



“WHAT PEOPLE ASK WHEN THEY COME TO KNOW JESUS.”

Introduction:

A. (Slide #2) Different Greek Words Are Translated As “Know.”

1. “ginwvskw”
 - a. To know the facts about something or someone.
 - b. This word emphasizes gaining knowledge and growing in that knowledge.
 - c. From facts, you can deduce knowledge.
 - d. Examples of this word’s use:
 1. Mk. 13:28,29 “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, **you know** that summer is near. ²⁹So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near--at the doors!”
 2. Phil. 2:19 “But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged **when I know** your state.”
 3. Jn. 15:18 “If the world hates you, **you know** that it hated Me before *it hated* you.”
 4. II Cor. 8:9 “For **you know** the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”
 5. Heb. 10:34 “for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, **knowing** that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.”
 6. I Jn. 2:5 “But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we **know** that we are in Him.”
2. “oi\da”
 - a. To have true insight into -- to have a real grasp of!
 - b. To know by personal experience!
 - c. This word suggests the concept of having complete understanding or fullness of knowledge.
 - d. It is the idea of seeing the big picture! “I GET it!”
 - e. Jn. 6:5,6 “Then Jesus lifted up *His* eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?’ ⁶But this He said to test him, for **He Himself knew what He would do.**”
 - f. Jn. 8:14 “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for **I know** where I came from and where I am going; but **you do not know** where I come from and where I am going.’”

- g. Jn. 18:3,4 “Then Judas, having received a detachment *of troops*, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. ⁴Jesus therefore, **knowing all things that would come upon Him**, went forward and said to them, ‘Whom are you seeking?’”
 - h. II Cor. 11:31 “The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, **knows** that I am not lying.”
 - i. Rev. 2:2 “**I know** your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;” (Ephesus) The same word is used in 2:9 for Smyrna, 2:13 for Pergamos, 2:19 for Thyatira, 3:1 for Sardis, 3:8 for Philadelphia, and for Laodicea in 3:15. Jesus had “complete understanding” about every congregation!
 - j. I Thess. 2:1 “For **you yourselves know**, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.”
 - k. Many had insight into Joseph and Mary: “And they said, ‘Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother **we know**? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” Jn. 6:42
 - l. Jn. 7:27,28 “‘However, **we know** [“oi\da”] where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows [“ginwvskw”] where He is from.’ ²⁸Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, ‘You both **know** [“oi\da”] Me, and you **know** [“oi\da”] where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom **you do not know** [“oi\da”].’”
3. Two passages use both words and give great insight:
- a. “Yet **you have not known** [“ginwvskw”] Him, but **I know** [“oi\da”] Him. And if I say, ‘**I do not know** [“oi\da”] Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but **I do know** [“oi\da”] Him and keep His word.” Jn. 8:55
 - b. Heb. 8:11 “*None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know* [“ginwvskw”] *the LORD,’ for all shall know* [“oi\da”] *Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.*”

B. (►) So Many In The First Century Did Not Truly Grasp Who Jesus Was!

- 1. Jn. 1:26 “John answered them, saying, ‘I baptize with water, but there stands One among you **whom you do not know** [“oi\da”].’”
 - a. Jesus was right in the midst of the crowds; however, they had NO IDEA what He was!
 - b. Some saw Him as “The Carpenter’s Son;” others simply saw Him as “Jesus of Nazareth.”
 - c. But they had no insight into WHO was really in their midst!
 - d. John’s explanation of how he KNEW -- Jn. 1:29-34

2. Jn. 3:1,2 “There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we **know** [“oi\da”] that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’”
 - a. Nicodemus and others were aware of the supernatural actions that Jesus was performing.
 - b. They knew that these actions proved that Jesus was from God!
- C. The Apostles Knew The Facts About Jesus; They Understood That They Could Not Leave Jesus!
1. Peter and the Apostles KNEW! Jn. 6:69 “Also we have come to believe and know [“ginwvskw”] that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
 2. Others might leave Jesus, they could not because they understood the implications of the facts! Jn. 6:68 “But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’”
- D. With This Understanding, Let’s Examine What People Ask When They Come To Know The Objective Facts About Jesus!

I. (Slide #3) Ac. 2:37 “Men And Brethren, What Shall We Do?”

- A. The Text: “Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?’”
- B. Acts 2:
1. 22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also **know** [“oi\da”]”
 - a. The Jews had seen Jesus as an imposter Christ.
 - b. However, all of His miracles attested (pointed out or proved) the validity of Jesus.
 2. The Apostle’s sermon was “Jesus IS The Messiah!”
 - a. The supernatural events of Pentecost fulfill Joel’s prophecy! 16-21
 - b. The supernatural actions of Jesus proved His claims! 22
 - c. You crucified Him; God raised Him up! 23-32
 - d. The supernatural events here today verify prophecy and fulfillment -- Jesus IS the Messiah! 33-35
 - e. They were going to have to deal with the reality of Christ’s Death and Resurrection and God’s validation by the supernatural manifestations!

