

A Heart to Know God

by Keith Malcomson

This sermon emphasizes the importance of having a heart to know God, highlighting the need for a genuine relationship with Him. It delves into the significance of true revival, true salvation, and true Christianity, emphasizing the necessity of keeping God's commandments, loving others, and abiding in His truth as marks of knowing God. The message calls for a deep, personal, and intimate knowledge of God that transforms lives and leads to genuine biblical Christianity.

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Scripture: Jeremiah 24:7, Matthew 7:21, 1 John 2:4, John 10:14, Philippians 3:10, 1 Corinthians 15:33

Topics: "Knowing God", "True Revival"

Description

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Transcript

I want you to turn with me in your Bibles to Jeremiah chapter 24 and verse 7, 24 and verse 7, and we're returning. We haven't been there for a couple of weeks on our series, A Heart for God, or A Heart After God, or Having the Heart of God, all of those things are included, and we dealt with, I think it was three weeks ago now, A Pure Heart, which is part 5. Here this morning I want to move to part 6, and my message, and all of these messages interlock. In fact, it's remarkable how the verses interconnect, and you find all of these things are synonymous in the same place, or they overlap, and so my message here this morning, part 6, A Heart to Know God, part 6 reading from Jeremiah 24 and 7, and I will give them a heart to know me.

What a remarkable verse. What a remarkable promise. What a remarkable proclamation from a real God.

I will give them a heart to know me. Do you desire it this morning, that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, for they shall return unto me with their whole heart. Will you pray with me here this morning? Father, we thank you for the Word of God, and as we've already heard, Lord God, it's your Word, your truth, your light that leads us into the knowledge of our God, of our Christ, and Lord God, I'm so grateful, I'm so humbled even to stand here, oh God, to handle these verses.

Lord God, we do not glory in our wisdom, we do not glory in our strength, or in our riches, or any other thing, but standing here, gathered here this morning, we glory in that we understand, and that we know God. What a privilege this morning. We don't treat it lightly.

It's not a casual statement that rolls off our tongue, nor deliver us from taking it as a casual thing. It is a life-changing thing. It is a supernatural thing that we could know that you are God.

You have given us a heart that we might know you. If you didn't do that, we could never know you. We could never have fellowship, or communion, or walk with you, but I'm so glad that you took out of me the heart of stone, and put within me a new heart, a gracious heart, a heart that actually knows you, perceives you, understands you, comprehends you, that hears you, that sees you, that knows you, and we bless you this morning.

In Jesus' mighty name. Amen. It says in Jeremiah chapter 32, verse 39, and it's God speaking, and I will give them one heart.

It says in Ezekiel 11, verse 19, and I will give them one heart. It says in Ezekiel 36, 26, a new heart also will I give you. Our scripture here in Jeremiah 24 and 7 is talking about another element of the heart that we're talking about.

We're talking about that heart that God gives us, and that we are to have, and protect, and guard, in order that God might bless us as he really desires to do. This is a heart to know him. We've already dealt with a broken and contrite heart.

We looked at a humble heart. We looked at a God-fearing heart, and we looked last time at a pure heart, and what you find is these are not all different kinds of hearts that different individuals have. They are all aspects of one heart.

What I'm doing is building a picture of the one brand new heart that God gives as a divine gift. Notice in these verses, God gives it. You cannot learn it.

You cannot create it. You cannot manufacture it. I cannot put it in you.

A church cannot give it to you. No one can do that. This certain kind of heart, this one heart is a gift of God.

I will give them a heart to know me. If you know God this morning, God gave that to you. It wasn't your righteousness.

It wasn't you seeking after him. It wasn't that you're so brainy, or intelligent, or educated, or you're a book reader. None of that.

If you know God, if you have a heart within you that says, I desire to know you. I know you. I love you.

I fellowship with you. Do you know what has happened? God has done heart surgery within you. It's an amazing thing.

It's a remarkable thing. It says in 1 Chronicles 28 and 9, and this is King David speaking to his son Solomon. And thou, Solomon, my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind.

For the Lord searches all hearts, and he understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts. If you seek him, he'll be fond of you. But if you forsake him, he will cast thee off forever.

David, speaking to his son, said, Have a heart to know God. This is above anything else. It's not wisdom you should be after.

It's not knowledge you should be after. It's not riches you should be after. It's not ministry you should be after.

It's not a nice house you should be after. All those things could destroy you, I will assure you. It's not great fame or reputation in the church.

That definitely could destroy you. You know what we should be after? A heart to know God. David, a man who was after God's own heart, a man who had God's own heart operating in him, a man who understood God.

He says to his son, Know thou the God of thy father. One thing you want in this church this morning, you want to know the real God. You want to know the God of the Bible, of Abraham, Isaac, of Jacob, of David, of Abraham, of Moses, of Keith Malcolmsen.

Because I am fully assured that my God is not a man-made God. It's not a religious God. It's not a manufactured God.

