

# Do YOU know God? part II

**Pastor Othniel James**

**Main Scripture:** 1 John 2: 3-11; Genesis 4 1- 11

**Supporting Scriptures:** 1 John 3:23; 1 John 2: 7 - 10; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 5:43; 1 John 2:9; Matthew 7: 21; 1 John 3:15; 1 John 4:20; 1 John 1:6; 1 Corinthians 13; Deuteronomy 10:19; John 13:35; John 15:12

*[Recap:]*

*To know him we must believe in the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

*To know him we must Love one another*

The Lord said to Cain "why are you so angry? you will be accepted if you do what is right...watch out sin is crouching at the door eager to control you but you must subdue it and be its master"

Two brothers went into the presence of the Lord to worship him and offer an offering to the Lord. Abel offered from the firstborn of his flock the best portion while Cain presented some of his crops. Two men, same parents. While they were offering their gifts the Lord looked down on Abels and accepted his offering but rejected Cain's offering. Because of this Cain became angry with his brother so he called him out to the field and attacked his brother. He is so emotionally charged he attacked his brother and killed him in the midst of worship. Both of them went up to worship the eternal God one is presenting his offering by faith and one is accepted and one is rejected and the end result is murder. To know God means we have to love one another.

1 John 2:7-8

It's an old commandment to love one another but this old commandment is also new because of Jesus Christ. It is new because Jesus Christ has lived out this commandment. We were eyewitnesses of this. The command of Love, we watched our master and how he patterned his life and recognized how refreshing it was, he loves good people and bad people. He never selected who to share his love with. He showed his love to a woman in adultery, to the lepers, the samaritan woman. He had no prejudice, we saw love in a new dimension expressed in him. we have never seen love like this before He came. the Love that he expressed brought him to a sinners house and sat down and had a meal with him. The love he had brought a woman to wash his feet with her tears and dry them with her hair. This old commandment is new because of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment. Not only he, but you who are in Christ are also living it. Why? because the darkness is disappearing and the true light is shining.

Matthew 5:43

Love! that you may be children of your father. The easiest thing is to react in a manner that a person has acted to you. Someone showing hatred, the easiest thing to do is to act in the same manner. "you don't like me?, well I don't like you either!" It's easy to love those who love you but Jesus says to love your enemies, bless those that curse you, and do good to them that hate you.

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Bless those that hate you and pray for those that use you. They have not shown love to you but you have love within you. There is love residing in every man that is in Christ. like Stephen who was stoned for declaring the Gospel and Stephen said " Lord forgive them, don't lay these sins to their charge..." that's love. When you act this way you will be the children of your Father in heaven. The natural thing is to respond with hatred but the Lord said that is not the way of the believing saint. That person has to take a high road and respond according to what the Lord has given him. He has to respond in Love.

The only way we will be children of our father is to Love as God loves.

The whole idea of Love is that there is the brilliance of a light shining on us that will allow us to love as Jesus did. It is in the heart of everyone that is in Jesus, we have the capacity to Love.

This love is not an emotional one, loving today and changing tomorrow, no, this love is one that comes from God. Everyman in this world cries out for the Love of God, it is only that some of us do not understand it.

1 John 2:9

the person who hates his brother does not know God. You cant know God and hate your brother.

Matthew 7: 21; 1 John 3:15

If we say we have Christ but living in darkness we are a liar, so if we hate our brother and say we have fellowship with Jesus we are liars. The obedient man is the one who is seeking to know God by Jesus Christ and loves his brother.

Even after giving everything and sacrificing if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

**Love is not:**

impatient

unkind

boastful

jealous

proud

rude

demanding its own way

irritable

keep records of being wronged.

a post-it app where we document all the wrongs done to us. rejoice in injustice

give up (Quitter)

lose faith

**Love is always:**

Hopeful

enduring

I remember in Sunday school we would memorize these verses and we would be so proud that we know them but the older we become and the experience when we have in life when Love is tested we have to go back and think about the reality of these words. love is not "unless you do as I say..."

*What do we do with the emotional hurt when others have wronged us?*

This is where the subject of forgiveness comes in because love tells us we can not keep a record of doing wrong.

Those in Christ who loves their brother, nothing can separate him from the love of God

Deuteronomy 10:19

Make sure you love the stranger among you because you were also strangers.

It's by your deeds that people will know that you are following him.

John 15:12 - it's a challenge to each of us and God will not require of us this challenge if he didn't give us the capability to love one another. The Holy Ghost is the love of God shed abroad in our hearts. (Romans 5:5)

The person who hates his brother is walking in darkness. It is good for us to believe that especially if we are struggling to love a fellow believer.

If we are not children of the light we are children of the darkness.

A person in darkness is self-centered and is overwhelmed by it and does not know the way to go because he is blinded by the darkness. The believing person is living in the light and does not trip up and cause others to stumble. Eternal life is him and he is not blinded in the world. The darkness is disappearing and the light is shining on him. He is living the word not just hearing the word but doing what the Lord says and because of that, he remains in the light.

### **Questions:**

*if there are allowances for physical protection would there be allowances for emotional protection as well?*

- the challenge of being emotionally hurt is sometimes more challenging than a physical hurt  
2 Corinthians 1: 3

God is the source of all comfort if we are to be healed we have to open up everything to the Lord all our burdens and anything that has caused us to hurt. Paul says God is the source of all comfort and comfort us in our troubles so we can comfort others. If we are emotionally hurt by that issue we will have to deal with it before we can put ourselves in a position where we may not be safe. Many times we will fall back in the same trap to be wounded again. One of the first steps to take is to open up to the Lord and be honest. Ask him to lead you through the word and heal you. The Lord knows how to comfort us, sometimes it's not the other party's fault but it happened to allows us to know something that is in us that the Lord wants to deal with. You may be emotionally hurt but the hurt may not be external. In coming to the Lord that comfort us he is the one that will heal us that when we are healed we won't have to fake anything.

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If a person is not healed and going out on their own strength it can be difficult. like Thomas who needed to see Jesus's scars to believe and be healed.

*What do you do in the interim while you are being healed?*

I don't believe God will leave us without a pathway to take. We need to now be obedient and do what he says and where he leads us we have to follow exactly what he states.

Paul says he comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. Even when we have these challenges the Lord comes close to us preparing us so we can comfort others.

if we recall the life of Jacob in Genesis 32 and the Angels of the Lord came to meet him and he wanted to go and see Essau but Jacob needed some healing to be touched by the lord. He had a vision of the heavens opening up and a ladder stretching from heaven to earth, next the bible tell us that the Lord changed Jacobs name to Israel a new name and purpose that when he went to see his brother in the strength of the Lord and then he had the ability to meet with Essau. Healing is so important, we can physically hug each other and our heart is saying something else. So whatever is wrong on the inside must be dealt with because the physical hug means nothing if there is still an issue on the inside.