

Our Greatest Quest in Life



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John Goddard famously made a list of 127 life goals, most of which he fulfilled. What did Apostle Pau say were HIS greatest life goals? What are yours? This sermon reveals our greatest quest – according to YHVH, Yeshua and Paul. Plus we discuss HOW to accomplish this quest. Yeshua says that this goal is what eternal life is all about. And God Most High says this is the goal He says is worth glorying about. Find out in this very important message.

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Happy sabbath, everyone. How would you answer this question: “What is your MOST important quest?”

Or – if easier to answer – name 2-3 of your most important goals/quests you’d like to say you’ve accomplished?

For some – it is to own their own home, free and clear.

- Or maybe to be a Senator or President.
- Or to have your own horses.
- Or to be pain free and healthy.
- Or to enjoy a wonderful, happy marriage.
- Or to get married. For some... to get divorced. (Oh dear).

Many years ago, a 15 yr old teenager named John Goddard made a list of 127 things he’d like to say he accomplished before he died. I have the list here. (Review a few).

http://www.johngoddard.info/life_list.htm

But you know what? He didn’t even list the 2-3 most important ones of all, and that’s what I want to talk about today. What would be YOUR most cherished quests and things to have accomplished in your life?

What are the top 3-5? Write them down.

His #127 – was to live to see the 21st century. He did that. But that was way too short sighted. He also wanted to visit the moon, but didn’t get to.

I want to live forever and ever and see a new planet, a new universe and travel at will, to any spot in a new universe, that maybe I’ll even be allowed to have a part in creating, who

knows? Maybe. But there are even greater quests than living forever and seeing the new universe.

Goddard came to know many fascinating people. HE was a fascinating person! But I think he missed a huge goal or even 4-5 huge goals that should have been on his list.

Paul had his own bucket list of life accomplishments he hoped for. Turn to **Philippians 3**.

Each of Paul's goals is worthy of a full sermon. I want to talk about ONE, with a hint of another one with it

Philippians 3:7-11 (2 Peter 3:18....)

"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for **the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus** my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish (dung – KJV), that I may gain Christ ..."

For some people, if they get a little scratch on their car, their world falls apart. Paul lost everything physically. Counted all of it as dung. Paul does begin to mention what I'm focusing on today – the excellence of the knowledge of Christ. We are to grow in grace and knowledge ...OF OUR Lord. Let's continue Phil 3 now ... v 9

9 **and be found in Him**, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; **10 that I may know Him** and the **power of His resurrection**, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

If you could list the people you would say – KNEW GOD – wouldn't Paul be on that list? But Paul is saying he gave up everything (v 8)—for the excellence of knowledge of Christ, and v. 9—BE found IN HIM with the Righteousness by faith.... v. 10 —THAT I MAY KNOW HIM ..And THE POWER OF HIS resurrection...."

This is Paul's bucket list:

- Want to **learn all I can** about my Savior ... NOT just time lines and prophecy charts and Hebrew/Greek words... but learn HIM.
- I want to **be found IN HIM**. He's in us, but I want to be IN HIM (have whole sermons about this on my website)
- **I want to come to KNOW HIM AND the power of his res.**
- I want to suffer with him and – God willing even DIE for him.... What an honor, he says.
- I just want to be in the first resurrection for the children of God.

Let's focus on Paul's third stated quest: he felt he had a lot to learn yet about his Savior and wanted to know him and the power of his resurrection.

WHY? Why is that so important?

Yeshua – Jesus – tells us why in John 17, at the Passover with his disciples.

John 17:1-3

And Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

3 And this is ETERNAL LIFE, that they may KNOW You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

So WHY is this so important? it's the BASIS of Eternal life. If you KNOW God and Jesus Christ, and God knows you, you have eternal life.

And remember what the two greatest commandments are? #1: Love God with everything you've got, and then #2, love people as yourself. Relationships that are zealously hot for God and fellow mankind – that's what is most important and what pleases our Maker.