It's not a God of my imagination. You see, the God, the knowledge of God I have received did not come out of my mind. I did not mold Him in my image or according to my thoughts.

I received a knowledge of God that transformed my entire life. That is the God I want you to receive. That's the God I want you to come to know in a very deep way.

I've got three points here that I find in Jeremiah 24.7. In this one verse about being given a heart to know God, I believe I've got three points. And this is them, very simple. True revival.

In this verse, this is what I see. True revival, true salvation, and true Christianity. I believe in a heart to know God.

This is the very central essence in seeing true revival, having true salvation, and walking and experiencing and enjoying true Christianity. Without God giving a heart to know Him, you will not have true revival. It'll be false.

You will not have true salvation. It'll be a counterfeit. It'll be of yourself.

And you will not experience true Christianity. So if you take the heart of God out of this, it's all sham. It all falls apart.

First of all, true revival. How do I find true revival in this first Jeremiah 24.7? Let me just give you the context of this verse for a second. We have just read here in Jeremiah 24.7 that I will give you a heart to know me.

What is the context? Look at verse one and the lead into this. God has just shown a vision to Jeremiah. The Lord showed me, and behold, two baskets of figs were set before the temple of the Lord.

So God gives him this unusual vision, two baskets, two kinds of figs. And you're going to read here in these verses, one of them are good figs, very good figs. The other one is filled with bad figs, very bad figs, two baskets of figs near the house of God.

And he sees this in vision, but what does it represent? Read on here in verse one. It says, after, so he had this vision after something, after that Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, who had invaded the land and took over Israel. That's who he is.

Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, had carried away, captive, Jehoniah, the son of Jehonakim. Jehonakim had been the King in Jerusalem, in Judah. He was the King.

Now he's being carried away to Babylon. I'm bringing you to this first point about a hard to know God, true revival. This verse is applied in a certain historic situation.

And so Nebuchadnezzar carried away the King from Jerusalem, the King of Judah, and the princes of Judah with the carpenters, the smiths from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon. Now he's going to explain what has that got to do with the vision of two baskets. So you've got now in the whole history of what has happened here, you have a context.

There are three carrying away from Israel to Babylon, three going into captivities, three times over a period of 20 years. It begins and it carries on for 20 years and there's three major carrying away of the people. When this prophecy is given and this verse about having the heart of God, when we receive this chapter, two of them have just taken place.

The second captivity has gone to Babylon. You've had most of the people carried away prisoners into a pagan, idolatrous, wicked system. And yet it's of God because God is punishing his people because of their coldness and their disobedience and they don't listen to him and they're not pure in their hearts.

So what does he do? He raises up, God raises up Nebuchadnezzar, not the devil. God raises him up to invade the land, to carry them away. But you know what Nebuchadnezzar does? He leaves certain people in the land who he thought were useless, carry all the skilled ones away, all the gifted ones, all the pure ones away.

You remember Daniel was one of the first to get carried away to Babylon. He was one of the first young men in the first captivity he went down to Babylon. But then the ones who are left were useless.

And you know, poor Jeremiah the prophet, he had to get left in Jerusalem with all of this bunch that are left behind while all the rest are in captivity in Babylon. Poor Jeremiah, that's all I can say that he had to stay there with this bunch. And you know what? He starts giving them prophecies and this is a word from the Lord very clearly.

Look at verse 2. One basket had very good figs, even like the figs that are first ripe. And the other basket had very naughty figs which could not be eaten. They were so bad.

What do these two baskets represent? Then said the Lord unto me, what sayest thou Jeremiah? And I said, figs, the good figs, very good. And the evil figs, very evil. They cannot be eaten.

They are so evil. Again, the word of the Lord came unto me saying, thus saith the Lord God, the God of Israel. You're going to see over the next chapters that those left behind, and they're under King Zedekiah.

Babylon or Nebuchadnezzar placed a man called Zedekiah as the last king ever of Jerusalem, the last Israeli king, the last king of the line of David to serve. And he's appointed by Nebuchadnezzar and he is left in the land. And you find in the following chapters when Jeremiah prophesies unto him, they hated him.

They literally hated this man of God. 11 years before the last captivity and the temple's destroyed and the wall's destroyed and everything is burned down and all of them are scattered. 11 years.

And you've got Zedekiah and you know what? They go, shoo, we survived it. Thank God, all of them that deserved it got carried away into captivity. And we are here because we serve God and God has blessed us.

And it means God is with us and we know God. And Jeremiah prophesies unto him and says, no, you do not. Do you know what the two baskets are? The basket of good figs are those that have gone into Babylon.

That's the good figs. Those that stayed behind in Jerusalem with Zedekiah, they are the bad figs that you can't do anything with. And Jeremiah has to stay with them for 11 years.

And they are so rebellious that they think the others have been punished and the others are suffering and God is against the others. They have lost their land and their home and they'll never return in their lifetime. And those in Jerusalem say, all the troubles have passed.

