

Knowing That You Can Know

By: Dan Jenkins

The Bible expresses such profound truths in such simple ways that we read them and think we already know this truth, when in reality we do not know what we know! If these words intrigue you, then permit me to use God's simple words to illustrate this.

I vividly recall an experience from our early days in New Zealand in 1962. As we tried to learn more about the various religious groups meeting there, we visited a denomination I knew nothing about. As we were asked, "Do you know the Lord as your personal Savior?" I had never heard this phraseology before, but I did know the answer. We knew Jesus, we knew He had saved us, so we were welcomed.

How would you have answered that question about knowing the Lord? I wish I had known then how the apostle John would have answered it. John said that we not only can know Him, but we can absolutely know that we know the Lord. Hear these words of this great apostle. "Hereby we know that we know Him..." He says more than saying we can know the Lord—he says we can know that we know Him. Let me ask you if you know the Lord as your Savior? Do you absolutely know that you know Him? What evidence can you give that you know Him? Read what John says.

"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we

keep His commandments" (**1 John 2:3**). Read these simple words and think about them. (1) We can know Him. (2) We can know that we know Him. (3) The way we know that we know the Lord is not to just "feel assurance" in our hearts that we know Him. The way we know Him is not just a deep feeling in our souls that we know Him. (4) The divinely given measure of knowing Him is whether we keep His commandments.

But John says more in the next verse. John says that anyone who says that he knows the Lord and does not obey Him "...is a liar, and the truth is now in Him" (**1 John 2:4**). We may not consciously know we are lying but God sees us differently.

In fact, if we do not love the truth about how to serve Him, even God Himself will give us a strong feeling of salvation. "They did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie" (**2 Thess. 2:10-11**). Hear these truths. If we do not obey Him, we do not know Him and He will allow us to strongly believe that we know Him. Let me ask you again. Do you know the Lord as your personal Savior?

If I do not obey Him, I do not know Him. I do not love Him (**John 14:15**). If I do not obey Him, I am not His friend (**John 15:14**). How do you know you know Him and love Him?

“I Will Die on That Hill”

By: Selected

This expression, with an obvious military origin, is often used in everyday life to express an absolute willingness to make a strong defense and hold a position (in a particular argument), with no intent to ever consider compromising or backing down (even if presented with information that makes one's position indefensible). It is being unmovably committed.

In a surprising and very unfortunate conversation a while ago, someone used that expression about the particular position that they held. I am not writing this for that person's benefit but for yours.

In the conversation we were having, one of the main topics of discussion was the relationship of baptism to one's salvation from sin. The individual with whom I was conversing was adamant that baptism, while a good and appropriate action, has no connection at all to the forgiveness of sins. What was interesting, but not unusual, is that no attempt was made in their responses to ever answer the verses in the New Testament that clearly connect baptism with being “saved” from sins (**Mark 16:16**; **1 Pet. 3:21**), obtaining “the forgiveness of sins” (**Acts 2:38**), washing “away” sins (**Acts 22:16**), getting “into Christ” (**Rom. 6:3**; **Gal. 3:27**) and “into His kingdom” (**John 3:5**). Their position was that salvation occurs at faith and baptism is not essential.

When it was apparent that the truth was not moving this person, I asked the individual a question that I have asked many others over the years. It is not designed as a “gotcha” question, but as an eye-opening, finally-make-the-connection question. Question: “Which one of these statements do you believe is correct? (1) The Bible teaches that baptism does not save us. (2) The Bible teaches that baptism does now

save us.”

Here is the answer that I received: “I will answer your question with #1, that baptism does not save, and I will die on that hill. We will all find out at the judgment.”

Here's the problem. In **1 Peter 3:21**, God says plainly, “Baptism does now save us.” This person dismissed that Bible teaching and answered, “Baptism does not save us.” In a daring response, the individual picked a manmade doctrine over a God-given doctrine, and did not just pick it, but laid down the “I will die on that hill” pledge.

Friends, the Bible says plainly that we are saved through faith (**Eph. 2:8**) and plainly that baptism saves (**1 Pet. 3:21**). Those statements are not contradictory, nor are they designed for individuals to take sides. “The sum of [God's] word is truth” (**Psa. 119:160**), which means BOTH are truth—faith PLUS baptism saves (**Mark 16:16**). God expects us to obey the sum of His word before we die and before judgment.



Upcoming Events

Summer Series Wednesdays: Adults will be in the main auditorium for the theme “It’s Who You Know” and the youth will be in the fellowship hall learning Bible stories about God’s animals.

June 27: Southwest School of Bible Studies will have their 2025 Graduation Banquet. We are so proud of Kirk FitzSimmons who will be one of the honorees. More info is on the hallway bulletin board.

Sunday, July 6: Monthly potluck luncheon with a 12:45pm service to follow. Please bring a covered dish/dessert to share.

Sunday, July 13: Youth devo after evening worship.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Mary Jo White had an exploratory procedure done last week which revealed open heart surgery is needed. Surgery will be in Houston. They ask for no visitors at this time.

Barbie Dolan’s father broke his hip and has cancer in his lungs and kidneys.

Rick Bass who was told he does not have MS but they are still trying to diagnose what is ailing him.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of June 22, 2025

Sunday Morning
Scripture Reading..... Desmon Flonnory
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons

Lord’s Supper & Offering
Bread..... Jake Jacobs
Cup..... Benny Horton
Offering.....Mike Atkinson
Assist..... Ferman Rosales
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening
Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Benny Horton/
Steve Randle

Wednesday Evening
Adult Class Cody Westbrook
Song Leader Richard Hill
Devotional Cody Westbrook

Other
Prepare Communion.....

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays
James Prince.....June 25
Peggy Matlock.....June 28

Anniversaries
Allen & Pam Clifton.....June 24
Rick & Rieke Bass.....June 27

Please sign up to bring snacks/drinks for our Summer Youth Series. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had
offered up prayers and supplications, with vehe-
ment cries and tears to Him who was able to save
Him from death, and was heard because of His
godly fear.
Hebrews 5:7 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of June 15, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....70
A.M. Worship.....107
P.M. Worship.....60
Wednesday Worship.....70

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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