

## Do You Really **KNOW** Jesus Christ?

It has been my privilege to know Jesus Christ in four ways, and by God's grace I expect to know Him yet in the fifth way. Let me share exactly what I mean.

When I was but a child, perhaps 3 years of age, I came to know Jesus Christ the first way. I came to know His **name**. I heard that sweet name from the lips of my parents, and soon I incorporated it into my vocabulary—Jesus, Jesus Christ—I knew Him by name.

At the age of 7, I began reading the stories of Jesus, and I grew to know him the second way. At that time I came to know Him **by history**. I began to realize that He was an actual person and had really lived upon this earth and had made a tremendous impact with His presence.

Then, about the age of 12, I came to know Jesus Christ in the third way—**by doctrine**. I studied the doctrines of the Bible. I began to understand mentally about sin and grace and heaven and hell. Yet I did not have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. However, I could say I knew Him and I really did. I knew Him by name, by history, and by doctrine.

It was not until I was 16 years of age that I came to know Jesus Christ in the fourth way. But let me tell you how it happened. My guilty conscience caused me to realize that I was a sinner. I had broken God's commandments, and no one had to tell me that I stood guilty before a holy God. Having been reared in a fine Christian home, I knew the elements of the Gospel. Mentally I knew that Jesus Christ had died for my sins, but that did not satisfy my heart longing for a genuine peace with God. I had been baptized when I was twelve years of age, and, of course, I had joined the church. But deep within my heart, I knew that all my good works were worthless in God's sight. There was

a void in my heart.

On one occasion, to maintain my pretense as a well-rounded teenager, I was constrained to attend a preaching service. I sat in the rear of the auditorium and longed for the time when the last song would be sung and the benediction given. But throughout that service I could not escape the conviction that the Lord placed upon me. I was really burdened in the realization of my lost condition. As an "invitation hymn" was being sung, I realized that my hypocrisy only proved the fact that there must be a reality in genuine salvation. Then and there I confessed my need to almighty God. I repented of my sin and asked the Lord Jesus Christ to save me and transform my life. It was then by simple faith that I came to know Jesus Christ as my own **personal Lord and Savior**. Until that moment I had been trusting myself. I knew I was sinner, but I thought that I was not as bad as others. But when I repented of my sin and called upon Jesus Christ to save me, He did! I knew immediately that my sins were forgiven.

The Bible says: "*whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" (Romans 10:13). You see, the name "Jesus" means "Savior." The angel had said unto Joseph: ". . . Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins." And for me to call "*upon His name*" meant that I called upon Jesus Christ to be my Savior. The moment I called upon Him, He came into my heart and life and transformed me. He changed my very desires. I was saved, and I knew Him as my personal Savior. A wonderful peace swept over my mind, and it has continued. The Bible says: "*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These*

*things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life. . . .* (1 John 5:11-13).

But praise the Lord, by God's grace I shall someday know the Lord Jesus Christ in yet the fifth way. I shall know Him face to face in His very presence.

It is good to know the name of Jesus. Surely it is excellent to know Him by history and by doctrine, but that is not sufficient. The Holy Spirit brought me to conviction, and then He converted me and provided me with a new purpose and desire. In the words of Scripture, Jesus *"came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"* (John 1:11-12). I *"called upon His name,"* and He saved me and transformed my life. I meet many people who know the name of Jesus Christ. Some know Him by history, and a few even know Him by doctrine. But I meet very few who really know Him personally as Savior.

He longs that you might "know" Him personally as your Savior too. How wonderful that the Bible tells us it is possible to know Him "aright," for that provides "life eternal." It is my desire today that you might know this One who took your sins in His own body at Calvary and offers you divine forgiveness of sin, peace beyond human comprehension, and an eternal home in Heaven. Will you right now turn from your sins and call upon Him to become your Savior? *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12).

If I can assist you, please contact me, David Cummins, at  
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