All the sorrows are gone. We have weathered the storm. We have come out the other side, but there was no repentance.

There was no brokenness. There was no holiness. You know what shocks me at the minute? When I look at the worldwide church over this two years, what has gone wrong with the church? Two years of a worldwide crisis and I am not hearing repentance from the church and the preachers of the church.

I'm not hearing it in Europe. I'm not hearing it in America. I'm not hearing it in Asia.

I'm not hearing it across the waves. I'm not hearing it on the internet. I'm not seeing it on the television.

Where are the prophets of God in this hour? What has happened that we have lived through one of the greatest crises and most Christians are going, shoo, we don't need to wear a mask anymore and we can go to work and we can get on a plane and it's back to ministry as normal. Do you know that's what happened here in this time? That they began to say it's all over and we're still in the land and we're blessed and we're staying here and we do not like that prophet Jeremiah. He always prophesied bad and evil and you know what he prophesied? Do not go down to Egypt.

Don't associate with them. Make friends or move there. Do you know what they've done? They said you're a liar.

You're a false prophet. So they all went down to Egypt. They're bad, bad figs but you know what? The good figs went into captivity under Babylon.

The good figs become slaves. The good figs lost their homes. The good figs actually lost everything.

Do you realize the blessing of God at times? I believe we've lived through a very interesting time in the church, the body of Christ. I believe the good figs went into captivity and God left all the dross in their

pulpits and their big churches and their big ministries and their missionary endeavors and he left them alone. They're proud and they're arrogant and they're liars and they're compromisers and they're heretics and God just left it all there.

That's what I've seen in my lifetime and all through the years I go I'm suffering. I'm going through hell. I'm in prison cells spiritually and I go I love you.

I know you. I desire you. I fear you.

Why is it these men who do not fear you? They're not being chastised. They're not being dealt with. They're not repentant and yet they maintain ministry.

What a tragedy. What an absolute tragedy that we are living in. It says in verse 5, Thus saith the Lord the God of Israel, Like these good figs so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive into Judah whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good.

Do you know at times God moves in the church to send us into troubles, into hard times, into affliction because you know what he's going to do in the very next verse it is remarkable. Look what it says verse 6, For I will set my eyes upon them for good in Babylon in captivity when they've lost everything an entire people and I will bring them again to this land and I will build them and I will not pull them down and I will plant them and not pluck them up and notice the next verse and I will give them a heart to know me that I am the Lord and they shall be my people and I will be their God and they shall return unto me with the whole heart. Do you know at the end of 70 years there were three returns, there were three going into captivities, there were three returns after 70 years as God prophesied.

Three movements in a period of 100 years there were four major revivals ending with Nehemiah who saw two revivals. It was extraordinary and listen there was a major move of God. Do you know what you had in that revival? Those who came back were very different than Israel had been all the way back to Solomon.

You know from the days of Solomon to the days of Zedekiah there was adultery in Israel in the land in Jerusalem in the royal house. They had idols and they followed the ways of the world. Do you know when they come back again they never ever become an adulterous people again.

They never turn to idolatry. They never bring false gods back in again. Do you know what God done in Babylon? He prepared a people for revival.

In other words in captivity he afflicted them. He brought forth a heart that actually said we want to know you. We want to know you.

Are you tired of churchianity? Are you tired of denominations? Are you tired of mega ministry? All those in line who listen us right across this world people are tired of what's going on. Do you know what God has done? He has prepared an entire people afflicted, scattered, isolated. You know what he's doing? He's preparing them for revival.

He is going to gather them. Do you know what true revival is? True revival is when God gives his people a heart to know him again. It's not money.

It's not ministry. It's not mega buildings. It's not being known.

It's not titles. You know what it is? God has given me a heart to know him. This is revival and what you have, what you see with Nehemiah and many of the prophets, a ministry the new God.

You see I believe this is central to every revival. When we come right back to a time of a new revival you know what God has to do? He has to so afflict that remnant. He has to so break them.

He has to have them of a contrite heart. Do you realize what God's doing with you? If God isn't dealing with you then you're bad figs. God help you if God isn't dealing with you.

You are really in trouble and anyone listen to us not being dealt with you are seriously in trouble because God's going to leave you and move on. But if you're in the fire and being dealt with and God is breaking you and he can crush you and he can wound you you know it's because he's going to heal you and bring revival. I want a genuine revival of the heart of God to know God again.

Every real revival God comes down in power. Remember the Welsh revival 1904. God came down in a meeting with 17 young people.

17 young people and the preacher 26 or 27 years old was preaching his first sermon ever that he'd ever preached. It wasn't eloquent. It wasn't long.

It wasn't studied. It was from the heart. I want to know God.

You know what happened in six months 100,000 people became born again in Wales. One tenth of the entire population of the entire country became Christians in one year. Everything changed.