3. 36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel **know** [“ginwvskw”] assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
 - a. When the Jews looked objectively at these facts, they could know that Jesus WAS the promised Messiah!
 - b. Whereas earlier they had NOT known, now they CAN KNOW!
 4. Their response: heart-felt remorse, shame, and guilt!
 - a. When they saw the facts clearly, then they knew objectively that Jesus was the Messiah!
 - b. And that truth ATE AT THEIR HEARTS!
 - c. Ac. 2:37 “Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?’”
 5. The Apostles offered God’s guidance for their remission of sins and validation in their own lives that Jesus was the Christ and that the Gospel was Truth!
 - a. Ac. 2:38,29 “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’”
 - b. How could they have remission? “Repent and be baptized!”
 - c. And when they were saved, what would God provide? After their baptism, they would receive miraculous gifts (from the Apostles laying hands on them, Ac. 8:14-19) that would prove that they were God’s children and that would enable them to spread the Gospel to others and to validate It.
 6. 3,000 were convinced of the facts -- they objectively accepted that Jesus WAS the Christ; they responded from their hearts by changing their minds about Him, longed for forgiveness for their violent opposition to Him, and were baptized to have forgiveness of their sins!
- B. Acts 3:16 “And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and **know** [“oi\da”]. Yes, the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”
1. After Peter and John healed the lame man at the Beautiful Gate, the observers were “greatly amazed.”
 2. Peter asked why they marveled; he and John did not heal the lame man by THEIR power; this power came from God to them because of their faith in Jesus.
 3. God had glorified Jesus; they had delivered Him to Pilate, asked for the release of a murderer, and had murdered Him!

4. You are witnesses that God raised Him from the dead!
5. And the Apostles were able to heal this man because of their faith in God and in Jesus Christ!
6. These Jews knew the facts about the lame man; they perceived and understood that an amazing miraculous action had just happened! 16
7. Peter then called upon them to repent and to be converted from unbelief to belief in Jesus who had been prophesied from Moses through every prophet that God had sent to the Jews! 19-26
8. After this sermon there were now 5,000 men who believed. Ac. 4:4

II. (Slide #4) Ac. 9:5,6 “Lord, What Do You Want Me To Do?”

- A. The Text: “And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ⁶So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’ Then the Lord *said* to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’”
 1. Saul had been taught and had viewed Jesus as an imposter Christ.
 2. However, Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus -- imagine the impact of that conversation!
 - a. Ac. 9:5 and 26:15 record this conversation.
 - b. Ac. 26:15 “So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.’”
 3. Acts 9:6 and 22:10 record the Lord’s direction -- “Go into Damascus!”
 - a. 9:6 “Then the Lord *said* to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’”
 - b. Ac. 22:10 “So I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.’”
- B. This Devout, Resolute, Tenacious, And Stubborn Jew Is Now A Confused And Broken Man!
 1. Ac. 9:9 “And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.”
 2. He realizes that he had been totally wrong about Jesus!!!

- C. The Lord Sent Ananias, A Christian From Damascus, To Straight Street To The House Of Judas To Teach Saul. Ac. 9:11
1. What a terrifying mission.
 2. Yet, Ananias Went And Taught Saul.
- D. The Message Of Salvation:
1. Ac. 22:16 “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
 2. Saul immediately obeyed!
 3. Paul later reminisced about that event: Rom. 6:3-6 “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”
- E. And As Soon As His Heart Was Changed And He Was Saved, Saul Taught A Completely Different Message About Jesus!
1. Ac 9:20-22 “Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. ²¹Then all who heard were amazed, and said, ‘Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?’ ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.”
 2. Later Paul told King Agrippa about these events: “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.” Ac. 26:19,20
 3. This former opponent of Jesus came to know the facts about Him; when he truly understood, he obeyed Christ to whom he submitted himself, and he spent the rest of his life trying to convince others that Jesus was the Christ!

III. (Slide #5) Ac. 16:30 “Sirs, What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

A. The Text: “And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’”

B. The Jailer At Philippi Knew Something Was Missing In His Life!

1. He must have thought, “How do you suffer persecution and not be disheartened, bitter, pessimistic, and despondent?”
 - a. Ac. 16:24,25 “Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”
 - b. How do you focus upon God and upon praise to Him in such an awful situation?
2. Too, he must have pondered, “How do you endure a major earthquake in calmness and could escape custody and do not flee?”
 - a. Ac. 16:26-28 “Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. ²⁷And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. ²⁸But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, ‘Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.’”
 - b. The jailor was astounded at their calmness and their uprightness (they would not even flee when the opportunity presented itself)!
3. Their godliness and integrity had great impact upon this man’s heart!
4. His question: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Ac. 16:30
5. Their message: “So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’ ³²Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.” Ac. 16:31,32
6. The response: “And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.” Ac. 16:33

IV. (Slide #6) Jn. 6:68 “Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?”

A. Many Of The Lord’s Disciples Faced Great Pressure To Leave The Faith!

1. The Hebrew Christians had lots of pressure from family, friends, and the culture to leave their faith in Jesus and to return to the faith of the Jews under the Law of Moses.
 - a. Imagine how intense that pressure was!
 - b. Paul’s message was that they COULD NOT CAVE IN To the pressure!

