

Humility: The Key of Knowledge

Part 1: Introduction

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Full Text (for reading on your own)

Testimony: the Perfect House!

Nothing about our walk with God is theoretical. Everything about our walk with God is ACTUAL. When we encounter Who God is, it is a transformative experience - resulting in testimonies, measurable testimonies of breakthrough!

Listen to Derrick and Erin's testimony from about 1:00 - 6:30.

In short, they have desired to own their own home for some time and they are now in contract for a house that not only meets their needs, but ticks all the "wants" boxes as well! Not only did the Lord give them their desire, but the way that He did it cared for them, how they process things, what they want, and even beyond what they want!

Recap

Our first series on the theme of humility was "The Freedom that Comes when Pride Goes." Our second series on humility was "God's Positioning for Promotion." When you step into humility, God will exult you. Humility really is God's positioning for promotion, but the tension is that when we have success we can actually step into a place of entitlement and step out of a place of dependency upon God. Humility is tested by success. Entitlement can trap us because sometimes when we have success we step out of dependency and start placing our identity in a FRUIT that was borne out of a place of intimacy.

Jesus said (in John 15) "apart from Me, you can do nothing." I'm the Vine, you're the branch. If you want to be fruitful, stay connected to Me. If you get separated from Me, you won't produce fruit. That truth will change the lives of believers that really receive it! To whatever extent we are trying to figure out how to do the Christian life in separation from Him, you can't do it!

Jesus never sinned. When we're born again, we need to renew our minds to who we are in Christ ... and as my mind is renewed to who I am in Him, my life is transformed to look like Him (Rom. 12:2). My point is that Jesus never even had to go through that process! Yet, Jesus was clear about the

source of His effectiveness: He only did what He saw His Father doing and said what He heard His Father saying. How was Jesus operating? In perfect connection!

You can't do the Christian life disconnected from the Father.

The Key of Knowledge & Having a Soft Heart Toward God's Word

In Luke 11:52, Jesus was talking to lawyers. "*Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.*"

Before we continue, consider this: the wisest man who ever lived (apart from Jesus) is Solomon. The way his tables were set and his servants operated that the Queen of Sheba had "no more spirit in her." When you open the Word of God that's who you get to hear from! Solomon wrote Proverbs with God's anointing. When you read Proverbs, that's who you get to hear from! You get to read from Solomon?!? That's the power of the Word of God and it's right here for you! The Word of God is TREASURE ... right hidden before all of humanity!

With that perspective, let's look at Lk. 11:52 again: "*Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.*"

Our Savior said there was THE key of knowledge! Not A key. The KEY. Do you know what that makes me want to go on?

A TREASURE HUNT!

For 2-3 years I asked the Lord "what's THE key of knowledge?!?" I was thinking "My Savior said there's THE key of knowledge? What is it?!?!" I work in education!"

In 2011, Megan and I were at a conference where we heard Graham Cooke speak. He said something to this effect: "a lot of believers are like limp jellyfish ... because they lost their joy." If the joy of the Lord is your strength, Graham Cooke realized, then if you've lost your joy you have no strength. The Word of God is this real!

In that season Megan and I began to see a pattern: the most powerful men and women of the Lord seem to have a common characteristic ... they take the Word of God incredibly literally. You have no strength if you've lost your joy.

"Well that's not exactly what He meant" you might think.

Has God really had a lot of trouble saying exactly what He meant? Did He not even invent language? Was He not the One with the power to confuse language at Babel? The power to cause all to hear of God in their own language at Pentecost? Didn't He form every part of your brain that functions in language? He has NO trouble saying what He means.

So, when I read “*For you have taken away the key of knowledge*” it grabbed my attention! I teach. I consult in education. If I could understand what the key of knowledge is, it could be very helpful! It could be transformative for schools. It could be transformative to organizations. It could be transformative to people’s personal learning. It could be transformative to how you raise kids. And, not the least of which, it could be transformative to how I receive from the Lord.

Like I said it took me a few years to “get it!” I remember driving with my wife and I said “this is the key of knowledge!” It had come to me. But you have to piece together the other scripture that shares this same story.