The politicians noted it and that's only one revival. On my shelf I've got hundreds of books on revival from all through church history from the very beginning. It's remarkable what God actually does.

When you go back to the beginning of Genesis chapter 2 and 17 remember God speaking to Adam and Eve. He said but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. This is talking about knowledge.

Either you've got a heart for God or in religion you can actually learn to live this life by head knowledge, by information, by facts but you don't know God. That's what's destroyed the church. That's why there's no revival.

You know why? Because the church that throughout my lifetime has eaten of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God says you can eat of any of the trees but see that one tree the knowledge of good and evil. In other words education, understanding.

You've got a mind that says I know everything. I know what deception is. I know what real is.

I know what the Bible says. I can argue about everything. I've got all of this knowledge and you become proud and arrogant and callous.

It's not about living for God. It's not about a walk for God. Adam and Eve who walked with God in the cool of the day.

He would come down in the evening at the end of the day and he walked with them. Do you realize they swapped that for the knowledge of good and evil. Over in the New Testament Jesus speaking in Matthew

7 and he said do you know those who are going to enter the kingdom of heaven it'll be those that do the will of my father and then he talks about on that day many will come saying Lord Lord we have prophesied in your name we operate in the gifts of the spirit we prophesied and in thy name cast out devils we have power over the devil and in thy name done many wonderful works our holy ghost works and what then will I Jesus is saying that's going to happen then will I profess unto him I never knew you I love the Greek it says I never in any way or at any time ever knew you and they're banging on the door life is finished it's the hour of judgment and they said but we're in revival we're prophesying and we're moved of the holy ghost and we're casting out demons and you know what he's saying it's all figs bad evil figs you are like Zedekiah remember he got blinded last thing he saw was his sons before they blinded him isn't it interesting the last church in revelation of the seven is Laodicea and it's blind the last king of Israel was blinded do you know what scares me is the last church age and most of the church and most of the preachers they're blind and they're saying we're rich and we're prosperous and we have the holy spirit and we have God and we know God do you know what God is going to say Jesus actually says I don't know you hold on God knows everything God knows everyone yes I'm talking about a heart to know God Jesus says I don't know you who are you oh but Lord I done all of this or what about Luke chapter 13 26 you see that Matthew 7 is for the charismatics but Luke chapter 13 is for the evangelicals the fundamentalists the old-time Pentecostals do you know what it says Lord we have eaten and drank in thy presence we loved the Lord's table we feasted on the word of God and thou has taught in our streets we love the preaching the teaching of the word of God do you know what he's going to say unto him I know you not when she art depart from me all you workers of iniquity there's going to be many in the church that are bad figs there's going to be many very shortly who Jesus is going to say I do not know you you're a stranger to me and they're going to say but we've done all these things we acknowledge I love the preaching of the word says yeah but you're iniquitous you're a disobedient child you never obeyed the word of God you didn't love the word of God I don't know you and the mark of it is you don't even love my word and you say you know me you don't know me you really don't know that's the first thing in this first true revival the mark of true revival is that you receive a heart to know God you know God you actually know him you get a heart to know him second of all true salvation true salvation do you realize this first I will give them a heart to know me is salvation real salvation you say what is it to be born again what does it mean to be born again what does it mean to be saved what does it mean to have a relationship with God you know him and he becomes your God and you become his child you see you can't get saved or born again without coming to know God in a very intimate and a very real way let me just define this word new for a second because I had a friend many years ago I had a friend inverted commas have you ever had a friend and just before we got married Candice listened in I had it in loudspeaker as I talked to this friend and I come off the call and she said huh she says what you call a friend of what I call a friend's a bit different I said I know I know but this friend of mine when I got to know him he I I would mention someone he said I know them I go really yes and then I mentioned some I know them really and this would go on and on and on and I used to be in all this this guy knew everybody I mean everybody he knew them and then I started to find out it didn't mean he'd ever even met them or spoken to them he saw them in television or he heard about them or he read their text he said I know them and it took me a while to figure this out and I'd be there knowing someone who no way had contact but he goes I know them and I went what you call no one and what I call no one is two very different things in the car driving here I let my message slip and Candice related the story of when her mom went to buy her her first violin as a young girl and on the phone this is the reason she bought that violin because the woman who come on the phone to sell a violin she said oh it's my husband's and he used to play his violin with the one of the the top most famous violinists of that generation and said he played with them and so Candice's mom went well if this man played with this top professional boy that

