

BECOMING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST



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Over the next few weeks we'll use the topics found on our blog module, "Following Christ," using the QR code above. The series will include topics such as Knowing God, The Decision to Follow, Understanding the Bible, Living in Spiritual Victory, and The Task of Discipleship. The code below takes you to our first lesson.

If you read the Great Commission, you may not realize that it is about a world revolution. If you think it is about planting churches, as important as that may be, or about evangelization, as that is often understood, it really is about a world revolution promised through Abraham, come to life in Jesus and living on in his people up to today. Dallas Willard, Living in Christ's Presence (From the book, Conversion and Discipleship: You Can't Have One Without the Other by Bill Hull)



PART 1 | KNOWING GOD

Developing the firm foundation of a personal, intimate relationship with Christ. (Jeremiah 9:23-24; Matthew 7:24-27)

We begin with a very important question, how *can* we know God?

Becoming a follower _____ begins with the New Birth. (John 3:1-21)

Paul's cry in Philippians 3:7-16 ...*That I may know Him and the power of His Resurrection...*

Jeremiah 9:23-24 *This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength, or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD,..."*

There is a vast difference between knowing *about* God and *knowing* Him on a deeply personal level. To the Greeks, to know something meant you understood it in your mind. It was an academic process. In contrast, for a Hebrew person to know something meant that he or she experienced it.

Psalm 103:7 states that *He revealed His character to Moses and His deeds to the people of Israel.* Israel saw His acts but Moses knew His ways and personality. God certainly desires to show His power through us, but invites us to a deeper understanding and participation of His Character

The knowledge of God and His ways is more essential for the believer/

NOTES

Click the main QR code above, read The Seven Realities for Knowing God.

Memory verse
Jeremiah 9:23-24

For Lesson 2
Read the Sermon on the Mount.
Click the links: The Sermon on the Mount and The Beatitudes.

follower than anything else. It was the prayer of Jesus in John 17:3 ...*Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.* (To “know” is an ongoing, growing knowledge)

Key thought: *We experience God in proportion to our knowledge of Him.*

In the Old Testament God revealed Himself through His _____

In the Bible God reveals Himself through His Names. In the Old Testament and parts of the New Testament, names were more than just a name or a title. Instead, it revealed something about the individual’s character or purpose.

- **Click the QR code** in the heading and go to lesson 1, *Old Testament Names of God.*

In the New Testament He revealed Himself through _____

Hebrews 1:1-4 *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,... who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person,...* (See also John 14:7-11)

Knowing God by experience.

God pursues a personal relationship with us and invites us to be involved with Him in His work. God's invitation, however, *will* lead us to a crisis of belief requiring faith and action. Although it is necessary to make major adjustments in our life, that decision will result in our experiencing the very reason for which He created us. Then, we come to know God by experience as we continue to follow and obey Him.

- **Click the QR code** in the heading and go to lesson 1, *Seven Realities for Knowing God.*

Practical steps...

1. _____ It all begins in the prayer closet. Dedicate a specific time to meet with our Heavenly Father in private. Be sure to leave your cell phone (if possible) and bring a pen and notepad to write what the Spirit is saying.
2. What are a few adjustments you have to make or are making in order to join Him in what He is doing?
3. Take a single, small step in obedience to His Voice. Remember this will always be outside of the “comfort zone.” Write down what that step is and the result of taking that step.

Part 2: The Discipleship Decision