively was not done in Apostle Paul's day. The author of the book of Acts commended the Berea Christians in comparison to Thessalonians Christians.

What was the commendation? "They received the Word of God with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily for affirmation and confirmation."

This is the kind of believer who wants to know God intimately for themselves and not only through a representative of God for His church. I will throw more light on this in the next two chapters "Knowing God personally." Commending the ordinary believer to God and the Word of His grace empowers them to know and experience the grace of God for themselves. This is what will help them to believe in your messages very much. Why? It will not be only "Pastor said, Bishop said, Apostle said, etc., but God said, the Word of God said, God told me from His word,"

This is the first reason we should commend the church of God to God and His gracious Word. Why should we commend the Church of God to God and the word of His grace? I will explain this in much detail in the next two chapters.

Chapter 7: That I May Know Him

Ephesians 3:19 AND TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. “That I may know Him” is the thirst and quest of everyone looking to know the Lord increasingly. Knowing the Lord can be linked to eating food or drinking water. Once you are here on earth in this earthly body, you will in one way, or another need food or water. Food and water are necessities on this earth we cannot do without even those of us who can fast and pray for days you will still need food and water of some sort.

Similarly, our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ is not a one-day short course or one-day encounter but it should be a lifetime and lifelong relationship in this life and the life to come. Why? For instance, when we take a close look at the love of God for us the Bible says "There is breadth, and length, and depth and height of the love of God" to us and for us. The Lord wants us all to know "the breadth, length, depth, and height" of His love. There is also a knowing of this love of God that passes knowledge that is supposed to help us to be filled with the fullness of God.

How can we know the love of God if it passes knowledge? This sounds like a contradiction.

The Greek word that was translated "know" in this verse is "Ginosko." It is a verb expressing experiential knowledge that comes through a personal relationship with the Lord where the Holy Ghost imparts to you.
The Greek word that was translated as "knowledge" here was "Gnosis," a noun denoting the act of knowledge or

knowing. Simply put, Paul was praying that we would experience the love of God that passes mere knowledge about it.

The result of having understanding and experiential knowledge of God's love is that we will be filled with all the fullness of God. God's love is the key that opens the door to everything that God is. God is love (1 John 4:8). Therefore, since a true revelation of God's love makes us full of the fullness of God, then not being full of God must mean there is a lack of understanding and experiencing God's love.

For example, most people believe and know that when there were sinners Christ Jesus forgave their sins but now, they are in Christ Jesus, if they fall into any sort of sin, they assume God does not love them anymore! Why is this problem found in many believers? Because they do not know God's love experientially that He loves us not based on our performance but by Christ Jesus'

sacrifice on the cross, (Romans 5:8). Our performance is necessary because that is who we are in Christ Jesus and it blocks the chance for people to accuse us and to give Satan inroad into our lives, (Ephesians 4:24, John 10:10, 1 Samuel 16:7).

This same knowledge of the breadth, length, depth, and height of the Lord and His love made Apostle Paul at the forefront of his ministry let go of his past title deeds so he could know the Lord. Apostle Paul is the one who wrote half of the New Testament and did more work and labor than all the early apostles yet said, "That I may know Him." That he has not already reached unto knowing the Lord.

Paul gave up everything to "know" Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:8). The Greek word used for "know" here is "Ginosko," a Jewish idiom for the sexual union between a husband and wife (Genesis 4:1, Ephesians

3:19). His aim was not to know about Christ but to experience Him on the most intimate and personal level. This involved knowing Jesus' resurrection power in the new birth (Romans 6:4-5), as well as sharing in His sufferings. This does not refer to the sufferings He experienced for our redemption, but rather the sufferings that come with one's allegiance to Christ. Furthermore, Paul wished to conform to Christ's death.

While acknowledging that this may involve allegiance to Christ to the point of physical death, Paul meant death to the flesh life that is experienced through a vital faith union with Christ (Romans 6:11, 17-18).

Philippians 3:8-10 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is

through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: THAT I MAY KNOW HIM, AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS, BEING MADE CONFORMABLE UNTO HIS DEATH;

We Follow on to Know the Lord

After two days he will revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. THEN SHALL WE KNOW, IF WE FOLLOW ON TO KNOW THE LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth. Hosea 6:2-3.The act of knowing the Lord intimately is the act of following Him closely. You cannot know the breadth, length, depth, and height of God in a straight moment of your walk with Him but a continuous following and relationship with Him.

God has covered Himself in a great mystery that needs continuous seeking and longing after Him to know Him intimately. You cannot know or understand His power, majesty, and person in a day in your walk with Him. Why? There is no searching to His understanding, (Isaiah 40:28-29). This is why the Word says, “We follow on to know the Lord.” The moment you think you have known all there is about God, He shows Himself in a mightier way than before. The day every believer fully knows and understands all there is to God and about God, He ceases to be God.

In our finite minds, we can only know God to the proportion of our personal relationship with Him but not all there is about God in this life. We will consummate this reality in eternity with Him.

What does it mean to Follow the Lord

It means to run after God, to pursue Him, and to attend closely to Him. If we use this to elaborate on a point, for instance, the things I knew about the Lord a decade ago I still know and believe in them but this time down the line the revelations and insights have been deepened than I started. Why? It is because my relationship and fellowship with the Lord has increased, and it is increasing now and then.