must be some violin and it'll have been looked after and that's the violin I'm getting for my daughter well she got to the house and the husband is footering around in the in the back of everything and she looks at it and inspects the violin and then buys it for a precious young daughter who's gonna start playing the violin and and says did he really play with yes yes yeah he played with him on this on this violin and just before leaving here comes the husband and says is it true that you actually played with him and he dropped his head and and I can't tell it like her and and said well well on the on the lps never met the man didn't know the man never wrote to the man just put the lps of this famous violinist and would play along to the lps do you know what's happened with the church of this day the term no god has been destroyed people say they know god in salvation they do not know god in salvation in jeremiah 31 33 it says but this shall be the covenant that I will make that with the house of israel he's told about a new covenant a new relationship with god that's ezekeil talks about it and jeremiah and other prophets and they say in the future god will make a new covenant not like the old covenant the old covenant said do this and do this and do this or else you die but with the new covenant you know what god does he gives you a new heart and enables you to live this life that's why i'm not scared with the word of god i read things in the bible i go i can't do that i can't live this christian life i can't make all the right decisions i won't be willing to pay the price i've never worried about that because i go lord it's you working within me you put a heart within me that says i will pay the ultimate price i will make the right decisions i will follow you i want you to do it in me it's not late on me to do and you know what sometimes you need to hit a brick wall and fail and find that it's not within yourself and then you say oh god work this within me put your heart within me you do the work not me trying to be something this new covenant after those days saith the lord i will put my law in their inward parts and ride it in their hearts notice where god puts his word in their hearts and will be their god and they shall be my people how do you have this relationship where god becomes our god this is a heart to know god he gives himself to you you have god in real salvation you know when you get born again god says you have me you have jesus he's the great high priest he's your great high priest he's a healer he's now your healer he was the creator he can do anything in your life he is the great intercessor he becomes yours in real salvation that's why it's so important to know god i don't want to be deceived in this or you've lost out on the real god if you get real salvation you receive a heart to know god the real god that's everything but if you get deceived in this you're in trouble the word yada for no means a personal first-hand experience it's not talking about academic knowledge not talking about hearing things with the ear not talking about others telling you what you can have or ought to have it is a covenant relationship the word yada is used 947 times in the old testament to know god or to have a heart to know god is that you come into a relationship with god personal intimate first-hand see your experience with god is it second hand or first hand see along this way you come to a place where you go i don't want to hear about the god of abraham isaac and jacob i don't want to hear about paul's god or victoria's god or ellen's god or anyone else i want to know this god i want to experience this god i want personal intimate experience it says here about writing his word on your heart that's where it begins verse 34 and they shall teach no more every man his neighbor and every man his brother saying know the lord that's in the old covenant for they shall all know me with the new heart in the new covenant that god writes his word on you don't need anyone to tell you know the lord you need to know god you know what it says with this heart you get a knowledge of god you don't need anyone to teach you that god is real that he created all things that he has all power that he is everywhere you know when you get born again you receive a heart where you go i know he is real i know he created things at the beginning i don't believe in an old earth i don't believe in millions and billions of years that that's absolute trash and heresy no real christian can believe in billions of years of evolution and tied into the bible you're either going to believe in evolution or the god of the bible but with this new heart you know this you don't need someone to teach you but it says here for they all shall know

me every genuine convert knows god i don't care how weak they are how small they are how feeble they are how young they are a real convert knows god i mean he is intimate personal firsthand he's not saying well they said it and i'm trying to believe it they preach about this so i'm going along try my best you know what is your god he is a god that will reveal himself to you it is very very real and it says here that he will teach you he will teach you from the least of them unto the greatest of them saith the lord i will forgive their iniquity and i will remember their sin no more how does he bring you into us he forgives your sin these verses in jeremiah 31 about not needing to be taught to know god but that you'll receive a heart written with the word of god where you know him as a part of genuine salvation it is quoted in hebrews chapter 11 when the apostle paul is talking about real salvation through the blood of the lamb you're forgiven you're washed from your sin you're redeemed god showed your mercy all your sin is gone do you know what that is you have received the heart of god you receive it from him in a very real way the word to know in the bible it's used in genesis four and one and adam new eve a very personal one-to-one personal relationship no third person no five people when you know someone it's personal between you and them adam knew eve his wife and she conceived so that means they experienced the most intimate relationship possible between a man and a woman private personal unique between one man one woman and it says she conceived and bear came her son that's what the word no actually means you know what god says about abraham i know him that he will command his children and his household after him wouldn't you want god to know you in certain way that he says i know what they're going to do with the children when their children grow up i know what they're going to do i would worry about a lot of people and yet god says i know abraham i know what he's going to do with his kids i know how he's going to train them and because of that i'm going to show him certain things i'm going to reveal certain things listen to what it says in one john chapter 227 but the anointing which you have received of him abideth in you and you need not that any man teach you but it's the same anointing teaches you of all things and this truth now these verses have been misused in the church i've met people and believe it or not they're in limerick and i met them in germany and i met them in england and i met them in america and i've met them everywhere and you know what they say i don't need to be part of a church i don't need a teacher i don't need a pastor i don't need anyone these verses say i know god i don't need anyone to teach me and you know what they do they take the entire bible hundreds of other verses they only pull out one or two they twist them misunderstand them misinterpret them and say i don't need you i i know everyone the holy spirit's going to teach me so they stay at home they're a pain in the head of everyone who encounters them they cause problems in the church and they prove that they actually do not know anything they're actually terribly ignorant listen to what it says in one john two again speaking about this anointing that teaches you everything says teaches you all things and this truth see as soon as you get air coming in hold on why did god put teachers in the church if you don't need to be taught the same men who taught that you don't need any do you know what it's talking about is salvation it's talking about this relationship in christ it isn't talking about you don't need teaching about christian life or about the church it's talking about this sentiment relationship with god you have an anointing that teaches you and that anointing that spirit is truth and if it ever deviates from truth it's a lie and deceiving spirit it is no lie and even as it has taught you ye shall abide in him so this anointing that teaches you and no one else can teach you this what does it teach you it's according to truth and it keeps you in christ show me someone who doesn't abide in christ and in the teaching of god's word and they're the ones who say i don't need any to teach me i know everything the holy spirit is teaching me chances are they've got a false salvation because this real salvation it makes me to know jesus christ i know the lord jesus christ it says in john 17 3 and this is one of the first verses i ever memorized and you ought to memorize it this is life eternal how do you define eternal life oh well eternal life means you go to heaven oh eternal life means that you're saved how would you define eternal life what