So I'd say to John Goddard... "how about adding this to the top of your bucket list – as they're sure in my bucket list of top priorities:"

- I want to intimately know my Father and my Beloved Savior
- Live way past 4018 – 2000 yrs from now -- and for forever and ever

Back to what Paul says, in my words, "In spite of everything and every time I've been with the Son of God – the 3 yrs in Arabia, the visions, the gifts of the spirit He's given me – I still don't feel like I fully KNOW him! That's why I say, that I may know him and the power of his resurrection". You see, to come to really know anyone, let alone our God or the son of God, will take a lot of time. Frankly, a lifetime and into our next life after our resurrection.

It won't happen overnight. Relationships are formed by a constant building of trust and lots of time, with constant slow-steady-consistent interactions that help us feel we know each other more now than before. Paul says it would be a dream world to know he's finally come to where he could say he knew that he knew that he knew His Saviour!

Yehovah seems to get excited when he recognizes we're growing in this capacity of knowing and understanding him better. God enjoys watching us seek him and want to come to understand him better.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 “Thus says YHVH, ‘Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am YHVH.... which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight”, saith YHVH.”

WOW! Got that?

God our Father says if we really knew him, and his Son who is an exact replica, an “express image” of the Father, we would also understand he is a Being full of lovingkindness, and he’s JUST, and good, perfectly righteous.

When Christ sets up his rule in the Messianic kingdom for 1000 years, we’re told that everyone will know YHVH. **Everyone (Jeremiah 31:31-33)**. That heavily implies that is certainly not the case now.

But “knowing” someone is much deeper than just knowing something about them. We’ll talk more about that as we go along. We certainly start by knowing someone’s name, to claim we know someone even on the shallowest level. You know how it goes: when someone keeps forgetting your name (except for Alzheimer’s) or keeps calling you by a different name, you don’t feel that person really knows you.

Remember that’s the first thing Moses wanted to know when he had his one-on-one with God in **Exodus 3**. “What is your NAME?” he asked. There are many who claim to know the Messiah and his Father, but don’t know their names. “God” is what He is. It’s not his name. Christ means “Anointed one”, but that’s not his name either. God is what he is. Anointed is what he is. But they have names, and by that I don’t mean titles.

Certainly God Most High I call “Father, Daddy, and Abba” – because first and foremost, that is what he is to me.

My Savior’s name is Yeshua, in the language his mom would have used when calling or addressing him. Yeshua means “Salvation”, for he came to save us from ourselves and our sins. In English we say Jesus, but that name and sound was never vocalized for many hundreds of years after Yeshua lived and died.

For more on this, hear my 2 part series on “What is the Creator’s Name?”

So now we know God’s name. Now what?

When **General Patton wanted victory** over the Germans led by **General Erwin Rommel**, a brilliant strategist, what did Patton do? He wanted to come to understand Rommel’s thinking, and Rommel’s mind... so what did Patton do? He read Rommel’s writings!

If we wish to come to know our Messiah and Father, we also should search their writings – the holy scriptures!

John 5:38-40

"But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. 39 **You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life**; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 **But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life**"

So if we're truly serious about coming to know Yeshua and our Father, we'll seek to read what they say, while focusing on *coming to know our Savior as the point of our Bible study*.

DO you still pray first and last thing in the day, on your knees (if you're able to)? DO you still read the Bible and study its wisdom carefully each and every day? More on these 2 later, but I wanted to bring them up early as foundational concepts to coming to know God and Yeshua.

Many scriptures say God wants to be found by us, and those those who diligently seek him, shall find him. HE wants to know we really, really want to be with him, love him, and seek him with all our hearts.

And don't assume you do know Yeshua already

The last thing you would want, is to assume you know him – and then find him saying to you, "I never knew you!"

We can be assuming that we know him and he knows us – but don't take that casually. Our Father and Savior want to be fervently sought after. "Those who seek me with all their heart will find me", he promises in various ways in various scriptures.