The same scriptures I knew a decade ago are the same scriptures I am ministering from but in a deeper way. Our primary scripture in this book John chapter three verses fifteen and sixteen, I have known them long time and can't count the countless times I have read it, meditated, and taught from it some powerful truth and now I'm sharing with you a more deeper revealed revelation of the same scriptures to you down the line.

How? Relationship, relationship, relationship with the Lord intimately. What I am sharing with you concerning "Understanding Eternal Life in Christ Jesus" is not the only message God has given me from the same scriptures but other more powerful messages like "Volition, Living in the balance of grace and truth." What am I arriving at? There is breadth, length, depth, and height of God that the believer can only access through continuously following the Lord to know Him. This has been the journey of anyone who knows God and wants to know God personally.

There is no shortcut, we can exhort you to know Him for yourself, but no one can do it for you. The Lord wants your fellowship and relationship as individual believers in His body. Make it your aim now and forever and watch your life change positively, amen. This has always been the thirst and quest of every true seeker of the Lord. Read and meditate on what David said concerning his desire to follow the Lord and the Lord will give you understanding, amen.

Psalm 42:1-2 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

Chapter 8: Knowing The Lord Personally

John 5:39 SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES; FOR IN THEM YE THINK YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE: and they are they which testify of me.

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and GLORIFIED THE WORD OF THE LORD: AND AS MANY AS WERE ORDAINED TO ETERNAL LIFE BELIEVED. Beloved brethren I will give you secrets to knowing the Lord intimately in the subsequent chapter, however before I do that I want to isolate the main way of knowing the Lord intimately and expound on the importance of this very one secret because you can't meet anyone claiming they know God personally if there is no Word of God base in their life.

We do not know the true God for ourselves through voices, dreams, and visions. We are in a day and age where people can talk to you for half an hour about the fantastic things quote and quote the Lord has shown them in a dream, vision, or spiritual encounter.

These may be true however, your spiritual encounters, dreams, and visions have never and will never be the acidic test of knowing the Lord intimately for yourself. Apostle Peter had a close relationship and vibrant relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. He had dreams, visions, and spiritual encounters with the Lord and supernatural beings, yet he never endorsed seeing visions, dreams, and spiritual encounters as knowing the Lord Jesus Christ.

Apostle John had fantastic and incredible divine encounters and visions, yet he never endorsed seeing visions, dreams, and spiritual encounters as the mode of knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. The level of revelation Apostle Paul had none of us can have such insights from

God, yet he never endorsed seeing visions, dreams, and spiritual encounters as our main way of knowing the Lord. Now let us see what these great Apostles said about seeing visions, dreams, and spiritual encounters are not equivalent to knowing the Lord. Let us start with the Apostle Peter.

Always Remember this

2 Peter 1:15,19 Moreover, I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things ALWAYS IN REMEMBRANCE. WE HAVE ALSO A SURER WORD OF PROPHECY; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Apostle Peter was approaching the consummation of his new life in Christ Jesus here on earth to be with the Lord Jesus Christ in eternity and as Apostle of the Lord, he

was giving advice to his people of his testament of Christ's glory he has seen and witnessed.

In other words, he was reaffirming their beliefs in Jesus Christ because he would no longer be with them to comfort them in the scriptures if any false teacher, apostle, or brethren misrepresented the Word of God. What was his advice to these believers and every generation?

"Have these things in remembrance." What things? Apostle Peter said the disciples had not followed cleverly devised myths when they made known to the believers of the Lord and the incarnation of Jesus Christ and His second coming. Why is it because he and the disciples were eyewitnesses of His majesty, especially His miracles, resurrection, and ascension into heaven? He went on further to say that Christ Jesus received from God the Father honor and glory when they saw a cloud of glory on the mount of transfiguration from which God spoke to the disciples. He furthermore re-established the

voice that came from heaven that they were firsthand to see at the holy mount of transfiguration.

In other words, if there is something to believe in Jesus Christ from his account it should be these fantastic voices and supernatural encounters with the Lord. Apostle Peter had these as unprecedented proof for his audience to listen to him because he knew the Lord Jesus Christ by supernatural encounters and moments with the Lord Jesus Christ, but he did not do that. What did he do? He said, “We have a surer word of prophecy.”

In context, the “word of prophecy” was talking about all the prophetic words to be precise the Old Testament fulfillment of the coming Messiah, His display of power, glory, and honor, and His incarnation and second coming in glory and power.

In effect, Apostle Peter was saying even though I have had supernatural encounters with the Lord Jesus Christ. I have had the firsthand taste of His person, but I am not

presenting “my spiritual experience with the Lord and the supernatural encounter as the acidic test of Who Jesus Christ is but by the scriptures.”

Peter was saying I am not going to help you know the Lord Jesus Christ for yourself in my absence by my experience but by the Word of God. Here Peter refused to rank his supernatural encounters and moments over the scriptures. His experience cannot be complete, permanent, and more authoritative than the Word of God.

The written Word of God is the complete, permanent, and more authoritative way of knowing the Lord intimately for yourself and not through spiritual encounters, dreams, and visions. More specifically, the Word of God is a more reliable verification of the person, atonement, and the second coming of Christ Jesus. The Word of God is the more reliable verification of knowing the Lord Jesus Christ and the true God.