does it mean that you have eternal life well jesus says here this is life eternal that they might know thee the only true god and jesus christ who now has sent what i know god i actually know him this is true salvation but let me bring you to my third and final point here as i close and this my most important point true christianity true revival is going to be marked by a knowledge of god the character of god there's holiness there and purity and the grace of god and the meekness of god and the kindness of god there's an awesome awareness of god in a real revival you know when revival comes and god comes down the church men walk into the church and say god was there i had an old friend went up to the island of lewis in scotland and he talked to a sinner who never got saved in the lewis revival an old godly moral man who always went to church but he never got born again he was an old man and my friend asked him said do you remember that revival under duncan campbell do you remember and he lowered his voice this old man and he says yes he said it was when god came down he's a sinner but he lived through that and he knew god came down on that island you know a true salvation they've destroyed it there's no god in it you know the converts of this generation they say a little sinner's prayer they never give up their sexual fornication they keep carrying on listening the same music living the same way they never change they're angry they're bitter they're jealous they're covetous you know we get people born again today and they can still be covetous and they're unforgiven and they're spiteful and they gossip no knowledge of god there's something wrong because see when someone gets born again a knowledge of god comes you go i know who this god is but true christianity jesus says in john 10 14 i am the good shepherd and know my sheep he knows them and i'm known of mine sheep do you realize jesus says the mark of a real sheep is they know me i thought everyone was known of god and a lot of people know god jesus said a real sheep knows god that's how you tell it's a sheep a goat doesn't know god and you know by their actions as the father knoweth me even so know i the father and i lay down my life for the sheep and they shall hear my voice and there shall be one fold and one shepherd in verse 4 it says and the sheep follow me for they know my voice they know me the mark of a real sheep is they know jesus christ they have personal intimate knowledge and they say he is my shepherd that's how you tell a real christian do you know a real christian can be discovered you can find out if a person is a real christian or if they're a goat and you don't want to be a goat do you know in the middle east goats look like sheep do you know that they're not like the west you go to israel and you look at them i couldn't tell the difference a shepherd can so you look at the goat and you look at the sheep and you go their ears look the same and they stand the same they're not like our goat and sheep and when you look at them you go no i think this is the goat no no no let me change no i think this is the goat and so it says in the bible the shepherd used to put a rod down and when he's bringing him in he said no no you're a goat you go that way sheep that way and he had to do that with every individual animal that came because at a distance you can't tell get them up here you're a goat you're a sheep you're a goat but you have to bring them under the rod that's what they did and you know what a sheep always reveals itself by its character it listens to the voice of the shepherd in the east do you know what sheep do they follow the shepherd in the west a shepherd drives the flock with a sheep dog go on boss but in the east they don't do that the shepherd walks in front and all he does is speak come on this way this way you don't have to come real sheep come because they listen to jesus christ that's how you know they're real sheep they follow they don't have to be driven they don't need to be forced don't need to be forced to give don't need to be forced to be part of a church don't need to be forced to come out from the world they don't need to be forced to read their bible a real sheep actually says i want to follow you listen to some of the scriptures here in john chapter 8 19 then said he unto him where is thy father jesus answered you neither know me nor my father if you had known me you should have known my father also he's dealing with the religious who had head knowledge they read the bible but they didn't know jesus neither did they know god the father they did not know him and luke chapter 10 22 all things are delivered