Matthew 7:21-23

"NOT everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Someone could be the best preacher in the world, performing miracles in Yeshua's -- and still have him say to them, "WHO Are you? I don't know you!"

And if you're trying to please someone you claim to know – you're going to BE more and more like that person. You'll SOUND more like him, ACT more like him and BE more like him. You won't be doing things constantly that annoy, upset and anger that person.

In Matthew 15:1-14 really, Yeshua really says it like it is:

Matthew 15:7-9

7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:
8 "These people draw near **to Me** with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.

9 And in vain they worship ME, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

So we can PRAY, lead in prayer, preach, perform miracles, SPEAK OF Jesus – and still not know him! Nor can we assume he knows us. If this speaks to you, then repent. Tell Yeshua you want to please him, obey him and repent of taking the relationship for granted.

He wants our HEART! He wants FEELING in that relationship.

Remember what God's Son said to the Ephesian church, one of the 7 churches in Revelation 2 and 3?

Revelation 2:4-5--

"Nevertheless I have this against you, **that you have left your first love.** 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent."

"I know your works, but your HEART's no longer in it – you've lost that lovin' feeling, and it's gone, gone, gone". **You've lost your first love, that first excitement. Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook are more interesting** to you now and take up your time. Oh, you work hard, you still iron my shirts and make nice breakfasts – but I don't feel any love and that exciting fun bond we had...where did it go?"

Do you ever speak to Yeshua as "Hi, Beloved Yeshua, my king and my fiancé!"
The Song of Songs – Song of Solomon – has much of that in its verses.

Song of Solomon 6:3

"I am my Beloved's, And my Beloved is mine.
He feeds his flock among the lilies."

Do you ever say, "Hi, Beloved...I just love the fact that you say I am yours, and that I can say, 'Yeshua, son of God, you are mine'".

Do you know your God and Savior that well, that you speak to God, *about* God, as "My Beloved"?

I know about the verses – and we'll read them in this sermon – that say, "If you love me, keep my commandments" and similar ones to those. But I fear that many of us know about our Savior but don't have a deep, deep personal relationship with Him.

Do you want to have that relationship?

So, Do YOU know HIM?

So, Do YOU know HIM? Does HE know you?

We talk about “knowing” someone rather casually. But think of even your wife/husband or children. You KNOW them better than most – but aren't you even YET discovering new and exciting/puzzling THINGS about them?

I have been married to my wife for 42-1/2 years now. In recent months and years, I'm particularly enjoying still learning a lot about her: her brilliance, her character, her strengths, her wisdom and insights – and even just learning little things about her. It's fun. I doubt I'll ever be able to say I truly KNOW her inside-out, and everything possible to know about her. She's too complex for that. It was there all along but I simply wasn't paying attention enough. Same with our relationship with Yeshua!

Now imagine ever being able to say you truly know – Our Creator, GOD. Paul speaks of the “unsearchable riches of Christ” (Ephesians 3:8). There's so much to our Father, so much to our Savior, so much to learn about how each thinks, and what they are like intimately, that it truly should be our quest.

Remember we read Jeremiah 9, our God wants us to come to know him and what he's like, what he truly stands for and is.

We read something similar in the conversation between Moses and Yehovah, the 2nd time Moses ascended Mt Sinai and how YHVH himself describes himself (Ex. 34:5-7).

Keep in mind that the Biblical concept of “knowing” someone is to be intimate with, become ONE with, that person including in the loving marital act of sexual intercourse. “And Adam knew Eve his wife and she conceived...” Genesis 4:1 etc.

I'm just making the point that to know anyone, in the Biblical way, is to be very, very close to, and intimate with, that person.

IN Scripture, when Adam and Even were introduced, it was apparent she came from one body – his body. And they were to become ONE FLESH again, in marital love. Did you know we also become ONE SPIRIT WITH Christ? In Corinthians 6, Paul warns them of casual sex they were having with temple “virgins” – really prostitutes.