This is how to know whether a person claiming to know the Lord is genuinely true or lies. As far as a person is concerned spiritual encounters may be a plus to knowing the Lord but they should not become the yardstick to knowing the Lord. If you hear some men of God's messages all their teachings are about an encounter they had with God without teaching or preaching the Word.

In its rightful place, it is okay but if it becomes the norm then there is something wrong with that. A pastor or believer is supposed to know the Lord by the scriptures and not spiritual encounters.

More Noble

Acts 17:11 THESE WERE MORE NOBLE THAN THOSE IN THESSALONICA, IN THAT THEY

RECEIVED THE WORD WITH ALL READINESS OF MIND, AND SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, WHETHER THOSE THINGS WERE SO. John 5:39 SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES; FOR IN THEM YE THINK YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE: and they are they which testify of me.

Apostle Paul was a man of supernatural encounters, dreams, and visions. He was a man of revelations yet when he went to preach to the berean Christians they did not only receive the Word with readiness of mind and heart, but most importantly they searched the scriptures daily to see if what they were hearing was true or false. Why search the scriptures if a man of God shares the Word with you? There are multiple reasons for that. 1)

We do not know it all, it is possible to do a poor representation of God's Word to His church, which in most places it is. In most places the food of the Word they are eating is full of poison, imbalances, half true

and half lies, half grace, half the Law, half encouragement, and half condemnation and guilt preaching, so the people of God need to search and cross-check everything received from the pulpit no matter how popular the man of God is. 2) The most important reason is for them to experience and enjoy eternal life as Jesus Christ said in John chapter three, four, five, and seventeen and many other places as knowing the true God and Jesus Christ whom God sent.

Jesus Christ said we should search the scriptures, the scriptures in context were referring to the laws, Prophets, and Psalms which were in the Old Testament, however, we can say now it means the entire bible because we have the entire bible with us. Here Jesus Christ was putting a premium on the Word of God as the primary way of accessing, experiencing, and enjoying eternal life which is knowing the true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent.

Do you want to access eternal life? Do you want to experience eternal life? Do you want to enjoy eternal life? The key is searching for the scriptures daily. It will testify about Jesus Christ as the mediator between your relationship with the true God. This is the same advice Apostle Paul gave in the book of Acts. Let us read it together.

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which can build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all of them which are sanctified. Just as Apostle Peter advised his readers before his departure to be with the Lord Jesus Christ, Apostle Paul also gave advice and warning on his missionary work. He said that he knew that after his departure from the mission field false teachers, apostles, and brethren would parade themselves amongst the believers nor spare them with their damaging teachings which we see and hear all over the place. But watch something, what was Paul's sole advice to them as he was leaving the mission field?

“Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which can build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all of them which are sanctified.” Apostle Paul said the only thing that would help them to be in a vibrant relationship with the Lord after his departure was God and the Word of His grace. Where is God and how can they fellowship with Him?

Through the word of God. Why God and His Word? The Word of God is the source of spiritual growth and maturity for all Christians. It is the catalyst for knowing God and building a strong healthy relationship with Him. Without the Word of God being your primary resort for knowing the true God, you cannot know Him personally. This is the reason we do not build our relationship with God by our supernatural encounters but by the Word of God. Experience may fade but His Word never falls. Hallelujah! Build your life on the Word of God.

Build everything about you on God's Word and as you do that you will know God for yourself and will receive an inheritance in this life and the life to come. John the Beloved had tremendous supernatural encounters with the Lord Jesus Christ but never endorsed seeing visions, dreams, and spiritual encounters as the source of knowing the Lord Jesus Christ but the written Word of God.

In John's epistles, he often said "I write unto you, not I speak unto you by my supernatural encounters." Get the difference between the Word of God as our primary resort for knowing the Lord Jesus Christ in comparison with personal spiritual encounters. You should not amplify your spiritual encounters above the Word of God if you want to know the true God and Jesus Christ, amen!

Chapter 9: Secrets To Knowing the Lord

2 Corinthians 13:14 The Grace Of The Lord Jesus Christ, And The Love Of God, And THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY GHOST, be with you all. Amen. Philippians 2:1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, God the Father by grace has done His part in eternal life. Jesus Christ by grace has bridged the gap that was between us and God's relationship when He came to die for us on the cross. Now the main man who will usher the believer into a deeper intimate relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ is the person Holy Ghost.

The Holy Ghost is the custodian of all the Father and Son have for the believer in this life and the life to come.

What Is Communion

It means partnership, participation, intercourse, distribution, fellowship, association, joint, and sharing. The day a person comes into Christ Jesus he instantaneously has all these realities on the inside of him because of the Holy Ghost. Now this reality happens at the "Believing eternal life" where you hear, and believe in the gospel of Christ Jesus the Lord, however, there is a "knowing eternal life" where what the believer has received in Christ Jesus enabled and empowered him to know the Lord intimately for himself.

How does he achieve this goal of salvation in Christ Jesus? There are several things to be done or there are several things to be activated to continue what the Lord had started on the inside of us, but I believe the number of them which will trigger the others is “fellowship with the Holy Ghost.”

