



Unity Church of Christianity  
To Know is To Grow  
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I think it's fair to say that all of us want to know God, do we not? Actually, my hope is that all of us have a hunger and a thirst to know God with a degree of intensity that you act on and go deeper with. There is what we call an "all knowing mind of God." This all knowing mind of God is accessible to us at all times. The Bible speaks of it as the secret place of the Most High. If God is this all knowing mind, and we are made in the image and after likeness of God, then we basically have within us a dimension that carries a connectedness to this all knowing mind of God. A deep soul level at the core of our being is this all knowing mind that we should be able to access.

We are all evolving. We are all in the process of awakening spiritually and bringing into conscious awareness what we are held to be in the mind of God. The true reality of the idea—we are an idea in the mind of God and we are seeking to fully express it. Of course, we say that Jesus Christ was the model of this. He was the great example. He was the great way-shower of the idea that you and I are meant to be loving, light-filled beings.

The purpose for us being here on this Earth is to grow and that's what we're always being called toward. Sometimes we think it's all outer stuff we have to do, that we're being called to be somebody in the world. The truth is that we're being called at another level internally to be what

we were created to be in the mind of God. To enter into the dynamic of growing requires a level of knowing and that knowing comes with a relationship with God.

It's been said that all of us are geniuses and that we all have the genius of God within us. We may not be expressing it fully. Life is about growing into our potential.

A story that I found interesting was about a very good teacher in New York, some years ago, who chose to retire. The superintendent of schools asked if she would please consider staying on another year. He had a difficult assignment within a school system in a particular class made up of troublesome children who brought guns and knives to school. Many of them ran in gangs and it was just difficult. The superintendent said, "I'll provide a security officer in the classroom, but I need somebody who's equipped and a great teacher that could handle this." She thought about it, prayed about it and researched it a little bit and finally made a decision. She would stay on another year, but she did not want a security officer in the class. When she walked into the classroom that first day she said to the students, "I know that we have some discipline problems here, but you kids are geniuses, and in this class, we're going to ask you to perform at that level." And they actually did. At the end of the year they had achieved the highest scores in their grade level. As a result, this lady was called to receive an award, and as she was going to receive the award, someone involved in that school said, "How in the world did you bring those kids to that level of achievement?" She said, "Well, I was given a list of all the children's names and their IQs. I knew that everyone was a genius in that class, so all I had to do was teach them like the geniuses that they were." The person happened to know what that list was about and said, "Ma'am those numbers you were given were their locker numbers."

The beauty of this is they performed at the level of expectation she held for them, the level of knowing. There was something she knew about those kids that they didn't yet know and grasp about themselves. There was a transfer of the knowledge she had that they were able to pick up and reach for. It's a beautiful thing to know, and when you know, there is an actual transfer. When you know something about another person you are a tremendous blessing. When you know there's good in a person who may be having difficulty or a challenge, there is something beautiful that is transferred and conveyed. Never, never forget that.

Back in the early 1990s, Marilyn vos Savant was listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* for having the highest IQ. I don't know if that's the case anymore, but she was a columnist for *Parade Magazine* and I'm told that she is still writing and her name is familiar to people. A reader sent this question to Marilyn, "If you were allowed to make only one statement which your children would follow throughout their lives, what would it be?" Her answer was rather eloquent. She said, "The length of your education is less important than its breath, and the length of your life is less important than its depth." That is very, very powerful.

However long you live make sure you do it with a depth, a depth of knowing who you are, a depth of knowing your God, a depth of knowing you're here to be a loving being. Do it with depth. She's talking about being able to live in a broad expansive way. It's not necessarily diminishing education. She was saying your education is about the breath of education meaning the experience of life.

There are many whose lives have been short but very meaningful and carried a lot of depth. Certainly, one of them was Jesus Christ. He didn't have a long life, but He had a lot of depth that has carried over to so many people. There's a passage in chapter seven of the Gospel of John in which Jesus is attending a feast in Galilee. In the middle of the feast, He decides to leave and go to the temple and teach. It says in the passage that "The Jews marveled at Him." Some of them said, "How is it that this man has learning when he has never studied?" Jesus' answer for them was "My teaching is not mine, but His who sent me. If any man's will is to do His will, he shall know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my authority. He who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but he who seeks the glory of Him who sent Him is true."

In other words, all of us have been sent here, and there is a river of knowing that lives in us. There's a depth of knowing that we need to seek out and begin to live from. That's so important and sacred and holy in terms of our experience of life. It doesn't matter how long it is, but let it have depth the way that Jesus is talking.

Jesus is saying He wasn't a product of book learning. He was a product of the conditioning of oneness with the Divine. It was something coming through Him, and he was able to say, "I and the Father are one."