to me of my father no man knoweth the son but the father and who the father is but the son and he to whom the son will reveal him do you know you can't know the father unless the son reveals him and you can't know the son unless the father reveals him it's a miracle of god he says i will give you a heart to know me that's what real salvation is and this is what real christianity is he takes out of you that old heart you know with the old heart you cannot know god you actually think god's very hard that old heart does it goes but god contradicts he can't be kind he can't be good why is there suffering thousand questions but what about this what about that god you're not kind to me god this isn't fair do you know the new heart knows god it knows god's kind and wise and good and faithful and you can trust him the new heart knows that and rests even when it can't see anything absolutely nothing and you know what if you know the father christ has revealed him and if you know christ the father has revealed him otherwise you couldn't know him you couldn't know him at all listen very carefully as i finish here because i want to show you the mark of true biblical christianity is to actually know god in 1 john 5 20 it says and we know that the son of god is come and has given us an understanding that we may know him that is true so this is a knowledge of truth and we are in him that is true even in the son jesus christ this is the true god and eternal life so notice here that you know when christ has come to you because you are in him and it's in truth if there's lies and deception and error and it contradicts the bible you're not in god you do not know him the mark of knowing him is you're in him according to truth and he is a true god he cannot lie man may god's lie deceive false prophecy predicts and never comes to pass never it always deceives and confuses and changes as if god is always changing his mind god doesn't do that god knows everything 1 john chapter 4 and 6 we are of god okay let's test is this church of god are you of god are you of the devil remember what jesus said to the religious who are morally clean they never slept around they never got drunk they never stole they tithed every little grain of salt weren't they morally right and yet jesus points them and says you're your father the devil there's something wrong with your religion you're actually wicked in your heart but you're morally clean outside so in 1 john 4 the apostle of love what does he say we are of god how do you know you're of god how do you know that i'm of god how do you know this church is of god how do you know you're not being deceived by this preacher we are of god he that knoweth god and this is an apostle speaking in the new testament he that knoweth god okay here's the first test heareth us john is speaking as an apostle a writer of scripture i can identify a real sheep that knows christ you know how they listen to the teaching of the apostles so we are of god he that knoweth god heareth us and he that is not of god heareth not us hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of air do you realize this divides it right down between goats and sheep lots of people can say i know god i believe in god i'm trying my best and yet the bible says do you listen to him how you respond to the message this morning you can get tired you can feel ill you can come and go i understand that but basically the word of god i'm not standing here giving my own thoughts to the word of god if i'm giving you the teaching of the apostles does it have an impact on you or is it only a hearing and it has no effect on your life you may be in a spirit of air rather than a spirit of truth simply said but i believe truth is not enough do you hear it says in john 15 20 remember the word that i said unto you the servant is not greater than his lord they have persecuted me they will also persecute you if they had kept my sayings they will keep yours also but all these things will they do unto you for my sake because they know not him that sent me do you know those who persecuted christ they didn't know god how do i know they didn't know god because how could you lie how could you persecute an innocent man how could you have him crucified a man that healed the sick these were people who said they knew god that's impossible see when you meet someone in the church and they'll call themselves a christian a born-again christian and say they're filled with the spirit and they lie and they connive and they stitch you up most of you haven't experienced this in the church i actually rarely have gone through a period of time for so long where i haven't experienced it i'm just enjoying this god help you if we ever get

scattered as a church you better know this jesus said when men persecute you for living for god it's because they don't know god one john four and eight he that loveth not knoweth not god for god is love how can you go in a church and not be convicted all over our world you go in you get nice sermonettes none of these scriptures are dealt with i know a real church when i walk in there and there is a conviction dealing with the heart i know the real god is there if i walk into church and everyone's talking about the lord talking about christ talking about the bible but nothing ever gets dealt with there's something wrong fundamentally it may look like a sheep but it could be a goat he that loveth not doesn't know god i meet someone in the church they're angry they're bitter they're jealous they don't love their brothers and sisters you don't know god oh i do know god i i know i have dreams at night god deliver us do you love your brother i don't like do you love your sister well me and her don't you're commanded to love it's not a choice this is the heart god gives you the heart to know god you know when i know god i'm gonna love you you can lie on me i'm gonna love you you can hurt me badly i'm gonna love you do you know when you speak against me i may well even do something good to you i'm talking about knowing god this is biblical christianity 1 john 2 and 4 he that saith i know him and keepeth not his commandments is a liar someone who says they know god but they don't obey basic things you try and bring it to him say brother do you know the bible ah i don't care i i know what i'm doing but the bible says i know god no you don't if you don't listen to the commandments you are a liar any christian who's not a biblically based christian is a liar a deceiver and does not know god you can have experience you can have dreams you can have visions you can have feelings you can have stories you can have testimonies but if you do not keep the commandments of the spirit you do not know god you don't have a heart to know him when god gives you a heart to know him you keep his commandments that's how i know that you know god i actually can tell if you know god you can tell if you know god do you keep his commandments john 8 54 jesus answered if i honor myself my honor is nothing it is my father that honors me of whom say ye that he is your god yet you have not known him but i know him and listen this jesus said this because i keep his sins jesus said i know god because i keep his sins yet we have the church filled with people who say i know god i'm born again i know i'm going to heaven i know what the bible says they don't keep his sins but they want me to believe they know god preachers music teams so jesus says he knew god he kept his sins titus 1 and 16 i'm just going through these verses as i close very important titus 1 16 they profess that they know god but in works they deny him you can't know god if you don't do the works being abominable disobedient and onto every good work reprobate you don't know god 2nd timothy chapter 3 and 5 having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof from such turn away don't have anything to do with them see this type of christianity that says we know god once saved always saved and they're drinking they're not in a church they're out there in the world have nothing to do with them i didn't say that about sinners be best friends to the homosexual in your corner be best friends to the drug seller down the back lane here but see that man that says he knows god and he's born again and yet is disobedient avoid him it's a command of scripture don't have anything to do with them oh well i just keep in touch with them on facebook why do you do that oh i i like to encourage them oh so you're the spiritual one oh well no one else is running after them and looking after them i wonder why oh i could minister to them and and just keep telling them look to jesus they're in rebellion and they believe they're born again you're wasting your time this is a command of scripture listen to what this is having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof from such turn away for of this cert are they which creep into houses and lead captive silly women laden with sins notice who listens that type of person silly women laden down with sin led away with divers lusts ever learning never able to come to the knowledge of the truth so they're in the church they're always learning things and saying an awful lot and speaking to others but you know what it says they can never come to the knowledge of the truth now as jannies and jamborees withstood moises so do these also resist the truth