While we are still talking about the Word of God. I shared last time from 1 Thes. which says “do not despise prophecy. Test everything.” We are not supposed to just take everything “hook, line, and sinker”; we are supposed to test it. BUT don’t despise prophecy. Sometimes we can get into a place where we think “yeah, I’ve heard prophecies like that before … yeah, I know, it’s been a season of acceleration before … thank you.” The trouble is if you don’t receive a prophet as a prophet, you won’t receive a prophet’s reward.

God always hides things for the humble to find. “*It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.*” (1 Cor. 1:21) It pleased Him to do it that way. If we don’t read the Word of God with that sort of youthful, joyful anticipation, what I would commend to you is this: your heart has become hardened. God wants to soften your heart.

The new covenant (as prophesied in Ez. 11) says God has given you a heart of flesh. He took out the heart of stone. Your new covenant reality is to have a soft heart. But you can harden your heart. Don’t harden your heart. Be soft to the things of the Lord.

The Key of Knowledge (cont.)

So again, Lk. 11:52 says: “*Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.*”

So what’s the other scripture that talks about this? Matthew 23:13. It turns out that gives us some more to go on. “*But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.*” Do you see the parallel between this verse and Lk. 11:52? In Luke 11 we hear “*You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.*” In Mt. 23 we hear “*or you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.*” It’s the same scene it seems. But what’s Jesus talking about?

Look one verse previous to Mt. 23:13 (v. 12): “*And whoever exalts himself will be [e]humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*” WOW! What’s the context? It’s HUMILITY! He’s talking about

humility! After 3 years or so of asking the Lord “tell me, what’s the key of knowledge” He pieced it together for me!

By the way, do you know how you receive revelation? As a child. Do you know how else you receive revelation? As a friend. God gives revelation relationally. A few months ago I was asking the Lord to show me how He is as a Father. In prayer one day I had a picture of myself walking along this lake that my family used to go to in Canada and in this vision I was walking along the lake with the Lord as my Father. That vision was what He showed me in response to a question I asked Him “how do You do revelation? Teach me about revelation.” And all He shows me is us walking along the lake together. Revelation is always relational.

He shares these things with His friends. Choose relationship and you’ll get revelation.

So what’s the key of knowledge? Humility. Humility is the key of knowledge. What do keys do? Unlock doors. The knowledge is behind the door and if you have the key you can open the door. What’s the key? Humility.

2 Types of Knowledge - Scripturally

So far I’ve been framing the outside of a puzzle, so-to-speak, and now I am going to set that whole thought process aside for a minute and start taking with you about knowledge - scripturally. There are 2 types of knowledge.

Let’s look at Genesis 2:8-9: *“The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”*

Now let’s look at verses 16-17 *“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

So what was in the garden? First there was *“every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.”* What else was there? *“The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”*

And what else? There was one other ... *“The tree of life.”*

What’s He say? *“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat ...”* except what? *“The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”*

So they were allowed to eat of the tree of life.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." They were allowed to be in communion with Jesus. They were allowed to eat of that tree. *"I am the vine, you are the branches."*

But what tree did they choose to eat from? *"The tree of the knowledge of good and evil."*

For years I've read about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And I think all of us that have read about it have probably come to the same conclusion ... Well, duh, it was bad! It was the knowledge of evil! See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. That was bad; duh!

But I'm here to tell you that the "knowledge of good" part of that tree was just as bad as the "knowledge of evil." Knowing "good" apart from God is just as damaging. Knowing good is not the same as knowing God.

They had the tree of life available to them - it's Jesus! *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* The tree of life was there for the taking - for relationship with Jesus - but instead, they chose the tree of the KNOWLEDGE of good and evil. And the knowledge of those things apart from knowing God.

Relationship with God

Again, be patient. We're adding pieces to a puzzle picture here. What's going to happen is your ability to encounter revelation is going to go up and your relationship with God is going to go deep.

Much of what the church has been experiencing as "relationship with God" is not relationship with God ... it is relationship with a set of theology that is good that they know in separation from God.

