

## **“Do You Really KNOW Him?”**

My granddaughter Sara texted me the other day to tell me her church is also doing a 21 day fast, and her goal for the fast is to read her Bible and pray daily - two activities she hasn't been doing on a regular basis. She explained that while she went to church faithfully, and volunteered in many areas, she didn't really KNOW Jesus (her words) and was determined to develop an intimate relationship with Him.

I am going to take a wild guess here and say that this scenario probably describes a large portion of the body of Christ today! I believe many have made a “verbal acceptance” of Christ, and are active in their local church, but don't have a deep, from the heart intimate relationship with the One they call Lord! Is that a hard concept for you to believe? Read on...

Here's what Jesus says in Mt. 7:21-23: *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”* God anointed a donkey to speak to Balaam - think about that!

Here's a succinct definition of a common law marriage: *“Common law marriage rules require couples...to intend to be married, cohabit, and publicly present themselves as spouses...without a formal ceremony or license, acting like a married couple to the community...”* I believe many of us have good intentions, and publicly present ourselves as Christians, but have never been willing to commit to an intimate relationship with Him - we want all the benefits, but with no responsibilities. There are NO eternal benefits from a common law marriage to Jesus - we have to ACT on our good intentions and make a lasting commitment!

Here's an excerpt from “Enduring Word Commentary: *“In the end, there is one basis of salvation; it isn't mere verbal confession, not “spiritual works,” but knowing Jesus and being known by Him. It is our connection to Him – by the gift of faith that He gives to us – that secures our salvation. Connected to Jesus we are secure; without connection to Him all the miracles and great works prove nothing.”*

The word Jesus used for know is the Greek word “ginosko” *In essence, ginosko points to a dynamic, relational, and often transformative knowledge, not just abstract information.” “I never knew you,” indicates a lack of intimate relationship...”* Jesus WANTS to know you, and wants you to know Him! Are you willing to surrender to Him, make a genuine commitment to Him, and begin to really KNOW Him? Amen!

