

DO YOU HAVE EPIGNOSIS? HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS (PART III) COLOSSIANS 3:10, 11

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Knowledge in Colossians 2:3 is (gnosis) “present and fragmentary.” In contrast, knowledge in Colossians 3:10 (epignosis) is “clear and exact knowledge which expresses a more thorough participation in the object.” Faith is the acceptance of divine revelation. Epignosis is the comprehension of that revelation. Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, p. 378-379. To gain epignosis requires dedicated devotion.

BABY CHRISTIANS DON'T. A babe in Christ has a new life, a new self, but a limited knowledge of Christ. You stay at this stage if you are not growing in epignosis and you probably will regress. (Colossians 3:10, Hebrews 5:11-14, fn 5:12, 13, II Peter 1:8, 9, fn 1:9, I Peter 2:1-3, fn 2:2, 3) *How could you encourage your family not to be content to be baby Christians?*

YOU NEED IT TO GROW. No matter where you are in your relationship to Jesus, the Holy Spirit calls you to continue renewal in the knowledge of Christ. To acquire this “epignosis” you must be willing to participate thoroughly. This knowledge increases spiritual blessings and gives powerful godly influences to your life. Zodhiates, p. 624. As seen in Colossians 3:11, it removes from your heart unspiritual barriers that prevent love of Christ for all people. (Colossians 3:10, 11, II Peter 1:1-10, fn 1:2, fn 1:3, 4, fn 1:5-9, Acts 17:11, John 17:16-18, Philippians 1:9, fn 1:9, Galatians 3:28, fn 3:28) *How could you manage your time so that each day you are acquiring epignosis?*

IT'S REALIZED AND OBTAINED IN CHRIST. When you grow in epignosis, you grow in oneness with Christ. When in oneness with Christ, you are in oneness with all believers. (Colossians 3:11, fn 3:11, John 17:20-23, fn 17:21-23[2nd], Ephesians 1:22, 23, fn 1:22, 23, Philippians 3:7-10, fn 3:9, 10) *A prayer to help you grow in epignosis and divine revelation: “Lord, I don't know anything about _____ but You do. Show me _____. Teach me how _____ so that Jesus is glorified in me.”*

According to this preparation how may we pray for you to be strengthened in your personal relationship with Jesus? How else may we pray for you?