Let's look at 2 Peter 1:1-2 *"Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."*

It does not say "in the knowledge ABOUT God." It's in the KNOWING of Him!

That's a big difference.

This is the start of an invitation. It's not the knowing ABOUT Him. It's the knowing OF Him.

New Covenant Relationship

Let's look at Hebrews 8. We'll look at verses 7-12 *"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the*

hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

The writer of Hebrews (likely Paul) is talking about the nature of the New Covenant here. What's the backbone of the New Covenant "*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.*" If you are talking with God about your sins, I am telling you He will help you, but I am also telling you He doesn't remember them. When you go to connect with God, He is not bringing to remembrance your sins. "*Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.*" Isn't that incredible! He who repeats a matter separates close friends and the enemy's been repeating your sins to you to separate you from a Friend that sticks closer than a brother ... and His Name is Jesus! That's the reality of the New Covenant: that your sins and lawless deeds are remembered no more. No more!

Look at how powerful some of the other language describing the New Covenant is! "*None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know (Greek: Intellectually know) the Lord,’ for all shall know (Greek: see with their own eyes) Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.*" In the New Covenant everyone can have a direct connection with God themselves because of the blood of Jesus Christ. His body was broken and the veil was torn from top to bottom so that each person could enter the Holy of Holies of communion with God. Therefore in the New Covenant we are not to be teaching each other saying "Know ABOUT God. Know ABOUT God. Know ABOUT God."

“None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.” We are not going to be telling people “know the Lord intellectually” because EVERYONE (from the least of them to the greatest of them) shall see the Lord with their own eyes! It doesn't matter your station in life. It doesn't matter whether you have a degree in theology. It doesn't matter if you're a pastor or a “lay person” as some say ... you shall see the Lord with your own eyes! Why? "*Your sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.*" Come boldly before the Throne of Grace with confidence!

The New Covenant reality is NOT the reality of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Oh no. The New Covenant reality is the KNOWING of HIM!

The New Covenant looks like seeing Him with your own eyes. Grace and peace will be multiplied to you in the KNOWING of Him. Not the knowledge ABOUT Him, but the KNOWING of Him.

Isn't Knowing about God good?

You might think “well, isn’t it helpful to know about Him?”

Let’s look at John 5:39. Jesus is talking to the some of the Jews and says this “*You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*”

Do you know there are some “theologians” that aren’t saved? In those cases I would suggest to you that at best they are engaged in supposition - and at worst, gossip.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul is talking to the Corinthians who were getting confused because someone (or maybe multiple people) had been saying “maybe the resurrection doesn’t happen” and Paul addresses that in 1 Corinthians 15. In verse 33 Paul says “*Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’*” Then in verse 34 he says “*... for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.*” What was Paul saying? They were listening to non-believers talk about theology. Paul was saying “I say this to your shame ... are you kidding me? You are listening to someone who doesn’t have a relationship with God talk about God? Someone who has deliberately chosen not to enter into relationship with God ... you’re listening to what they have to say about God?” At best it’s supposition. At worst, it’s gossip. They don’t know HIM.

God reveals Himself to His friends. He operates revelation-ally relationally. It’s always relational.

So here in John 5:39 Jesus is saying “*You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life ...*” Now listen, I try to memorize scripture verses so I can help people get to the verse I’m thinking of. It also helps bring credibility to things and I want to be helpful. But I am telling you ... knowing scriptures, memorized chapter and verse is NOT the same as having a revelation from your Father! There’s power on REVELATION!

1 Corinthians 8:1 says “*We know that we all have knowledge.*” We all have knowledge. But there is a type of knowledge that PUFFS UP. But it’s only the love knowledge (the revelation knowledge) that builds up!

There’s a way to approach God that’s theological. That approach just tries to accumulate knowledge ABOUT Him. What that does is give you a fat head.

There’s another type of approach with God that’s relational and relational WITH Him. It receives revelation that it actually leaves with Him! Because you know where the revelation is! You simply connect with Him and that’s where all the revelation is stored. It doesn’t PUFF UP, it actually just BUILDS UP!