1 Corinthians 6:16-17

“Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” 17 **But he who is joined to the Lord is ONE SPIRIT with Him.”**

- Did you catch that?

Paul is clearly drawing the parallel between Adam and Eve – 2 – becoming one flesh, to us becoming one SPIRIT with Christ.

So this coming to know Yeshua the Messiah is a deep, deep commitment we make to be learning more and more about him, to be growing closer and closer, more and more intimate, to please Him, to live for him, to want to be with him, to REPRESENT him well in our speech, actions and life, just like someone you're engaged to, or betrothed to.

Knowing God and Yeshua is not just knowing who they are and what they stand for – but also living more and more like God, acting more and more like God, and a life that is changing to his glory.

COMING TO REALLY KNOW OUR FATHER

If you really WANTED to get to know someone of great importance, what would have to happen? President Trump, Queen Elizabeth, even a famous movie star or top CEO – would have to get past a lot of “Gate keepers’ and you’d almost **need an invitation** to get to know him/her.

So HOW do we come to know our father and Savior? (quick answers from audience)

It starts with the Highest Being in the universe selecting you, yes you – and not those of noble birth so much, – and perhaps before you were even born. We KNOW that early selection is true of:

- Samson (Judges 13:1-8), Jeremiah (Jer. 5:1);
- Cyrus the emperor (Isa. 44:28; 45:1);
- John the Baptist (Luke 1:14-15); Paul (Gal. 1:15-16)
- and probably more of us than we realize. Maybe all of us?

He doesn't select us because we're good (Titus 3:4-7) but because HE is good.

Moses was called and yet seemed to know very little about this Being talking to him through a burning bush and had to ask for God's name. Remember, “God” is what he IS; “God” is not his name. But God first called Moses before anything else happened.

You know the scriptures in John 6:44 that no one can come to Christ without the Father first picking that person AND drawing him. Yes, God himself selects those He's calling now. He's actually picking the Bride for his Son. More on that in a few minutes. God the father handpicked you. He selected YOU.

Even in the creation of Adam: don't forget that Adam was created outside the Garden of Eden and was brought by Elohim/God into God's presence, into God's garden. See **Genesis 2, especially verses 7-8, 15.**

It will be very important that you take that calling seriously.

Parable of Wedding Supper – **Matthew 22:1-14** – each one had an excuse, a reason NOT to come to the fabulous wedding supper. You may THINK you've answered the call, but are you spending time with Yeshua, do you go for walks with him, do you have him on your mind throughout the day, every day?

POINT #1 – GOD SELECTS YOU FIRST to be able to come to him NOW. For NOW, he is NOT yet choosing everyone to come to him; not yet. **But YOU have been called. SO Pt 1 – God selects you and you MUST accept that invitation and start responding to him in order to even START to come to truly know him.**

Responding includes absolutely believing in Yeshua, the son of God, as your Savior. Nothing happens until you come to believe, confess, and acts on acknowledging your need for a Savior and acknowledging Him as your Redeemer, Savior. This matter of believing in Jesus Christ (Yeshua) is worthy of several sermons by itself.

Have you said in actual words, in prayer, “Dearly beloved Father in heaven, thank you for calling me into the Body of your Son, Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus the Christ). I don’t deserve such a high calling, but yes sir, I accept it and am so grateful for you choosing me to be invited to The Wedding Supper of the Son of God. Thank you. I’ll be there.”

If you’ve never said those words, I suggest you do. Soon. And then we live like we mean it.

So he opens the door by calling us. It is the GRACE and GOODNESS of God that takes lowly you and me and gives us the opportunity of an eternity! And he seems, for the most part, to be selecting and revealing himself to the lower classes and poorer and even despised peoples – including horrible sinners (we’re all sinners).

