

YOU KNOW ME

“You know me, right, Jesus?”

Your Word says in Matthew 7: 23, “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity”.

“Well, Jesus, I don’t think I try to sin on purpose. I talk to You about things I do and don’t do. I ask forgiveness, most of the time..” “When it comes down to it, You knew and know me.”

When the last trumpet sounds, and the dead in Christ rise (1 Thessalonians 4: 16) I’ll be included. My name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. (Revelation 21: 7)

“Your Word says that many will say they prophesied in Your name, cast out devils, and did good works”. “You, then, tell them: You never knew them.”

God’s Word says we are known by our fruits. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, temperance and faith. These are discussed in Galatians 5.

All humans want to know and be known to some extent. God made people to be with others and to help others. God instigated loving neighbors as we love ourselves.

“Right!” Got it, Jesus. I give to food pantries and give my tithe to the Father. I love my family and tend to my home and husband. I pray for others. I praise You in advance for answered prayers concerning safety for loved ones and hurricane protections and more. That is not why or how You know me, though.

I trust You knew me before I was born. (Psalm 139:13) What a mystery! God knew me, formed me, brought me forth, knew I’d need a Savior and still let me have a life. Well...I’ll be. See, when I contemplate God’s giving us humans free choice to decide to let Jesus in our hearts and lives, I’m curious. He could have made us all robots while somehow having us be formed in His image. (Genesis 1: 26)

I get the idea of being told to get away, though. “Jesus, You desire Your buddies who talk to You daily and trust You, to be with You.”

Back in the days Jesus walked the earth, He had some true followers and some who weren't really His friends.

What is your definition of the word: friend? Webster defines it as a person who has a strong liking for and trust in another. We can add some more thoughts to this. We may add someone who checks in with us at least weekly. We may add the idea of someone who is in our presence one way or another: regularly.

Some people hung with Jesus just to see the "show". They saw miracles He did and enjoyed His way of public speaking. They didn't really decide to put all their personal faith in Jesus. They literally could not believe their human eyes.

When Jesus told of a heaven and a hell, they didn't personalize the message. I gather, at the end of their life, when they took their last breath, they found out a cold, harsh truth. Jesus didn't have His angels there to escort them to heaven to be with the Father for eternity. (Psalm 116: 15) (Luke 16: 22)

"Depart from Me, I never knew you".

Yes, Jesus even took time away. He departed from the crowds to be with His Father. He got "over-peopled". That's my terminology. I can relate to this aspect of Jesus' personality. He was weary. He needed refreshing. His body was human flesh.

The people all had needs and wanted attention. Picture the young mother with several children. She longs for time alone: just for herself. I feel for you. Picture the on call doctor who is busily caring for bunches of people in the emergency room. Picture the sincere Pastor who shepherds his flock. They all need time to refresh. Listen to the mother raise her voice and holler: "Get away from me!" "I just want 5 minutes alone!"

We've all been there. We have times when we don't feel worthy of anything or anybody, too, right? To coin a recent phrase from the elections: we all feel deplorable at times. We have moments we desire to crawl into a hole and just be our despicable selves. Things aren't going right, we don't feel secure, we don't FEEL love/security/sense of self worth/ loveliness ...etc. We want to be alone. (channel Greta Garbo) No, don't really channel someone who is dead. I'm just sayin.....

We take our time with our chocolate and have our pity party. We dust ourselves off and realize, even though we don't feel Jesus' closeness: He is there. He is always there. (Deuteronomy 31: 6) (Hebrews 13: 5 and more...) He will never leave or forsake us. "Neither

height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

We are loved. We are known. We have faith in this fact. We trust Jesus with His many promises. We exercise our gift of faith. See 1 Corinthians 12 for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We who have faith in Jesus, also, can have an extra abundance of faith as a Spiritual gift from Him. Isn't this awesome?!? He wants to bestow His many gifts on us, His “friends”.

Are you His friend? John 15: 15 says: “Henceforth I call you not servants, for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends: for all things that I have heard from my Father, I have made known unto you.” Isn't that way cool?!?

I totally believe I am saved by grace, alone, and am a “friend” of God. (Let's sing that song in our heads, now) Let's think of Ephesians 2: 8 when it says: “For by grace are ye saved, through faith, that not of yourselves: it's the gift of God”.

In review, we, who are friends of the most High God, the Great I Am, have the gift of faith and the gift of grace, salvation, an ever present Friend Who never sleeps and will never forsake us.

This is super! We say thank You, Jesus.

Thanks for taking the time to know me. I can't wait till my faith shall be sight. (See Galatians 3: 11) (2 Corinthians 5: 7) We walk by faith, not by sight and without faith, it's impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11: 6)

“Thanks for ever increasing my faith, Jesus.” “Ya know how I am.....”