I’m trying to paint a picture here.

Jesus continues in John 5:40 by saying “*But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*” To you see the real issue? Jesus is saying the issue isn’t that they knew the scriptures … the issue is they knew the scriptures without knowing HIM!

They were very fine having the scriptures so long as it did not include coming TO HIM.

What's Revelation?

Now back to the key of knowledge in Luke 11:52. “*Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.*” You can’t receive revelation from God without entering into deeper relationship WITH Him.

Remember, I said there are 2 types of knowledge. There’s the world’s knowledge and 1 Corinthians 1:21 makes it clear that “*the world through wisdom did not know God.*” They might have known “good” but they didn’t know God! You can’t enter into revelation knowledge with God apart from entering into deeper relationship with Him.

What is revelation knowledge? The Greek word for revelation means for something to be unveiled. The veil to be pulled back. Revelation causes what was behind the curtain to be revealed. What was behind the curtain? God’s very presence was behind the curtain in the temple. When Jesus’ body was broken, the veil was torn from top to bottom so that now we have access through the blood of Jesus Christ and His body to totally SEE God. In the New Covenant, this is how it’s going to be … you’re not going to teach your neighbors or family saying “know ABOUT God.” Instead “all of you will see Me with your own eyes - from the least of you to the greatest of you” says the Lord! Why? The veil’s been torn which has opened up revelation knowledge.

What’s revelation? When the veil is pulled back. What veil? The veil that was keeping us from seeing God for Who He truly is and now you can see Him for yourself … face-to-face as a man talks with a friend. You can see God and receive revelation knowledge of Who He is!

Therefore if revelation knowledge is actually SEEING GOD, how is it that you can have more revelation knowledge apart from knowing Him?

“*I am the way, the truth, and the life ...*” He is the Truth. Truth … is … a PERSON.

Softness of Heart

Let’s look at Mark 6:52. I’ll just give some context. In verse 37, Jesus had told His disciples “*You give them something to eat.*” They responded by saying “*Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?*” That was about 200 days wages. Perhaps \$50,000 worth of food. But Jesus said to them “*How many loaves do you have? Go and see.*” They replied “*Five, and two fish.*” And then they were multiplied. There were 5,000 men and of course there would have been

women and children too so there might have been 20,000 people that were fed that day. You can pretty quickly see how it would have cost \$50,000 to feed perhaps 20,000 people. That was a big catering event - supernaturally catered.k

Let's pick up at verse 48 "*Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."* Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. **For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.**"

Let's remember that last verse "*For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened*" and go back to Hebrews 8:10 "*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts ...*"

He will write them on our hearts. In the Old Covenant the Lord wrote laws on stones. In Ezekiel 11:19 it prophesies that God would take out our stony heart and give us a heart of flesh. Why?

Because He doesn't want to write on stones anymore - or on parchments - He wants to write on your heart. Every revelation from God of WHO He is is an invitation to greater encounter ... but hardness of heart will hear but not understand. It will see but not perceive.

Hardness of heart will hear but not understand and see but not perceive. "*Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you will see, and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull.*" Acts 28 (here v. 26-27a) is one of the multiple places in the New Testament that quotes that prophecy from Isaiah.

Why did Jesus' disciples not understand about the loaves and the fishes? Their hearts were hardened. What had happened? They saw the loaves and fishes multiply, didn't they? They were the ones that were looking down the barrel of a gun about trying to provide for 20,000 people. And Jesus said "what do you have?" and they gave what they had and Jesus multiplied it. They experienced it first-hand.

But do you know what they didn't allow it to do? They didn't allow the testimony of what had happened to TOUCH THEIR HEART. They got it in their head, but they didn't allow it to touch their heart. Because "*Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.*"

“Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.” I've read that verse for so many years thinking “it's because God didn't want to heal them ... but that doesn't make sense ... God wants to heal everyone.” No. *“This is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light ...”* (John 3:19) What I'm telling you is this ... Hardness of heart is fine with hearing ABOUT God, but it doesn't want to fully KNOW God because if you KNOW God it will change you.