When you fellowship with the Holy Ghost intimately you will get to know God the Father, you will get to know Jesus Christ intimately because, without the Holy Ghost, you cannot even start your journey of knowing the Lord for yourself. Remember, it was the Holy Ghost Who drew you closer to God on the day of salvation, it was He Who quickened the Word of God for you to believe in Jesus, He is the one Who made you confident in Christ Jesus to confess Him as your Lord and Savior. He is the main divine Person Who will enable us to finish our Christian race successfully. I have said all these things for you to know that there cannot be eternal life, that is knowing the true God and Jesus Christ without the Holy Ghost content in a person’s life.

Look at the advice the beloved Apostle John gave to his readers. 1 John 2:24-28 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. AND THIS IS THE PROMISE THAT HE HATH PROMISED US, EVEN ETERNAL LIFE. These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. And now, little children abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Apostle John mentioned some emphasis here which has to do with fellowship and relationship with the Trinity. Let us look at it “abide, remain, and continue.” All these

words are the same word used in John chapter fifteen talking about the true Vine and the branches, which was teaching us about “connectivity and productivity in Christ Jesus.” How was it applied here? These Christians had heard the Good News, highly likely from John himself. They knew that Christ was God’s Son, that he died for their sins and was raised to give them new life, that's eternal life, and that he would return and set up his Kingdom in its fullness. But their fellowship was being infiltrated by false leaders and teachers who were denying these basic doctrines of the Christian faith, and some of the believers were in danger of succumbing to their false arguments.

Eternal life Equals Fellowship with the Lord

John encouraged them to hold on to the truth the apostles had taught them from the beginning of their walk with

Christ. We need to grow in the correct knowledge of the Lord, deepen our understanding through careful study, and teach the truth to others. What truth was John teaching here? The believer's personal relationship and fellowship with the Lord. No matter how much we learn, we should never abandon the basic truths about Christ as found in His Word. What is the basic truth John 3: 15 and 16, eternal life equals knowing the true God and Jesus Christ, John 17:2-3). Jesus will always be God's Son, and the benefits of His sacrifice for our sins will never change. Do not ever accept any doctrine that contradicts these teachings in the Bible.

The false teachers were telling believers they needed more than what they already knew. John says, in effect, "Don't fall for what they are promoting." Jesus had promised to send the Holy Spirit to teach His followers and to remind them of all that He had taught (John 14:26). As a result, Christians already have the Holy Spirit within them to keep them from going astray.

In addition, they have the God-inspired Scriptures to help them test questionable teachings. To stay true to Christ, we must follow His Word and His Spirit. Let the Holy Spirit help you discern truth from error.

When you hear a teaching, check to see if it can be verified in the Bible. This is the primary way the Holy Ghost quickens scriptures to you through vibrant fellowship with Him. Christ lives in us through the Holy Spirit, and we also live in Christ. This means that when we join with Him, we place our total trust in Him, rely on Him for guidance and strength, and live as He wants us to live. This is a personal, life-giving relationship and fellowship, (1 Corinthians 1:9).

John communicates the same idea in John 15:5, where Christ speaks of Himself as the vine and his followers as the branches. Depicting a vibrant relationship and fellowship with Him to be productive in every area of life.

Are you now satisfied with the importance of fellowship with the Holy Ghost? Or do you want more descriptive words and examples? The same author of First John said in chapter one of First John about eternal life which was with the Father that's (Christ Jesus) and was manifested as Titus One verses two to three say that He was manifested in time to become our Savior. He continued to say this eternal life zeros into having fellowship with the Father and Jesus Christ.

Meaning the eternal purpose of our eternal life in Christ Jesus is fellowship, fellowship, and fellowship with the Trinity in this life and the life to come, (1 John 1:1-7). How do you build and develop a personal fellowship with the Holy Ghost?

There is no general rule for fellowshipping with the Holy Ghost, but I am giving you what I have known and practiced all these years in Christ Jesus. 1: Know and understand that you are already in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ the day you came into Christ Jesus.

The very day a person comes into Christ Jesus, instantaneously he is in a relationship and fellowship with the Lord. This happened at the "Believing eternal life realm, where you hear and believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ," (Romans 6:22-23, John 3:15-16, 5:24) at this realm the Holy Ghost Himself draws you unto Himself.

In other words, the Holy Ghost starts a relationship and fellowship with you once you are in Christ Jesus, (1 Corinthians 1:9, Romans 8:17, John 6:44). This is the reality on the inside of each believer in Christ Jesus. This is the call God called us unto in Christ Jesus. We are called unto fellowship, partnership, intercourse, distribution, communion, association, participation, intimacy, sharing, and joint with the Lord Jesus Christ. When did this happen? The day we accepted the call to be saints in Christ Jesus, (1 Corinthians 1:2, Romans 1:7).

2: Building a sturdy foundation in the Word to know intimately. Now you know you are already in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ the very first day you accepted His call to be in Him, the next crucial step is to build a sturdy foundation in the Word of God to know and understand your believing eternal life in Christ Jesus. “It is one thing to believe, and it is another journey to know why you believe.”

Without a sturdy foundation of the Word of God in your life, you can remain at believing eternal life for the rest of your Christian life but that is not God’s best for you my dear Christian friend. We all started at the first realm of eternal life, where we believed in things we did not know much about or understand but I did not stop there. I moved on to know why I believe in the things I believe in. As I took that journey of personal growth in the Word for myself, it has been worthwhile because I heard many things, oh, read many things that sound confusing and contradictory from the Bible and what men of God were saying all over the place.