2. Many of the disciples of Jesus left Him when He taught that He was the “Bread Of Life.” John 6
 - a. Jesus had earlier performed the amazing miracle of feeding the 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish.
 - b. Afterward in Capernaum, He taught about being the “Bread Of Life!”
 - c. Responses of many:
 1. “Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, ‘This is a hard saying; who can understand it?’” Jn. 6:60
 2. “From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.” Jn. 6:66
 - d. Jesus then talked to the Apostles: “Do you also want to go away?” Jn. 6:67

B. What Keeps The Lord’s Followers Loyal To Him? Why Do They Persevere?

1. Why the Apostles stayed faithful to Jesus.
 - a. Peter’s Response:
 1. Jn. 6:68,69 “But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”
 2. In essence, Peter was saying, “We are not going anywhere!”
 - b. Peter And The Apostles KNEW Jesus!
 1. Peter and the Apostles KNEW! Jn. 6:69 “Also we have come to believe and **know** [“ginwvskw”] that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
 2. They knew who Jesus was; they put the facts together; they deduced that Jesus was the fulfillment of Messianic Prophecies.
 3. However, they had a deeper understanding; they knew Him and had committed to following Him wherever He went!
 - a. Jn. 6:68 “But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’”
 - b. Peter And the Apostles COULD NOT LEAVE!
 - c. There was NO WAY they could leave Him since they truly knew Him and the power of His Message and His Word and His life!
2. Paul’s encouragement to the Hebrew Christians to remain faithful.
 - a. Paul exalted Jesus!
 1. He is greater than angels and other messengers.
 2. He is a greater spokesman than Moses.
 3. He is a greater High Priest than Aaron and the Levitical High Priest.
 - b. The followers of Christ have the great privilege to have faith in one who is SO MUCH GREATER than they are!
 - c. He encouraged them to keep their eyes upon Jesus!
 1. They had knowledge of the facts about Jesus.
 2. But they had a personal understanding of their own need for Him and had committed themselves to Him with an unwavering faith.

3. Paul's encouragement, "You CANNOT leave Jesus!"
- d. But, because they had real understanding of Jesus, they COULD NOT LEAVE!
 1. Heb. 12:1,2 "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."
 2. God has always chastened those who leave the faith! Heb. 12:3-17
 3. You are inheriting a heavenly kingdom; have respect and fear for the AWESOME God! Heb. 12:18-29
 4. Jesus is and always will be THE ONLY CHRIST! Heb. 13:8 "Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever."
- C. Christians Have A Longing To Know Everything About Jesus!
 1. Phil. 3:10 "that I may **know** ["ginwvskw"] Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,"
 2. Paul wanted to understand everything that Jesus endured to provide salvation.
 3. With that understanding, Paul would have much more respect, love, and appreciation for Jesus!
- D. Because Christians Understand Jesus And Have Given Themselves To Him, They Love Him And Want Others To Have Faith In Him Too.
 1. I Cor. 2:2 "For I determined not to **know** ["oi\da"] anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."
 2. They have no desire to promote themselves or other men; they just want to exalt Jesus!
- E. And Having That Knowledge That Truly Understands Give SUCH Security To Christians!
 1. II Tim. 1:12 "For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I **know** ["oi\da"] whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."
 2. This is so much more powerful than just having the knowledge of some facts!
 3. It is being certain about who Jesus is; it is complete trust in His promises; it is certainty that "It Is Well With My Soul!"

(Slide #7) Conclusion:

A. To Those Who Are Not Christians:

1. You need to know who Jesus is before you make a decision to commit yourself to Him.
2. Once people know the facts about Jesus, it is amazing how that knowledge impacts their minds and hearts!
3. When one truly knows the facts about Jesus,
 - a. It motivates him to commit himself to Jesus.
 - b. It drives him to be obedient to the Lord's teachings without argument!
 - c. It inspires him to make Jesus THE LORD of his life!

B. To Christians Who Evangelize:

1. DO NOT BE IN SUCH A BIG HURRY TO BAPTIZE A PERSON!
2. First, teach them the fact about Jesus -- they need to know who He is!
 - a. I have been amazed at how many people do not know who Jesus really is.
 - b. The impact of knowing those facts is incredible -- it changes their whole perception about Him; it stifles arguments; it promotes faithful obedience!
3. THEN, help them to come to know Christ by seeing their personal need for His saving Blood, to submit themselves to Him, and to commit themselves to living a faithful submissive life for Him as long as they live!

C. (►) Christians, Our Knowledge Must Be SO MUCH MORE THAN KNOWING FACTS -- It Must Be Heart, Faith, Commitment, Devotion, And Unwavering Faith That NEVER Gives Up!