

Knowing God for Yourself

By Evangelist Juanita McCoy

I have learned through the years that having a relationship requires time and effort. One of the greatest and most important ones for me is the one that I have with God. God created us to have a relationship with him. In fact, **Deuteronomy 4:35** (NIV) states, "You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides Him there is no other."

Psalms 100:3 (NIV) says, "*Know that the Lord is God. It is He who has made us, and we are His; we are His people; the sheep of His pasture.*" In my time with the Lord, I saw how God clearly showed Himself to me. He proved over and over again his love, grace, and peace to me. He showed me how he would always be there for me, and if I allowed Him, He would guide me in all my ways.

My experiences with God on a daily basis changed. It changed from expressions such as "Lord, give me!" "Lord, change this!" "Lord, get me out of this!" And, it changed to, Lord, "what is your will?" "What am I to do?" "Where am I to go?" "Is this pleasing to you?" However, none of this way of thinking happened overnight. It came from spending time in the word of God, prayer, and lots of waiting to hear from the Lord, through listening, worshiping, trusting, meditating, exercising faith through the trials, and giving thanks. It began to change my thought patterns. My heart changed for myself, and especially towards the way I felt about others. My ways and my speech also changed.

Knowing God involves two-way communication. It's just not about you 'wanting' and then 'asking' Him. It's more than that! It's about God speaking, teaching, and loving you as well. Like any earthly relationship; trust, faith, knowledge of the person, and understanding of that person comes from you spending time with them. It's all about a process; one that may take months and years for you to develop a deeper and closer relationship with God that carries you beyond time. Once enraptured in His love, God never wants the relationship to end. He has plans for you and me to spend an eternity with Him. He loves us and wants to communicate with us forever. And so the word of God stands true. "*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, and who correctly handles the word of truth.*" (**2 Tim 2:15**, NIV)

Knowing God for yourself involves an investment of your time. As with any relationship, any time that you spend working at the relationship, helps to further develop and nurture it, and it is time well spent. Search the scriptures for yourself and get a new and deeper understanding of who God is and how He loves and cares for you. No one can do that for you, but you all by yourself. Until such time, "may the grace of God keep you, abide in you, and give you a closer relationship to Him".

[Faithfully submitted January 7, 2010 by Evangelist Juanita McCoy, Member of Words For Life Ministries Christian Center, Sicklerville, NJ 08081]