However, as I began studious studies of the Word for myself not long-ago God by His Spirit started bearing witness to my soul the realities on the inside of my born-again spirit. In my heart, that's my born-again spirit, I knew without a shadow of a doubt that most of the things I was hearing and reading were imbalanced teachings, half-truths, half lies, half grace, and half law but I couldn't get anybody to ask because the Church atmosphere I was brought up didn't encourage Berea Christians to ask questions.

To them believe, believe, and believe, even if you disagree with that or the Bible said something in a different light you need clarification on that. In that atmosphere who are you to ask questions to interrogate the Lord's anointed teachings and writings? But being the Lord's anointed does not mean you know everything or everything you say is true.

If that is the case, then the author in fact would not have complimented the Berea Christians for being more noble than other Christians for searching the Scriptures Day and night to confirm and affirm what Apostle Paul was teaching. If Apostle Paul did not see it as a problem for his people to search and ask him questions for the things he preached and taught, why should we be mad at our people if they ask questions or disagree with our teachings, writings, and preaching? This is hypocrisy in the body of Christ, especially the Fathers in the modern church world.

Once a son challenges our doctrines, teachings, and writings they will tag them as rebels and disloyal. Is this really the case? Was Jesus Christ a rebel when He challenged the Jews and Pharisees? Were the disciples rebels when they challenged the council? Was Apostle Paul a rebel when he challenged false teachers, apostles, prophets, and brethren? Certainly not! What about Martin Luther? Was he a rebel because he challenged his father's Catholic church in his day? Certainly not!

This young man's studious studies of the Word of God brought back the authenticity of the grace message and teaching restored, that now everywhere you go there are independent churches all over the world.

Every generation sees a powerful move of God against religion, traditions of men, imbalanced teachings, doctrines of men, and doctrines of demons. This is a continuation of the restoration and authentication of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, as proved by Jesus Christ, the disciples, Apostle Paul, and the early Christians. Our Lord Jesus Christ wants our relationship and fellowship, and He will not tolerate anything that hinders it. Therefore, as a Father in the faith, if you find yourself on the wrong side of this move of God, you must repent and turn around. Hallelujah!

Chapter 10: Effects Of Knowing the Lord

Beloved, just as knowing a person in a close intimate relationship has ripple effects on you. As a close relationship in a marriage context brings about many things, so, a vibrant relationship and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ will always bring about definite effects in your life eventually.

I have dedicated this last chapter to talk to us about three ripple effects of God in our relationship and fellowship with Him should birth and produce in our life. These three-dominant effects are not a yardstick for knowing the Lord intimately, but it is the pivotal bedrock for other important things I may not address in this book.

I am simply helping us to know the three pivotal bedrocks of our personal relationship and fellowship with the Lord intimately. Let me name them by points, pick each, and explain some more. 1: Knowing the Lord intimately for yourself will cause you to know the truth for yourself. 2: Knowing the Lord for yourself will impart strength into you, and lastly, 3: knowing the Lord will cause you to do exploits/ take action. Men! These are products of knowing the Lord intimately. A man of truth, strength, and action according to the Word of God revealed to him is a man who knows God personally.

Knowing the Lord intimately for yourself will cause you to know the truth for yourself.

John 8:28-32 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I

always do those things that please him. AS HE SPAKE THESE WORDS, MANY BELIEVED ON HIM. THEN SAID JESUS TO THOSE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED ON HIM, IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED; AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE.

Beloved, knowing the truth for yourself is more important than the truth said by someone else. God revealing His truth to you is far more than a representative revealing the truth to you. We all started the Christian Walk by listening and hearing some truths from God's representatives which in its place is good, but God wants to fellowship with you in a close relationship so that He will impart some truths to you that no one else can do.

When God speaks truths to you by Himself which His representatives have spoken to you already it cements it

in you forever. There you will know it is not a man speaking to you but by God through His representatives. This is supposed to be the norm where every believer can affirm and confirm the truth spoken by God's representatives for themselves. This is what Jesus Christ was communicating in John chapter eight, He revealed to them that He is God in the flesh and all that He speaks is His Father's words to them. This caused them to believe in Him as God in the flesh. Jesus Christ went a step further to elucidate them that, they should not only believe in His sayings, but they should get to know the truth for themselves. In other words, they should affirm and confirm His teachings of being God in the flesh.

This is a similar thing He said in John chapter five "to search the scriptures for in them they think they have eternal life, and it also testifies Jesus Christ." What are they going to do to know the truth? "Continuity in His Word, and discipleship in the truth." The word "continue in the scripture is the same word used in John chapter

fifteen communicating connectivity with the truth Vine brings productivity in our Christian Walk.

By this, Jesus Christ was placing a higher premium on a relationship with Him as the sole secret in knowing the truth personally. Truths of the Word of God are born out of connectivity with the true Vine. By God's special grace, I am a testament to this truth and reality. At the onset of my Christian journey, I knew nothing about God and His Word, so I had a lot of questions and clarifications to make but I did not find one for myself in the church and Christian cycle I found myself.

It seemed to me at that time and now that most of the representatives of God are at "the believing eternal life realm" where they only know God through someone's experience like a Father of a ministry or church which is cool to start with, but we should not end there. In short, they could not answer most of my longing questions which for discretion matters I am not going to mention the questions that I was looking for answers to. By His grace I have the answers now with me.

