# Letter of Faith & Assurance #7

***1 John 2:3-6***

Walk Your Talk

Introduction: Today we are going to talk about knowing that we know Him. And the way that we know that we know Him is that we do what He said to do. “Hereby do we know that we know Him if we keep His commandments.” This is the first use of the word “know” in the book of 1 John. It is used 4 times in verses 3-6. It is the first of 26 times the word “know” is used in 1 John. So, it’s obvious in this letter, that John wants us to know something, to be absolutely certain. Now, the real issue is this...does a man know God simply because he says he knows God? If a man says he knows God, is there a way to know that he knows God? Because of what we find in this book we believe that salvation is something that we can be sure of. There are some who will say they are Christians but they do not know for sure they are going to Heaven. There are some who say they know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, but they have a problem with a person knowing without a doubt that Heaven will be their home.

Now, remember that John is writing this in defense of the influence of the Gnostics who believed that you could only know God through intellectual effort. John is writing to say that if a person does not come to the right conclusions about Jesus Christ, it does not matter how much they claim to know, they do not know God. And, if their lifestyle (their walk) is contrary to the character of God (which is Light), no matter what they say, they do not know God. (VERSE 6)

**I. Greek Religion and Culture**

 A. Rights of Initiation.

 1. Their purpose to bring them in contact to know their deities.

 a. Emotional experience to help them know the gods.

 b. To attain the audience of a deity (a god).

 2. Dramatic Presentation of a particular god.

a. They would manipulate the crowd with their emotions.

 1) Crafty lighting

 2) Music that appealed to the senses

c. When they experienced the climax of an emotional ecstatic state, they were told they had come in contact with God.

 d. They believed they knew God, because of a manufactured emotional experience.

 B. God is known when people believe the revelation that God has made known of Himself.

 1. God is not impressed with man’s intellect, abilities or resources.

2. “Let him that glorieth, glory in God.” (Jeremiah 9:23)

 3. What pleases God is for a man to humble himself to know Him and understand His word.

 a. the important thing is not money or power or influence to persuade.

 b. the important thing is loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness.

**II. Knowing that you Know Him.**

 A. That you know Him in salvation is understood.

 1. He is writing to believers “My Little Children”.

2. None of us have seen God, yet we are claiming that God and His Son whom we have never seen has secured the destiny of our eternal soul.

 a. We ask people if they are 100% sure they know that if they died they would go to Heaven.

 b. If a person says they think so, then they are somewhere under 100%.

 1) John is talking about knowing 100%.

 2) He doesn’t want us just to know that we are saved, he wants us to know that we know we are saved.

 3) No one wants to lay their head on their pillow at night, feeling 99% sure they will go to Heaven.

 B. How do you know that you know.

 1. If we keep His commandments.

 a. John is not saying that a person goes to Heaven by keeping God’s commandments.

 b. He is not talking about how you go to Heaven; that has already been settled.

 1) You go to Heaven by knowing God through a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

 2) You cannot God until you know Jesus.

 3) You can only come to God through Jesus.

 2. This is not referring to “arminianism” works for salvation.

 a. We are not talking about HOW to get saved.

 b. We are talking about evidence that one IS saved!

 3. There can be no “knowing Him” without evidence of a change in our walk that leads us to obedience to Christ.

 a. Your relationship with Jesus Christ should change you.

b. You cannot come into contact with the person Jesus Christ who is life eternal and there be no change in you.

 1) He forgives your sin and makes you a new creation

 2) He moves into you by His Holy Ghost

 c. When you get saved, there is a change expected in you.

 C. For by grace, Not by works (Eph 2:8-9)

 1. Through faith. It is a gift of God.

 2. Not of works lest any man should boast.

 3. For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

 a. You do not change your life to get saved.

b. But, when you get saved, you are a new creation and there will a difference in the old creation and the new.

 c. If there is no difference, then there is not reason to believe that eternal life is there.

 D. Not talking about perfect obedience without a flaw.

 1. We are talking about a walk.

 2. It is a direction that we are going.

NOTE: Send a person hitch-hiking to New York. Call him about 10 hours later and they are in Oklahoma. Now, I told them to go to New York...But he is heading in the right direction. Two days later, I call him and he is in St. Louis. Now, he is not in New York, but he is heading that way in the right direction. Several days later I call him and he is in Indianapolis. Not New York, but still in the right direction. Then after a few days, I call and he is in Colorado. Colorado is not on the way to New York. He says, I Know I took a wrong turn. Where are you heading now? I ask. He says he is going East out of Colorado Columbus, OH. Now, he took a wrong turn and got off track for a while, but now he is heading in the right direction. Later, I call him and he is in Columbus, OH. Now I told him weeks ago to go to New York and he is not there yet, but he is heading in that direction. The next week I call him and he is in West Virginia. He says I took another wrong turn, but now he is heading up to Pittsburg back on track on his way to New York.

 a. You might get off track here or there

 b. You might take a wrong turn now and then.

3. But if you are a child of God, there will be a working of God in your life so that you are still going in the right direction.

 a. Where is your walk going?

 b. The direction of your walk determines your ability to know that you know Him.

 E. Keep His Commandments.

1. If we have to know what they are before we are willing to obey them, we need to check our sincerity as a Christian.

 a. He said, “My yoke is easy...my burden is light.”

 b. The purpose of Jesus is not to weigh us down with a list of do’s and don’ts.

 2. He does expect certain things of us as a child of God.

 a. But He lives in us by the Holy Spirit to give us the ability to do what He asks.

 b. It is not a weariness to the flesh, but a dependence upon His power.

 3. We want Jesus as Lord theoretically.

 a. A person may claim that Jesus is not their Lord, but that does not change who He is.

 b. He is Lord of all whether a person acknowledges Him as their Lord or not.

 C. Basically the commandments we are to obey are what He gave us in the Sermon on the Mount.

1. We say we don’t want to go to Hell and we want to go to Heaven, but we don’t want any of His demands on our life.

 2. The Bible does not offer a salvation like that.

 a. If he lives in you, then He is coming to claim your life.

b. A person who says “I know Him” but accepts none of the demands He places on his life is called “a Liar, without the truth” by the Bible.

 3. To obey Jesus is not a “weighing down”

 a. Obedience is its own reward.

 b. You obey Jesus Christ, He gives you JOY!

 1) If the life and love of God are in you and you do what He says, He makes His presence more known.

 2) This is called abiding in His love.

4. When you obey Him, you know Him more. When you know Him more, you love Him more. When you love Him more, you obey Him more.

a. To obey Jesus does not “weigh you down” and make you miserable while the world is happy...they are missing out on true joy.

 b. Obedience to Jesus brings Peace and Joy.

5. Many Christians miss the joy, because they are convinced any mention of commandment is a negative thing. (verse 6)

6. A “holy life” is evidence of knowing Him, because a holy life is totally unnatural to the natural man, it is impossible to the natural man.

**Conclusion**:

Some have looked at these verses and concluded that we must maintain good works in order to remain saved. The truth however is that good works are merely the natural result