Hardness of heart is fine with hearing ABOUT a testimony about a house but it doesn't let the testimony about the house impact them to say “that's our Father that lined this up ... so that not only did they get the right house ... not only did they get their needs but also their wants ... but it also was in the way that worked for Derrick in terms of negotiation.” That's our Father! AND “it was with the person that works at Derrick's work ... you remember, the work that God lined up for Derrick ... the new job that was a total upgrade in every way from his old job that was already a huge blessing? And the Lord this whole time knew that this other person was going to start working there too? And that person was going to have this house they wanted to sell ... which was the perfect house for Derrick and Erin?”

The thing is, we can hear the testimony. We can hear the prophetic word. We can read the scripture. And we can be fine with it touching our mind but not yet fine with it touching our hearts.

The disciples were still marveling that Jesus was walking on water. From Jesus's perspective, He's thinking, “y'all wouldn't have been surprised if your view of Me had changed according to the testimony you saw. The testimony you saw was supposed to change how you perceive Me. It was a revelation of Who I Am. But you aren't seeing it yet because you were fine with the numbers about what had occurred, but you didn't yet see a changed view of Who I Am.”

There's 2 types of knowledge.

There's head knowledge and there's revelation knowledge. Revelation knowledge is different than the knowledge of good; it's the knowledge OF GOD!

“This is the covenant that I will make with them in those days says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and I will write them upon their softened hearts ... Nobody's going to teach their neighbor saying ‘know the Lord intellectually.’ Nope; the veil's been torn. In the New Covenant, their sins and lawless deeds are remembered no more. They can come boldly before the throne of grace.”

So, do you know how it's going to work in the New Covenant? You're not going to hear from your neighbor saying “intellectually know about God” instead you are going to see Him with your own eyes.

From Megan

There's milk and meat. If you have meat, you need to chew it because if you don't chew it, then you can choke.

Pete is not saying "good's not good." He's saying God wants us to have a relationship with Him; He doesn't want us to have a relationship with a bunch of rules or good principles. Indeed "*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights ...*" SO when you have relationship with God, you GET GOOD ... you get all the good.

God did not give Adam and Eve "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" as an alternative pathway to have good in their life ... and to be like Him. He gave them an option, but there's no 2 pathways to Life. The one is The Way and the other is NOT The Way.

Pete's been talking about pride and humility. The humility is the place that says "I'm going to have relationship with God. I'm going to hear His voice and I'm going to listen to Him and I'm going to obey. And things will go well and life's going to be awesome." Pride says "well I'll figure it out for myself. You just tell me what the good to do is, and I will do it. You just tell me what the good to do is and I will do it. I will do it apart from You and sometimes I'll come to You to show You what I've done or maybe to try and fix it and then I'm going to go back over here - in pride - and work it out independently."

We don't think of it that way but the humble person works it out relationally, not independently.

Conclusion

I know we're wading into deeper waters, but it can change your relationship with God. My goal in this message was not to wrap something up and put a bow on it for you. I'm stirring you today into deeper relationship with God. I hope I left you with more questions today than answers.

Father, I pray that each of us would go one step deeper in our communion with You. Pray like this:

"Father I don't want to just know ABOUT You. I want to know YOU."

"Lord, I'm glad what I know of You, but I don't want what I know of You to keep me from knowing YOU!"

"Father, sensitize my heart to You. I don't want what I've known of You to keep me from knowing You. I don't want what I've experienced of You to keep me from encountering You. "

I pray that your walk with Him would be ***deeper*** and ***fresher*** than ever before. Amen.

Scriptures for Discussion

Lk. 11:52 “Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away **the key of knowledge**. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.”

Matthew 23:12-13 “And whoever exalts himself will be **[e]humbled**, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.”

Genesis 2:8-9, 16-17: “The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil … And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

2 Peter 1:1-2 “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you **in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**,”

Hebrews 8:10-12 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

John 5:39-40 “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”

1 Corinthians 8:1b “ … We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies (builds up).”

Mark 6:52 “For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.”

Acts 28:26-27 “Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, **lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.**”