

## FOUNDATIONS, "GROWING IN KNOWING" LESSON 1

**Intro.** Tonight we're going to begin a new series called *Growing in Knowing*.

- *When we know who we are and what we have in Christ we'll be able to do what He wants us to do in our lives*

**1 Corinthians 13:12 (NLT)** Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

- *No one this side of heaven has it all figured out*
- *We're all "growing in knowing"*
- *Over the next several weeks we're going to look in depth at some of the things we have in Christ; it's a lot!*

1. The gospel is good news!
2. The first verse in Mark in the NT says this

**Mark 1:1 (NKJV)** The beginning of the *gospel* of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- a. The word gospel means, "**good news**"
- b. It literally means, "**the almost too good to be true news**" and yet it is true!

**Luke 2:10 (NKJV)** ...I bring you *good tidings* of *great joy* which will be to all people.

**Acts 13:32 (NKJV)** And we declare to you *glad tidings*...

3. We need to remind ourselves we are living with **good news**

**quote:** Michael Horton wrote in *The Gospel-Driven Life*, "What we need most, not just at the beginning, but in the middle and at the end of the Christian journey, is good news."

**quote,** "Someone said what we need is to preach the gospel to ourselves every day."

**ex.** "I've got the life of God in me! God's own life is inside of me!"

**2 Timothy 2:8 (NIV) Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead,** descended from David. ***This is my gospel.***

a. We need to remember that when we're facing "bad news"

- *We can be forgetful of the gospel*
- *We know it's good news; Jesus changed our lives. He's worked incredible miracles in us but sometimes we just forget or don't act like it*
- *That's why church is so important; to remind us*
- *That's why reading our Bibles is so important; to remind us*
- *That's why we have to preach the gospel to ourselves every day; to remind us!*

## **I. WE CAN, AND SHOULD BE \_\_\_\_\_ WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST**

**Colossians 1:10 (NIV)** And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, ***growing in the knowledge of God.***

**2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)** but ***grow in the grace and knowledge*** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...

### **A. WE NEED TO KNOW \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ IN CHRIST**

1. There are particular phrases used all through the NT that tell us who we are "in Christ"

- *These words are written over and over who we are **in Christ** or **in Him, by Christ Jesus, through Christ** or **of Him, by Him, through Him, in Whom, by Whom, etc.***

**2 Corinthians 5:17** ...if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation...

**Romans 8:37** ...we are more than conquerors **through Him...**

**Ephesians 3:12** **in whom** we have boldness and access with confidence through faith **in Him**.

a. These phrases are all through the NT

**ex.** *I want to encourage you when you read your Bible to circle or underline everywhere these phrases are used.*

*They help us understand or know who we are and what we have!*

2. Who we are in Him as opposed to who we are in us

a. But if we can see who we are in Him we'll be strong, confident, secure, and a lot happier

**Philemon 1:6 (NKJV)** that the sharing of your faith may become effective **by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.**

- *We need to acknowledge (recognize or know) every good thing which is in us in Christ Jesus*
- *When we ask Him to come in our hearts, He comes in and He moves a lot of good things into us when He comes to live inside*
- *It's sad that many believers live a "less than" life when Jesus has given us a "more than" one ("life more abundantly, more than conquerors...")*
- *We can grow in knowing!*

**B. KNOWLEDGE IS \_\_\_\_\_**

**Ephesians 3:19-20 (NKJV)**

19 **to know the love of Christ** which passes knowledge; that you may

be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 ***Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.***

1. When we know **who we are** and **what we have** in Christ we become powerful
  - *The ability of God "to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" comes from our **knowing***
2. The opposite of this is true is well; if we don't know **who we are** and **what we have** in Christ it diminishes us or makes us weak
  - *IGNORANCE ISN'T BLISS!*
  - *We lose our edge when we lack understanding*

**Hosea 4:6 (NKJV) *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.***

**ex.** *As a nation we are losing our competitive edge in business and technology because of the dumbing down of our schools.*

3. Satan wants to keep people ignorant

**2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)** The god of this age has **blinded the minds** of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

4. When we are born again our blind minds are open and we receive the ability to understand
  - a. Now it's important for us to **grow in knowing**

**Ephesians 1:17-19 (NKJV)**

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,**  
18 **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,**

**19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.**

- *Knowledge is power*
- *When we know who we are and what we have in Christ we are a force to be reckoned with!*

**Luke 10:17-20 (NKJV)**

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

- b. These disciples were beginning to understand who they were through Christ and it resulted in a demonstration of power

**Acts 4:13-14 (AMP)**

13 Now when they saw the boldness and unfettered eloquence of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained in the schools [common men with no educational advantages], they marveled; and ***they recognized that they had been with Jesus.***

14 And since they saw the man who had been cured standing there beside them, they could not contradict the fact or say anything in opposition.

**ex.** *Just before these verses Peter and John had been on their way to a prayer meeting at the temple.*

*When they walked by a crippled man who was begging Peter said, "Look at us!"*

**Acts 3:6-8 (NKJV)**

6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God.

5. The power of the knowledge of Christ is much more than intellectual ability
  - a. Peter and John weren't intellectual giants; they simply had been with Jesus and the power of Christ flowed through them
  - b. The knowledge of Christ gave them power

- *Power is the inevitable result when we know who we are and what we have in Christ*

6. A word of caution as we close
  - a. We become a threat to the powers of darkness when we know who we are
  - b. Satan will do everything he can to keep us ignorant

**ex.** *There's a reason we get tired or distracted when it's time to read our Bibles. There's a reason he tries to keep us out of church or from spending time in prayer and meditating on the Lord.*

*All these things build us and help us learn and really grasp who we are and what we have.*

*If he can keep us ignorant, he can keep us weak and ineffective.*

- *We aren't going to allow the enemy to dumb us down!!!*

**2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV)** lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

- ***We are growing in knowing!***

### **PRAYER AND CONFESSION:**

*Jesus, thank You for giving me good news and helping me to grow in knowing who I am and what I have in Christ. Because I know You, I have the power to do over and above anything I could think or imagine. I am who You say I am. I have what You say I have and I thank You for that in Your name Jesus, Amen.*

**FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #1**

**I. WE CAN, AND SHOULD BE \_(GROWING IN KNOWING)\_  
WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST**

**A. WE NEED TO KNOW \_(WHO WE ARE)\_ AND \_(WHAT WE HAVE)\_ IN CHRIST**

**B. KNOWLEDGE IS \_(POWER)\_**