For the person whose will is a genuine authentic desire to do the will of God, the higher dimensions of life, he will know if the teaching is from God or not. The person will come to know internally if what they're doing is aligned with that higher dimension of themselves. There's a sense of greater clarity, a sense of greater depth that evolves in a person, a sincere desire to do the will of God.

Jean Houston is a wonderful speaker, author and educator. I have met her and heard her speak a number of times. She states this, "It is no longer possible for us to live as pale and diminished versions of ourselves. For a new world and a new millennium, we need a new mind with expanded senses and a deepened spirit."

What she is saying is for these times, or any time really, we need to go deeper. These are often referred to as difficult times, critical times, and scary times. Whatever you want to label the times, it calls us deeper. It calls for us to come from a deeper sense of knowing. Whatever the circumstances and the outer appearance of the world that may be frightening and upsetting, it

calls us more than ever to a deep sense of inner knowing. What is the truth? What are we knowing in that moment of time as opposed to being something different based on what's happening externally?

In Psalm 46, there is a wonderful and powerful passage about all the things going on outside, but there is something inside of you that you must not forget. The psalmist wrote this, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the Earth should change, though the mountains shake and the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. There is a river whose streams made glad the City of God, the Holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her. She shall not be moved."

What it's talking about is that we should never forget there is a river running through us and it is of God. It is the Holy habitation of the Most High. It is a place that can never be moved out of you. It lives in you. It is a river of truth. It is what Jesus referred to when he was leaving. He said, "The Holy Spirit will come with the whole truth and keep reminding you of what this whole truth is." Listen for the voice that will always be there.

Psalm 46 also has a verse that says, "Be still and know that I am God, and therefore I am with you." I am with you and know the Truth with me, and in that stillness comes a knowingness. If you don't know, you don't grow. It's about coming to a depth of knowing in this life, and if you use what you know then more will be given, more life, more joy, more love, and more opportunity to grow.

The question becomes "How do you come to know?" A powerful verse I felt was ordained by God to be given to me as a young man, when I was confirmed from Lutheran church, "Ask and it shall be given. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door will be opened unto you." Wouldn't you love to have that as your verse for life? That somehow every kid was given a verse and that was mine. It's now yours, "Ask and it shall be given unto you. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door shall be opened unto you."

Many people are too busy and preoccupied in their lives to stop and know God. To ask, to seek, to knock that's something we're called upon to do if we're going to a level of depth. Jesus explained a bit about this matter of those who come to know and those who do not come to know. In the Gospel of Mathew 13, a large crowd had gathered and Jesus began to speak in parables. The first was the parable of the sower telling about those who know and those who don't know, those who have depth and those who don't have depth. The seeds of truth are always falling in our path. Some fell along the path and birds ate them. Others fell on rocky ground and there wasn't much depth of soil so they sprang up real fast with a lot of excitement and enthusiasm, but when the sun came out they withered quickly. They didn't have depth. Others fell among thorns, and they were choked out by the thorns, and then finally the others fell among

good soil and brought forth grain 100 fold, 60 fold, 30 fold. The point is “Where are you?” Do you have an ability to be still and know and take it to a depth of your being so that you actually have a harvest of the grain? One hundred fold, 60 fold, 30 fold, depending on where you are in your enfoldment.

The disciples asked, “Why do you speak in parables?” Jesus was saying that basically there are those who are able to learn, who want to learn, who have ears to hear and eyes to see who are willing to take it to a depth, and if they are not, it’s going to go right over their heads because there isn’t a sincerity and a genuine authentic wanting to know. There isn’t a hunger and a thirsting.

He said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given.” He said, “For to him who has will more be given and he will have abundance, but from him who has not even that which he has will be taken away.” Then he quoted from Isaiah, “You shall indeed hear but never understand, and you shall indeed see but never perceive for this peoples’ hearts have grown dull and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed unless they should perceive with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and turn for me to heal them.”

In other words, there is an ability to see not just with your eyes but to actually perceive with your heart, to not just hear with your ears but to hear with your heart, to connect with life at another depth of being.

It’s what Gary Zukav has talked about in one of his books. He calls it “multisensory.” He is saying that some of us live at the surface sense of the five senses, and then others of us don’t have oil in our lamps. If you have the oil, you have the oil of the Divine. It’s lit. It has depth. It has ability.

One of the keys seems to be this genuine desire to know God’s will for us and to listen to this inner voice that is always there within us and then to follow it. For those who do, they will have eyes to see and ears to hear and more shall be given, your next step in your enfoldment.

My mother was a person who regularly prayed. She would go into her bedroom in the morning for about 30 minutes and have her quiet time. About 10 years ago, she was 80 years old and had been living alone for about seven years in the house I grew up in. She had lived there for 50 years. She had hip surgery and her mobility was in question. It was tentative whether she should be living alone. My sister and brother were there some looking after her, but we were kind of edging her to think about that and she was a bit resistant.