Titus 3:4-7

“But when the *kindness and the love of God our Savior* toward man appeared, 5 NOT by works of righteousness which WE have done, **but according to HIS MERCY He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit**, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been JUSTIFIED (declared righteous) by HIS grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

So God decided to pick you and work with you. Now you have to answer. It’s HIS mercy that saves us, and we’re washed in baptism and receive the Holy spirit and come into his presence.

He guided events and circumstances in our lives to lead us to fall down on our knees and beg for forgiveness for our sins. But it wasn’t OUR goodness that did all that, but HIS goodness that leads us to repentance.

Romans 2:4

“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not **knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?** “

And look at you! You’re just like most of those God called – relative nobodies.

Many of the “great ones” of Bible lore were servants, shepherds (a lowly despised group), foreigners – and not people of nobility or rank or royalty. VERY, very few royals and nobles were picked as 1 Cor. 1:26-29 clearly explains. And so he called you too. When you read the story in Luke 14 and Matthew 24, when those first bidden refused to come, what happened: GOD – the KING putting on the wedding, said this:

Matthew 22:8-10

Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' 10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered

together all whom they found, **both bad and good**. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

Yehovah has ALWAYS wanted to – ultimately – be close to his creation and his people. He walked with Adam and Eve. He camped with Israel; the Tabernacle was smack dab in the middle of the camp. **But he wants to know we appreciate it. We SHOW we appreciate him by taking the TIME to go spend time with Him.**

Once we accept the call to come to know god the highest and Yeshua –

POINT 2 – make the time to be with him in prayer, study, meditation, interaction... beseeching him. He says often, he will be found by those who seek him diligently.

How many times did Adam and Eve take of the offered Tree of Life. Never.

How many times did the Israelites come often to the Tabernacle to commune with God thru the priests? Some did, but many obviously didn't. We're no better today. In one word, you and I can be transported to the very presence of God; in fact He's inside us; But how often do we come before him!? **Seriously!? How seriously ARE we taking this opportunity?**

The calling sequence is clearly seen in the Tabernacle

- God opens the door to you to come to meet him. **ONE DOOR – Yeshua.**
- **YOU** are the one who decides to come... and come often!
- Altar—ask forgiveness
- Who was the one examined? **NOT the offerer, but the offering!** The LAMB had to be blameless.
- We are to also forgive one another as well
- After repentance (altar) is Baptism – bronze laver where you wash
- Now the priests (we are a royal priesthood, remember) go inside – to Holy place - eat of his bread, let HIS Menorah light shine, come closer in PRAYER (Altar of incense)
- Go thru the veil – enter thru Messiah's body
- Come boldly (Heb 4:15) to the MERCY seat where we receive God's love, forgiveness and acceptance

The initial encounter with the Son of God can come in a variety of ways, but they all end up in amazement and repentance.

- **Wrestle all night** – like Jacob.... Were you wrestling with God at times in your life over issues, over health, finances, or relationships?
- **Moses – the burning bush; In Exodus 3.**
- **Knocked off your high horse** – like Paul Acts 9. "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting ME?"

- JOYOUS – LIKE Zacchaeus – Luke 19:1-9
- Amazement – like the Samaritan woman at the well John 4 - left water

Have you said, in actual words, “Yeshua, I love you. I accept you as Savior. You are my Beloved Redeemer. I accept Father’s Call and want to come to know you and Abba as deeply as possible.” We believe in our hearts and **confess Christ** with our LIPS, THAT’S God’s Son and has been resurrected! We can’t be SECRET DISCIPLES. See **Romans 10:9-10**

OPEN UP to Yeshua in prayer. Yes you can also pray to Yeshua. See my blog on that.

So once we accept the call to come to know God the HIGHEST and Yeshua – remember these things: POINT 2 – make the time to come to know him.

- **All relationships need to be your priority and where you put your time.** We can’t ever assume we know someone enough and stop! All relationships must be NURTURED. We must keep the fire alive.
- **It takes lots of focused time with each other and nurturing a budding relationship. It requires a seeking to know, a desire to learn all you can about /from the person .**
 - **Carole’s conversations vs mine** – she hangs on to one person for an hour, whereas I flit from one to another getting to “know” as many as possible, but at the end of the day, she knows 2-3 very well.

