

Growing In Our Knowledge of Christ Lesson 1

Our unifying objectives are to love, worship and serve Jesus Christ and to continually grow in our knowledge of Him as revealed in God's word, the Bible.

1. Growing In Knowledge of Jesus Christ.... A Devout Reader of the Bible.

Sir Walter Scott, the great Scottish writer and author of *Ivanhoe*, was a devout reader of the Bible.

On the flyleaf of his personal Bible, he wrote a special set of lines:

“Within that awful volume lies/
The mystery of mysteries!/
Happiest they of human race,
To whom God has granted grace/
To read, to fear, to hope, to pray,
To lift the latch, and force the way;
And better that they'd ne'er been born/
Who read to doubt, or read to scorn.

Lanny Tanton the Pastor at The Bible Church of the Lakes in Horseshoe Bay, Texas has Noted , “Numerous biographers and students of English literature have amassed abundant evidence that . . . Scott really did ‘lift the latch’—for numerous plots, sub-plots, and characters in his novels are drawn directly from the Bible. It takes only a cursory reading to discover Leah and Rachel in *The Abbot*, his first novel published after he was made a baronet in 1820. Abraham and Sarah are as readily identified in *Kenilworth* (1821). A casual acquaintance with Scripture enables one to find Ruth and Naomi in *Guy Mannering* (1815), but the less familiar story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath ([1 Kgs 17:8-24](#)) is not quite so readily identified in *The Monastery* (1820). A complete list of characters and situations drawn directly from Holy Writ by the still popular teller of tales would run to many pages.”

Scott read his Bible.

Excerpt from The Bible in Waverley: Or Sir Walter Scott's Use of the Sacred Scriptures

During the last illness of Sir Walter Scott at Abbots ford, we are told by his biographer and son-in-law, Mr. Lockhart, that the great novelist, feeling a little brighter and better one morning, desired to be placed by the central window of the library that he might be able to look down upon the Tweed Pleased with the sight of the river which he loved so well, and soothed by the murmur of its waters, the invalid next expressed a wish to have

Growing In Our Knowledge of Christ Lesson 1

something read to him. On being asked what book he would like, Need you ask he replied, there is but one. The Bible was accordingly brought, and the fourteenth chapter of St. John's Gospel was read. Well, this is a great comfort, Sir Walter remarked, as Lockhart closed the book, I have followed you distinctly, and feel as if I were yet to be myself again.

2. Growing in Knowledge of Jesus Christ... Meditating On Scripture

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” **A.W. Tozer**

<https://awtozer.com>

Walking home from work one day, he heard a street preacher say: "If you don't know how to be saved, just call on God." When young Tozer got home, he climbed into his attic and did just that.

In many ways, that simple act would characterize Tozer's entire life and ministry. In his early 20s, just after his ordination ceremony, he retreated to a quiet place in the woods and prayed what he later wrote down and titled, "The Prayer of a Minor Prophet." In it he said:

"GIVE ME VISION TO SEE AND COURAGE TO REPORT WHAT I SEE FAITHFULLY. MAKE MY VOICE SO LIKE THINE OWN THAT EVEN THE SICK SHEEP WILL RECOGNIZE IT AND FOLLOW THEE."

It seems God granted his request, for Tozer gave himself to three main tasks: **prayer, study, and proclamation**. He was known to arrive at his office in the early morning, change into a pair of old pants so he wouldn't wrinkle his slacks and pray for up to three hours at a time - beginning on the couch, but soon moving to the floor, face buried in the carpet.

He made time for sustained study as well, mostly meditating on Scripture, but also reading deeply of many authors – early church fathers, mystics, writers of the Middle Ages, Reformers, Puritans, philosophers, and even his contemporaries – impressive, considering his formal education ended at the sixth grade.

What Tozer heard from God through prayer and study he spoke to men through books and sermons. Tozer wrote **The Pursuit of God**, perhaps his most popular work, on an overnight train, equipped with just a Bible, notebook, and pencil. His books and sermons cut to the heart and healed many spiritual ills.