I embarked on a personal journey to know the Lord Jesus Christ for myself by all legal means and by His grace I have built a stronger and healthier relationship with Him because I wanted to know Him for myself and not through His representatives. His representatives were positioned there to help us to know Him ourselves and not through their experiences as I have elaborated in the earlier chapters.

Discipleship and continuity in the Word are your secrets to knowing the Lord for yourself. Look for a mentor or teacher who can guide you in His Word to know God for yourself or depend on the greatest teacher the Holy Ghost for Him to teach you which I have done both to the glory of God!

What Happens when You Know the Truth

When you know the truth indeed, it will set you free from all bondages such as religion, the fear of men, imbalanced teachings, doctrines of men, doctrines of demons, mental slavery, mental strongholds by religion, spiritual self-imprisonment by wrong doctrine, condemnation, fear of punishment, curses, doom, failure, etc., you will be empowered and fortified to live a victorious life in Christ Jesus, hallelujah somebody!

Knowing the Lord for Yourself will Impart Strength In You

Daniel 11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: BUT THE PEOPLE THAT DO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG AND DO EXPLOITS.

Now that you have known the truth for yourself, persecution and affliction will come because of the Word. Now you know the truth Satan will throw His best shot at you not to be free from religious slavery.

Satan will raise quotes and quote some “Fathers in the faith” to fight and resist you to make you feel you cannot

hear and know God for yourself because they brought you up in the faith. But when I hear “We raised you in the faith and ministry so whatever your family is accept us that way because we too accepted you as you were” it sounds logical but not scriptural.

You brought me up in faith and ministry does not mean you cannot miss the mark. Catholic church brought Martin Luther King Jr up in faith and ministry, but they messed up big time with the grace of God’s message, and as I said in the earlier chapter “Every generation sees a powerful move of God against religion, traditions of men, imbalanced teachings, doctrines of men, and doctrines of demons. This is a continuation of the restoration and authentication of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, as shown by Jesus Christ, the disciples, Apostle Paul, and the early Christians. Our Lord Jesus Christ wishes for our relationship and fellowship, and He will not tolerate anything that hinders it.

Therefore, as a Father in the faith, if you find yourself on the wrong side of this move of God, you must repent and turn around." So, God is still in the business of raising young men and women to know His for themselves, and if religion does not favor them knowing God for themselves which is the reason for their eternal life in Christ Jesus, then let God be God and every man a liar. This is where the Holy Ghost imparts and empowers you to live inside out of what He has shown you because you would need spiritual and physical strength to stand and counterattack the attack of the enemy through sometimes nice people.

People fighting and opposing you because of some truths you have received from the Lord should not be discouraged to back off pleasing anyone. God has called us individually to please Him and not representatives even if we are part of a bigger ministry. Those who choose to stay there and just know God through a representative experience with the Lord is a personal choice no one can force anyone to do that!

Recently, I was talking with a friend in my formal ministry, and he asked about my departure from that family of God. Fast forward I told him the things God was showing me in His Word weren't consistent with what I was hearing and reading in that family of God and he admitted that like four to five areas of dominant teachings and major books written were all inconsistent with the believer's authority in Christ Jesus and the finished works of Christ Jesus on the cross.

This fellow good brother attested to this obvious fact and truth, but he has chosen to know God through a representative experience. I do not blame him for that because you need strength to stand for the truth God will reveal to you in your quest of knowing Him intimately. He even said God led him to follow and listen to a representative somewhere, he even started reading his books and he said that "he stopped reading his books because if he had continued, he would have left that family and maintained his resolutions in knowing the

Lord for himself" but he was afraid of leaving a family where he has been brought up all these years.

Brethren, if God reveals Himself to you because of your fellowship and relationship with Him, please follow on to know the Lord for yourself because He gave you eternal life so that you could be in a relationship with Him and not His representatives. A word to the wise is enough!

Knowing the Lord will cause You to Act and Do Exploits

Matthew 11:18-19 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and

sinners. BUT WISDOM IS JUSTIFIED FOR HER CHILDREN. **Information is informative and wisdom is directive**. Usually, when you know God through someone's else experience it becomes informative, meaning your relationship and fellowship with the Lord becomes because this representative said this and that about God, that's why I'm doing this and that, or because a representative said this and that that's why I'm making this decision for myself which I always say it is good to start with in your walk with the Lord but we shouldn't end there!

When you know the Lord for yourself it becomes wisdom, and wisdom is directive, meaning knowing the Lord for yourself will cause you to take some step, some action that will be a proof of your relationship and fellowship with Him as any vibrant fellowship and relationship with anybody yields fruits. Your relationship and fellowship with the Lord will cause you to take decisions, actions, and steps that will lead you to do exploits.

“In the book of Daniel eleven, we are told some ripple effects of knowing the Lord intimately, namely, knowing the Lord brings strength and causes you to do exploits.” The exploit in this verse had been traditionally believed and taught knowing the Lord leads to herald achievement, which is true, however, the manuscript of this scripture adds something powerful to this scripture which says that knowing the Lord intimately will lead to acting. Acting based on the things the Lord had revealed to you through relationship and fellowship with Him will lead to exploitation. Hallelujah.