“Seek me with ALL your heart .. and you will find me.” So many scriptures say that.

DO we still study bible every day? Remember the Lesson of **MANNA** – daily pick up the bread from heaven. **DAILY, early in the day.** Manna pictures Christ – who calls himself the “Bread from heaven, from God” – See **John 6:29-33** on your own.

The POINT of true Bible study is to find the Son of God – Yeshua, remember. I read it earlier (John 5:38-40).

How about serious prayer? Or have Facebook and Instagram eaten up all your time?

You are called the TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit. What were other ways people spoke of the temple? It was “the House of God”, **“the HOUSE OF PRAYER”**.

You are now God’s temple. YOU are. Would your life and how you use your time make people think of you as a “house of prayer”?

But people -- and God – open up to us the more we seek him in prayer and Bible study and time focused on listening to him. Listen, even as you pray.

Point 3: RELATIONSHIPS OPEN UP WHEN WE DO THINGS THAT PLEASE THE OTHER AND NOT ANGER THE OTHER. SEEK TO PLEASE GOD, and you will find you're coming to know him.

All dealings, all relationships, are like your **BANK ACCOUNT**: You're either making deposits that grow the relationship or withdrawals, that hurt the relationship. You can see that YHVH became distant as Israel withdrew from their true God.

SO – to know GOD is to seek his will, OBEY him, quit a life of sin as a way of life.

1 John 2:3-6

"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He **who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.** 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

Turn now to Titus 1. I hope this doesn't describe us, but the truth is, it does at times, and this is why we must repent often and come before the Mercy Seat of God. But we can't keep going against God's way as a way of life and think he's pleased with us.

Titus 1:16

"They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work."

If we truly want to be close to our God and Father –and to Yeshua – will get very, very serious about the sins and weaknesses we still see in our lives. God's children cannot continue a life of sin, as a way of life. No more flirting, having affairs and adultery or fornication, no more carelessness on the way we keep sabbath. We no longer gossip, get drunk, look at porn. We no longer skip paying tithes and offerings. We now actively seek to do good – to help others, to share what we can, to love our spouse, to submit and be humble with one another.... We're changing, in other words. We're **OVERCOMING**. God will reward those who overcome – see the messages to the 7 churches of Revelation 2-3.

If Christ is truly living in us, He will live inside us in a way that pleases God. That's the way he walked before.

John 8:29

"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, **for I always do those things that please Him."**

2 Timothy 2:4

"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier".

Then, if we live a life that is seeking to please our Father and Saviour, guess what? He even blesses us more and answers more prayers. This next verse is a good transition to the next point.

1 John 3:21-23

"Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His

commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. 23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.”

When we deeply understand the NEED for our Father and our Messiah, when we RESPOND to that need and calling, we will act more and more like Messiah acts, *think* more and more like God, and speak as one with our Father and Savior.

ULTIMATELY, we have faith in the righteousness of God that is GIFTED, IMPUTED, CREDITED to us by faith, thru faith in Yeshua. It is HIS righteousness that covers us and allows us to be presented faultless before him (Jude 24) and without spot or wrinkle.

Looking to Yeshua in total submitted faith and belief

I'm giving a sermon soon on pleasing God. There's so much more to say about it. In fact, I have a sermon already on this website on that point – pleasing God – but want to refresh it. So let's move on... but just remember that the WAY to know him is to open the door to have the Resurrection life of Christ to come into our lives.

POINT 4 -- To KNOW God – the HEAD – we MUST know, forgive, accept, interact with and LOVE his BODY!

This knowing, this union with Christ, should be life changing for each of us - - if it's real.

And these points fulfill the summary of all God's commands, the 2 greatest commands: to love Elohim (God the Father AND Yeshua the Word) AND also to love people, especially those who make up the Body of Christ.

