

JOY: KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

1John 1:1-10, John 1:1-5, Exodus 20: 18-21

“What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—² and the life was revealed, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was revealed to us—³ what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.⁴ These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷ but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.” 1 John 1:1-10 NASB.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind.” John 1:1-4 NASB

What were we made for? To know God. What aim should we set ourselves in life? To know God. What is the ‘eternal life’ that Jesus gives? Knowledge of God. “This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent”(Jn 17:3).

What is the best thing in life, bringing more joy, delight and contentment than anything else? Knowledge of God. “This is what the Lord says” ‘Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me’ “(Jer 9:23-24).

What, of all the states God ever sees man in, gives God most pleasure? Knowledge of himself, “I desired... the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings,” says God (Hos 6:6 KJV). – J. I. Packer

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It is God's plan to know us, love us, redeem us, all for us to know Him. He draws us to Himself so we can know Him (John 6:44)

- John tells us they saw Jesus, they heard Him, they touched Him (no social distancing!). They connected with Jesus... No zoom meeting, no virtual reality... He knew them and they came to know Him.
- The Creator came and 'pitched His tent' among them and lived among them. He made us, loves us and now we can truly know Him, know His forgiveness and share in His eternal life.
- "In the beginning [before all-time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. ² He was present originally with God. ³ All things were made *and* came into existence through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men." 1John 1:1-4.
 - John tells us that the disciples were eyewitnesses to the life of Jesus. They were actually partners and partakers of His life and ministry.
 - He tells us that he has great joy in knowing the Lord and that a believer's joy gets fulfilled when they share the good news with those who don't yet know Jesus.
- "yet for us there is *only* one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him." 1Corinthians 8:6 NASB.
 - We are His, He is ours and our life exists in Jesus.
- "⁴ We are writing these things to you because we want to release to you our fullness of joy.⁵ This is the life-giving message we heard him share *and it's still ringing in our ears*. We now repeat his words to you: God is pure light. You will never find even a trace of darkness in him. ⁶ If we claim that we share life with him, but keep walking in the realm of darkness, we're fooling ourselves and not living the truth. ⁷ But if we keep living in the pure light that surrounds him, we share *unbroken* fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, continually cleanses us from all sin.⁸ If we boast that we have no sin, we're only fooling ourselves and are strangers to the truth. ⁹ But if we freely admit our sins *when his light uncovers them*, he will be faithful to forgive us every time. God is just to forgive us our sins *because of Christ*, and he will continue to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim that we're not guilty of sin *when God uncovers it with his light*, we make him a liar and his word is not in us." 1John 1:4-10 The Passion

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John's Journal Entry 9/23/2020

Lord How would you speak to me today?

You read 1John Chapter one in the Passion Translation today. The margin says "No darkness at all can find any place in Him." Verse 5 says "God is pure light." Not only am I pure light, there is not even a place for darkness to 'weasel' into. I have no voids. I have no 'black holes. I could not empower you to be the 'light of the world' if there were any 'mixture' in My nature. The entrance of My Word brings the same pure light. It is not tinged with human-ness or worldliness... Just pure light. So, my light reveals and purifies, and my purity brings holiness, revelation and fullness... the pure in heart see God... thus, walking in the light, walking in the Spirit causes you to be more like me and it increases your understanding and empowers you to towards wholeness. As amazing and life giving as forgiveness is; it is not the greatest gift... I AM the greatest gift... so embrace Me as you have embraced forgiveness and I will become as precious to you as forgiveness is. Gratitude, love, confidence and hope will root deep in you and flow freely from you as you walk with me and growing my love for you and your love for me.

My walk, my life, the life that we share is not just clean, It is clean but it is also cleansing. My faithful forgiveness of sins that you confess also brings a cleansing from all unrighteousness; even the 'unconscious' sins people commit unwittingly. Consequently, you truly do come away totally forgiven and thoroughly cleansed (1John 1:9). This means our connection can be unbroken, fresh and continual you growing.

- We must grow to know Him as he longs to be known.

¹⁸ And all the people were watching *and hearing* the ^[a]thunder and the lightning flashes, and the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it all*, they trembled and stood at a distance. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "Speak ^[b]to us yourself and we will listen; but do not have God speak ^[c]to us, or we will die!" ²⁰ However, Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may ^[d]remain with you, so that you will not sin." ²¹ So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God *was*." Exodus 20:18-21 NASB

- The people were afraid of who God was and what He might do so they related & communicated with God through Moses...We can never let anything, or anyone keep us from knowing Him as He is.

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⁹ For this reason we also, from the day we heard of it, have not ceased to pray *and* make [special] request for you, [asking] that you may be filled with the full (deep and clear) knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom [in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God] and in understanding *and* discernment of spiritual things— Colossians 1:9 AMPC