She could move around but was shaky. One day she was out in the yard, bent down to pull a weed and fell over. She was at the point if she fell over she couldn’t get up unless she found a

tree or something to cling to and pull herself up and there wasn't anything nearby. She began to drag herself to the neighbor. Here's my mom, 80 years old, dragging herself to the neighbor and in that moment she was hit with a deep knowing that it's time. It's time to go to a place where she could have some help around her. She shared with us that it was time, and she really moved on that knowing.

In a short manner of time we had her in the process of moving to a one bedroom apartment for seniors. She called me from the house the day she was moving and asked, "Did you read *The Daily Word* today?" And *The Daily Word* is a daily devotional with a message for each day. She had read *The Daily Word*, and I said, "No, mom, I haven't read it yet this morning." She started to tell me that "It's just perfect, exactly written for me" as to what was happening in her life. She began to read it to me and broke down crying two or three times. She said, "I don't know why I'm so emotional about it."

The truth is I knew why she was emotional about it. She had made a decision and it had come from a deep knowing as if God spoke to her, "It's time." It's time to move on and she had acted on it, and now it was as though God was confirming this was the right move. It just felt like such a connection to the spirit inside of her. This was the message that day, and it could relate to a lot of us and it certainly did to her. "I have the spiritual resources to meet change with success. I am ready to move on to new places, perhaps a new home or job is on my horizon or my new place, maybe the next plateau of my spiritual growth or a greater level of responsibility in my career. I thank God for creating this new start for me. As I move forward, I use this opportunity to leave behind the old habits, old ways of thinking and even old belongings that no longer serve me. I have everything I need to adapt to the changes in my life because I bring with me all the spiritual resources I have acquired through the years: faith, optimism, inner strength and an awareness that God is with me at all times and in all places." Isn't that beautiful? It was great.

Inside of all of us is a voice. It is the voice of the Christ, the voice of the Holy Spirit, the voice of the whole truth. It is what Jesus called the good shepherd. He said you will recognize that voice the same way that sheep know when it is their shepherd or a stranger. It is familiar, they know. They know that they know. You have a shepherd speaking as a voice inside of you as you get to know it.

Jesus says, "Truly, truly I say unto you I am the door of the sheep." The Christ in you, this voice is the door that you are to move through. We are to create a path in us to this river of knowing.

One day there were four employees from different departments standing around a copy machine, the first person was from accounts payable and she said, "We have to get our bills paid so I should go first." The accounts receivables person said, "If I don't get our receivables collected you won't have the money to pay the bills." The product manager wanted on the copier and said, "No, no, unless I sell something there won't be any receivables to collect to pay the bills so I

should go first.” Well then the last person standing around the copy machine was from payroll and everyone swiftly cleared the path saying, “Payroll! Let the lady through.”

We need to create that kind of path inside of us where the Christ within or the Holy Spirit or the spirit of truth is able to speak, and the door is swung wide open into the depths of knowing the truth of who you are and who you are to be.

We face many distractions at the same time we are trying to do this in life. I’ve heard the story of Jones the mechanic who was scheduled to have a heart transplant from the famous Dr. DeBakey. Jones said to the doctor, “I’m a mechanic. I also take valves out, grind them and put in new parts, and when I finish this baby purrs like a kitten. How come you get the big bucks and we do basically the same thing?” And DeBakey said, “Try doing your work with the engine running.”

There are lots of things going on around us in this world all the time busy, busy, busy. In the midst of outer things that are running and going on we have to do whatever it takes to go to the heart of life, to the depth of life.

There is a quote from Red Fire written by Paula D’Arcy that speaks to me. It goes, “There is a plane of existence that to us is very real. Within this reality we raise our families, publish newspapers, shop for food and clothing, marvel at the world’s artistry, form governments and create laws for the common good. Moving inside of these agreements we work together with purpose and possibility never questioning the appearance of things. Yet, within this experience even as we live it, there is something else which knows us and which is calling us to itself. In the midst of full and complicated lives, it is there, but while many things in life clamor for our attention, this presence will not force itself to be heard above the competing sounds of our coveted routines. It waits shimmering at the edge of our imagination. Only the opening of the heart calls it forward and only the spirit within is able to know it. Everything else is an echo. As we experience the moments we call our lifetime, there is always the dilemma between choosing to see only the lesser plane of existence or to awaken.”

The choice is yours. Today is a choice laid before you to awaken and to awaken means to go deeper, to listen to this voice, to touch the river of God. The voice that wants to take you to the truth of who you are, to get acquainted, to be intimate, to be genuine and authentic, to know that love is what you are, that you are a spiritual being, an internal being. To know that you know that you know that this is the truth of who you are.

Get still, listen to the voice in you that says, “Be still and know that I am God.” To know is to grow. God bless you all.