Some of us can't even seem to love our spouse or brethren who believe differently than we do. We're supposed to even love enemies, let alone believers who attend elsewhere. Think about it.

Scripture is clear: God wants oneness and love in the body. “By THIS shall all men know... for your profound love for one another” (paraphrased) John 13:34-35

The Body of Christ is made up of anyone who has received the Holy Spirit. MOST of those are not people who attend where you attend. They are scattered in many groups.

MY disciples, Jesus said, won't' be fighting each other, or backbiting each other, or flinging dung on each other, or be gossips and all that. Satan is the Accuser of the Brethren. We don't work like him or for him.

ONENESS in the body is what Yeshua and his apostles stand for. Read Yeshua's prayer in John 17:21-23. Read Paul's statements in 1 Cor. 1:10-13. When we come into the “fellowship of His Son...” (v.9), that includes the fellowship of Christ's BODY. We come together in spirit as one, holy, united, loving body.

Let me say it again: you can't say you love Yeshua and then be mean to part of his body by gossiping against a brother or sister, or committing adultery or any other sin against God and his family. We've ALL done nasty things one time or another against the body in either sins of commission or sins of omission.

1 John 4:8-9, 11, 20-21

"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him."

Verse 11: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

v. 20-21: "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: **that he who loves God MUST love his brother also."**

Please re-read the above passages in 1 John 4 several times. It shouts to me, frankly. I need to be and to show and to feel more love to all my sisters and brothers in Christ.

Is there a brother or sister you would rather not sit next to for Passover?

Is there a brother or sister –"over in that other group" you wouldn't take a bullet for? How about –is there any brother or sister you wouldn't invite to your home?

THINK: "The Messiah died for that person (even a bad sinner). Why should I stand in judgement of one for whom Christ died"

We can't claim to know Christ –the head of the body – while we're kicking him in the shins, meaning hurting part of his body.

Paul says, how dare we say anything against someone for whom Christ died! How dare we!!

Paul also says in 2 Cor. 5, last 5 verses, that since we are new creations – we need to **see each other** as brand new in Christ.

Passover FOOTWASHING – we are acknowledging that we want to WASH one another, and acknowledging Christ already has! That's opposite the mindset of those who want to trash someone they feel can't be forgiven. Don't listen to them or be part of such hateful people. Pray for them to come to – and come see – the Light.

I have a 5 sermon series on "ONE BODY" – look for those 5 sermons. We're all fractured right now, but if the love of God is truly in us, we'd be doing everything possible to come together.

Yeshua himself said, "IF you're not gathering with Me, you're scattering"
(Luke 11:23)

SO – do you and I know Him? It's a constantly growing project, and something we'll be trying to accomplish in our lifetime, like Paul said.

I suspect most of us are growing in that.... But remember it takes time, attention, nurturing, and ask for the heart he wants us to have. Ask him to give you a new heart. Call him your Beloved. Ask him to speak to you. Then LISTEN.

Have more QUIET times in your life. Turn off Facebook, Instagram, tweets and TV and games – and seek what's important: to come to know your maker and Saviour.

And you'll find your life is moving past the head knowledge kind of knowing – to knowing a real person in whom you delight and who delights in you.

And you have Eternal life in knowing God and Yeshua. Rivers of living water, deep flows of God's Holy Spirit, will begin rushing thru you.

When you pray, sometimes say out loud: "My king, I want to love you more, come to know you more, BE more and more like you. Please come live and move inside me by your spirit. Help me look more and more like you. Help me imitate you. Shine in me. *Let people see more and more of you, and less and less of me.*"

I began by asking you what your lifelong dreams/quests would be. And which would be your biggest ones? Remember John Goddard and his bucket list of 127 goals?

I like Paul's answer: "That I may KNOW HIM... and the power of HIS resurrection." Let's read it one last time....

Philippians 3:7-11

"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish (dung – KJV), that I may gain Christ ..."

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 THAT I MAY KNOW HIM and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."