This is exactly what happened to Jesus Christ, John the Baptist, the disciples, Apostle Paul, the God’s generals we know of, especially, Martin Luther King Jr, etc. We will analyze them briefly to support my point that acting leads to good exploits in His sight.

Jesus Christ Acted and Did Exploits

Jesus Christ's earthly ministry was born out of a vibrant relationship and fellowship with God the Father. That is why always everywhere, He will say "Father or my Father " denoting a Father-and-Son relationship. When Jesus Christ ministry was an inauguration of "The Father's heart turned towards sons' relationship and fellowship-based ministry Jesus Christ brought."

In Malachi, a prophecy was given that there would be a kind of Elijah that was John the Baptist who would turn the heart of the Father to sons and the sons to Father's." It was not talking about earthly "Restoration of Father and son relationship but Our heavenly Father and son relationship." Let us look at it briefly before we dive deeper. "Malachi 4:5-6 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers

to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.". This scripture clearly tells it was a "Father and son relationship and fellowship with our Heavenly Father" the prophet prophesied.

Now under the old covenant people were not relating with the Lord in a Father and son relationship because the perfect sacrifice to pay for our sins to be in a relationship with the Lord wasn't paid until Jesus Christ came at due time in the eternal purpose and plan of God to remove the sin gab between our relationship with Him.

They were relating with God through His representatives "The priests, prophets, and Kings" making them see God as a strict hard God of justice, not a Father. Now when Jesus Christ came into the scenes, He constantly called God "Father, my Father" which the religious leaders thought He was equating Himself with God.

His teachings and mannerisms were “Father and son relationship teachings” making these religious leaders mad at Him calling Him all sorts of names. His “Father and Son relationship” teaches in the gospels. Look at one briefly. “John 10:28-30 And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man can pluck them out of my Father’s hand. My Father is one.” From this scripture affront, the great teaching of Jesus Christ of “Father and son relationship with God the Father” is “Eternal life” and what is eternal life? “Knowing the Lord intimately.”

This was the central message of Jesus Christ, and it is supposed to be the same message even if religion is against people knowing the Lord for themselves. Now as Jesus Christ continued with His messages on “Father and son relationship with the Lord as His central messages” religious leaders called Him all sorts of names. How did He answer them? “Wisdom is justified by His children.”

In other words, when you know the Lord intimately for yourself and begin to move towards that direction people and religious leaders will persecute you for not following popular opinions and a way of protocols set down by religion and traditions of men have placed in place for people to follow such as knowing God for yourself through a representative which the Lord has redeemed us from so we can build and develop a "Father and son relationship with Him". However, the wisdom of God which is directive will be seen by all.

If you are facing persecution and accusations from religion because you are taking a decision, and step to know the Lord intimately and to help other believers to know Him, do not worry all the people who walked on that journey were persecuted, accused, even some murder for knowing the truth for themselves.

The Disciples Acted and Did Exploits

The disciples were a group of individuals who were chosen by Jesus Christ to carry on His work and teachings. They were empowered by the Holy Spirit to perform miracles, healings and other wonders that amazed those who saw them. In the book of Acts, we see how the disciples were persecuted and mistreated for their faith. The religious leaders of their day were threatened by their message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and looked to silence them in any way possible.

Despite this opposition, the disciples remained steadfast in their faith and courageously continued to preach the gospel to all who would hear it. Acts 4:13,33 describe how the boldness and conviction of Peter and John, who were uneducated and untrained in religious matters,

astounded the people around them. They were recognized as having been with Jesus and were able to proclaim the truth of His resurrection with great power and authority. Through their unwavering commitment to Christ, the disciples were able to overcome the challenges and difficulties that they faced. They relied on the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength and were able to perform many miraculous signs and wonders as a result.

Today, we can learn from the example of the disciples and their unshakable faith in Jesus Christ. We too can experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and be empowered to share the message of salvation with others. As we stay committed to Christ and look to know Him more deeply, we can be confident that He will guide us and enable us to fulfill His purpose for our lives.

Apostle Paul Acted and Did Exploits

The life and ministry of Apostle Paul is deeply intriguing and inspiring. His teachings and revelations challenged the religious traditions and practices of his time, which made him the most persecuted and accused Apostle of all time.

In his letter to the Galatians, he boldly asserts that his message was not born out of religious parades or traditions of men, but rather through his intimate relationship and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. He believed that the desire to please men could be a major hindrance to knowing the truth, speaking, and defending it.

Apostle Paul's ministry was marked by his unwavering commitment to the gospel of Christ Jesus, which he received through direct revelation from the Lord Himself. He saw it as his responsibility to address any teaching that deviated from the truth, even if it came from the founding fathers of Christianity. In Galatians chapter two, he boldly confronted Apostle Peter and other senior Apostles about the need to remain steadfast in the gospel of Christ Jesus and warned of the impending judgment upon those who would shift from it.

What gave Apostle Paul the authority to speak and defend the truth so fearlessly? It was his personal relationship and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. He chose to please God rather than men, and this decision made the greatest impact on Christendom. His actions to speak up for the truth against all odds continue to bless generations after his departure. This is what the Lord considers as true exploits, not having thousands of people who do not know God for themselves.