His countenance was stern but his sense of humor was warm. His mind was steel and his rhetoric sharp. But these only made him a gifted man. It was his deep devotion, his abiding dependence on the Spirit - his painstaking attention to the beauty of Christ - that made him a servant of God.

A.W. Tozer ministered until his death in May 1963. His body rests in Akron, OH, under an epitath that simply reads: A. W. Tozer A Man Of God

Growing In Our Knowledge of Christ Lesson 1

The Root of The Righteous

<https://awtozer.com/2019/09/24/the-root-of-the-righteous/>

One marked difference between the faith of our fathers as conceived by the fathers and the same faith as understood and lived by their children is that the fathers were concerned with the root of the matter, while their present-day descendants seem concerned only with the fruit.

This appears in our attitude toward certain great Christian souls whose names are honored among the churches, as, for instance, Augustine and Bernard in earlier times, or Luther and Wesley in times more recent. Today we write the biographies of such as these and celebrate their fruit, but the tendency is to ignore the root out of which the fruit sprang. "The root of the righteous yieldeth fruit," said the wise man in the Proverbs (12:12). Our fathers looked well to the root of the tree and were willing to wait with patience for the fruit to appear. We demand the fruit immediately even though the root may be weak and knobby or missing altogether. Impatient Christians today explain away the simple beliefs of the saints of other days and smile off their serious-minded approach to God and sacred things. They were victims of their own limited religious outlook, but great and sturdy souls withal who managed to achieve a satisfying spiritual experience and do a lot of good in the world in spite of their handicaps. So we'll imitate their fruit without accepting their theology or inconveniencing ourselves too greatly by adopting their all-or-nothing attitude toward religion.

Much that passes for Christianity today is the brief, bright effort of the severed branch to bring forth its fruit in its season. But the deep laws of life are against it. Preoccupation with appearances and a corresponding neglect of the out-of-sight root of true spiritual life are prophetic signs which go unheeded. Immediate "results" are all that matter, quick proofs of present success without a thought of next week or next year. Religious pragmatism is running wild among the orthodox. Truth is whatever works. If it gets results it is good. There is but one test for the religious leader: success. Everything is forgiven him except failure.

A tree can weather almost any storm if its root is sound, but when the fig tree which our Lord cursed "dried up from the roots" it immediately "withered away" (Mark 11:20-21). A church that is soundly rooted cannot be destroyed, but nothing can save a church whose root is dried up. No stimulation, no advertising campaigns, no gifts of money and no beautiful edifice can bring back life to the rootless tree.

With a happy disregard for consistency of metaphor the apostle Paul exhorts us to look to our sources. "Rooted and grounded in love" (Ephesians 3:17), he says in what is obviously a confusion of figure; and again he urges his readers to be "rooted and built up in him" (Colossians 2:7), which envisages the Christian both as a tree to be well rooted and as a temple to rise on a solid foundation.

The whole Bible and all the great saints of the past join to tell us the same thing. "Take nothing for granted," they say to us. "Go back to the grass roots. Open your hearts and search the Scriptures. Bear your cross, follow your Lord and pay no heed to the passing religious vogue. The masses are always wrong. In every generation the number of the righteous is small. Be sure you are among them."

"A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved" (Proverbs 12:3).

Growing In Our Knowledge of Christ Lesson 1

“The man who would truly know God must give time to Him.” A. W. Tozer

[The Charge to the Soldier of the Lord \(Joshua 1:7, 8\) by Alexander MacLaren \(blueletterbible.org\)](#)

THE CHARGE TO THE SOLDIER OF THE LORD

'Only be then strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded thee... that thou mayest prosper wheresoever thou goest. 8. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shall meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.'—[Joshua 1:7, 8](#).