men of corrupt minds reprobate concerning the faith or listen second timothy four and three for the time will come when they will not endure sound or healthy doctrine but after their own loss shall they heap to themselves teachers having itchy ears talk about the church paul prophesied a day's coming in the church worldwide well you're gonna have a lot of people in the church they're gonna stockpile through internet and youtube and facebook and all the other medias all their favorite preachers from joyce myer to benningham and everything else in between rick warren you name them they're everywhere heap to themselves teachers have an itchy ears and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned onto fables they don't know god 1 corinthians 15 33 being not deceived evil communications corrupt good manners awake to righteousness now what is he just said there's an environment around you of communication with certain things and people will corrupt you it'll corrupt your good manners so he says awake to righteousness and sin not for some have not the knowledge of god i speak this to your shame he said some in the church do not have a knowledge of god and yet they're affecting you my final scripture what is our message here a heart to know god dealt with fear in god and spirit and a humble heart and we'll deal with a few others what's this a heart i will give you do you want it in salvation real salvation where he says this is who i am i'll forgive your sin i'll cleanse you i'll set you free do you want a false conversion or do you want this the mark of real conversion is i will give you a heart to know me intimate fellowship with a holy pure god and you can know me for yourself this is real biblical christianity philippians chapter 3 and 10 the apostle paul a mature preacher he had traveled started churches being whipped being in prison he knew much about god he saw miracles had dreams visions caught up to meet the lord in the third heaven he was an extraordinary teacher of the bible listen to what he says after all of these things philippians chapter 3 and 10 that i may know him oh i know him already after all of these years of walking with jesus christ in obedience and holiness he got he got all this way and he says you know really all i want to do is to know him i really want to know you not about you not with the hearing of the ear i want to know you experientially because you know nothing else can satisfy your heart than to know you i want to know you and here this morning do you know this god is he your god have you received this heart have you neglected this knowledge this heart because it's a heart he's given you to know him have you neglected it and let the flesh come in and troubles and cares and thorns and briars and has it been killing off the word of god have you lost something that you once had oh you started with saying i just want to know him and now you reach a point where it's about ministry and doing things all the things in the church from that camera to these instruments can be so dangerous and this pulpit because you we could do all these things and yet we don't know him and we're not there saying i want to know you in preaching this i have one desire to know him and i want you to know him that's my desire i'm a shepherd i want you to know the great shepherd i want you to feed on the word of god and hear the voice of christ please stand with me lord jesus we praise you lord god i pray this morning lord god take lord god these thoughts these verses these scriptures lord god i pray send your word to the sheep to the lambs to the sheep foals lord god i pray that you the great shepherd lord god this is what it means to know you as the great shepherd we love your word we love to listen to you we listen to your commands we take on board your warnings we follow your directions every time we haven't done that we've got caught in the briars in the hedge we ended up on our back not able to put ourselves back on our feet we got lost and went astray and we led others astray because we didn't listen to your simple words lord jesus we love you we want to know you my god that i might know you and the power of your resurrection lord god we want to know the power we want to enter into your sufferings and experience the fullness of christianity real biblical christianity we don't want to be deceived we don't want to be listening to false teaching we don't want to be involved in false movements my god i don't want to be deceived in this last hour i want to know you that's the only cure that i might know you that i might know your voice that you change my heart give

me a new heart of god create in me a right spirit renew within me the joy of my salvation restore unto me the reality and the power of biblical christianity i want to know you and because i know you i love the brethren and i keep the commands and i walk in the light and i love the truth lord god raise up your church again in this hour in jesus name

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