Martin Luther King Jr acted and did exploits

I hope that everyone is familiar with Martin Luther King Jr. Even if you are not familiar with him, you may know something small about him. If you are new to who he was, then I encourage you to check out these books: “God’s Generals the Reformers” by Roberts Laidon, and “Ancient Landmarks” by Moses Charisma Kokroko. He was a Catholic Bible lecturer who became disenchanted with religion and its duties.

One day, he was asked to lecture on Romans and Ephesians at the Bible school. As most pastors do, he went into his study to prepare for his lectures by reading these books of the Bible. Lo and behold! He found the answer to his dissatisfaction with religion and its duties, which was the grace of God. This brought new revelations and insights into the inside of him.

Strength came, and he began a fearless journey to promote and propagate these truths to everyone, which he called “99 theses”. He hung it on the church’s notice board, and the rest is history. This was the sparking light of a reformation and restoration of the “Grace of God message” that was corrupted by religion and religious leaders of his days, as it was in Jesus Christ’s, the disciples,’ Apostle Paul’s days, and our day.

A common truth of the grace of God in a common man’s hands led him, with uncommon burden and fire, to take decisions, steps, stands, and moves. By God’s strength upon him, the entire world was set aflame again by the grace of God’s message. Any individual ministries and churches you see around are because of a young preacher who found the truths about the grace of God. The religious leaders of his days were trivializing the message, which ignited the entire world with sequences of reformations and movements to the body of Christ Jesus the Lord.

Brethren, hear me and hear me well. Whether we like it or not, religion and religious leaders will always pervert the grace of God's message in every generation. God will always raise men and women to bring back the authenticity of the truth of the gospel to His body. It is borne by knowing the Lord intimately for yourself.

We pray all day long for a revival and a move of God in the 21st-century church, but we do not see it. Why? Many people have their opinions about this. Opinions are noises; everyone has one, and with some, they have a couple of holes in them. My opinion about why revival is not happening despite the volume of prayers and prayer warriors all over the world is that the church is teaching and preaching "Religion, religious doctrines, traditions of men, imbalanced teachings, doctrines of demons, etc., instead of a relationship with the Lord."

Again, “the church at large isn’t propagating the grace of God’s message to people but stop this and stop that.” However, it is the grace of God’s message that truly brings people into repentance, relationships, and fellowship with the Lord. Read for yourself: “2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

As I am closing this book, because the writing of books has no end, I want you to know that the eternal purpose of your salvation is to know the Lord Jesus Christ and the true God intimately for yourself in this life. This will lead to building a strong and healthy relationship with Him, empowering you to bear the fruits that are wanted in this life, whether it is the fruits of righteousness, holiness, strength, knowing the truth, taking good actions, and doing exploits.

It is my deepest desire, prayer, and request to the Lord of the harvest that everyone will come to know the true God and Jesus Christ, whom He sent to bring us into a relationship with Him. in Jesus' name, amen.

Conclusion: Receiving Jesus as Your Savior

Choosing to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is the weightiest decision you will ever make! God's Word promises, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9, 10). "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). By His grace, God has already done everything to provide salvation. Your part is simply to believe and receive.

Pray aloud: “Jesus, I confess that You are my Lord and Savior. I believe in my heart that God raised You from the dead. By faith in Your Word, I receive salvation now. Thank You for saving me in Jesus’ name, amen!” The very moment you commit your life to Jesus Christ, the truth of His Word instantly happens in your spirit. Now that you are born again, there is a brand-new you!

Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

His child, your loving heavenly Father wants to give you the supernatural power you need to live this new life “For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened…how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:10-13). All you must do is ask, believe, and receive!

Pray: “Father, I recognize my need for Your power to live this new life. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit

with the evidence of speaking in new tongues. By faith, I receive it right now in Jesus' name, amen!" "Thank You for baptizing me! Holy Spirit, you are welcome in my life!" Congratulations now you are filled with God's supernatural power! Some syllables from a language you do not recognize will rise from your heart to your mouth. (1 Cor. 14:14.) As you speak to them aloud by faith, you release God's power from within and build yourself up in the spirit. (1 Cor. 14:4.) You can do this whenever and wherever you like!

It does not really matter whether you felt anything or not when you prayed to receive the Lord and His Spirit. If you believed in your heart that you received, then God's Word promises you did. "Therefore, I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24). God always honors His Word, believe it!

Please contact me and let me know that you have prayed to receive Jesus as your Savior or be filled with the Holy Spirit. I would like to rejoice with you and help you understand more fully what has taken place in your life. I will help you understand and grow in your new relationship with the Lord by His grace. “Welcome to your new life!”

About the Author

Andrew F. Samuel popularly known as “The Word doctor” is a good news reality teacher of the Word of God with special fascinating insights and revelations in the Word of God, who teaches the Word of God with clarity, authority, and demonstration of God’s power especially, healing, miracles, and prophetic declarations.

The emphasis God has raised him to teach the body of Christ includes “sound doctrine, that’s the balance between the law, grace, and truth gospel, spirit, soul, and body realities, the believer’s identity in Christ, the believer’s authority, the believer’s responsibilities, and the believer’s cooperation with the Lord”

Andrew is an admirer and a disciple of world-renowned teacher of the Word, Andrew Wommack, and Charis Bible School, USA, Colorado. He also addresses day-to-day life-related challenges with the Word of God.

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