This is the central portion of the charge given to the successor of Moses. Joshua was a very small man in comparison with his predecessor. He was no prophet nor constructive genius; he was not capable of the heights of communion and revelation which the lofty spirit of Moses was able to mount. He was only a plain, fiery soldier, with energy, swift decision, promptitude, self-command, and all the military virtues in the highest degree. The one thing that he needed was to be 'strong and courageous'; and over and over again in this chapter you will find that injunction pealed into his ears. He is the type of the militant servant of the Lord, and the charge to him embodies the duties of all such.

3. Growing in Knowledge of Jesus Christ... Spending Time in Prayer

“The world is perishing for lack of the knowledge of God and the Church is famishing for want of His Presence.” A.W. Tozer, [The Pursuit of God: The Human Thirst for the Divine](#)

AW Tozer was a renowned theologian and preacher who had a profound impact on the evangelical church. He was known for his deep understanding of Scripture and his passion for God.

- Tozer believed that the Bible was the inspired Word of God and that it was our authoritative source for truth.
- He believed that God was sovereign and in control of all things.
- **Tozer also had a heart for revival and prayed that the church would experience a true spiritual awakening**

D. L. Moody (1837-1899) started his career as an uneducated shoe salesman but turned into one of the greatest evangelists of all time. With only a fifth grade education, he seemed to be uniquely unqualified

Growing In Our Knowledge of Christ Lesson 1

for his lifelong calling. His grammar was terrible, and he was far from an eloquent orator. But he took his plain talk approach to evangelism and preached the gospel throughout the United States and Great Britain, leading hundreds of thousands of people to faith in Jesus Christ. Moody is remembered today as the most effective evangelist of the late 19th century.

DL Moody Quotes On Prayer

- Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure
- He who kneels the most stands the best.
- We ought to see the face of God every morning before we see the face of man.
- Prayer does not mean that I am to bring God down to my thoughts and my purposes, and bend his government according to my foolish, silly, and sometimes sinful notions. Prayer means that I am to be raised up into feeling, into union and design with him; that I am to enter into his counsel and carry out his purpose fully.
- The Christian on his knees sees more than the philosopher on tiptoe. God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.
- My friends, if we are going to do a great work for God, we must spend much time in prayer; we have got to be closeted with God.

Fellow evangelist R.A. Torrey revealed the secret to Moody's incredible success:

"The first thing that accounts for God's using D. L. Moody so mightily was that he was a fully surrendered man. Every ounce of that 280-pound body of his belonged to God: everything he was and everything he had, belonged wholly to God."

Once the Holy Spirit caught fire in Moody's heart, he was unstoppable. He brought Christianity to children, women, and men, filling auditoriums in the United States and Great Britain, preaching on the streets, in churches, wherever people would listen. One biographer estimated that during his 44-year career, Moody brought over 1 million souls to Jesus Christ.

Moody was an enthusiastic man whose sincerity drew thousands to hear his messages. In a century when speakers were valued for their fancy word pictures and classical eloquence, Moody was a plain talker who penetrated the hearts of common men and women. More than a hundred years later, his sermons are still compelling in their simplicity.

Despite his limited schooling, Moody was a determined student of the Bible. Over his career, he kept hundreds of files of newspaper clippings and Bible verses, which he used as material for his sermons. He believed unswervingly in the inerrancy of the Bible, which made him welcome in churches of several denominations.

[Matthew 6:7](#) But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

[Matthew 6:9-13](#) - After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Growing In Our Knowledge of Christ Lesson 1

[Matthew 21:21-22](#) - Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

[Mark 11:24](#) - Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

[Luke 11:9](#) - And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

[John 14:13-14](#) - And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

[John 15:7](#) - If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

[Ephesians 6:18](#) - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

[Philippians 4:6-7](#) - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

[1 Timothy 2:5](#) - For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

[James 1:5](#) - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

[James 1:6](#) - But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

[James 5:16](#) - Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

[1 John 3:22](#) - And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

[1 John 5:14](#) - And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

[1 John 5:14-15](#) - And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: