



Volume 9, No. 2, February, 2021



More About Jesus

*More about Jesus would I know,
More of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.*

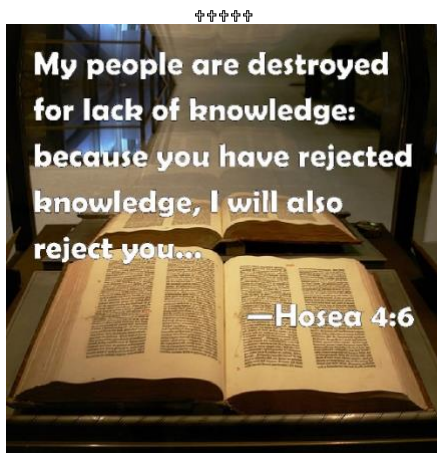
*More about Jesus let me learn,
More of His holy will discern;
Spirit of God, my teacher be,
Showing the things of Christ to me.*

*More about Jesus in His Word,
Holding communion with my Lord;
Hearing His voice in ev'ry line,
Making each faithful saying mine.*

*More about Jesus on His throne,
Riches in glory all His own;
More of His kingdom's sure increase;
More of His coming, Prince of Peace.*

Refrain:

*More, more about Jesus,
More, more about Jesus;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.*



Quiet Time

I really don't mind quiet time. Some people I know have to have noise, and there are times when background noise will relax me. But for the most part, I like quiet. My hubby says I'm not much fun to travel with because I'm like a newborn. Put me in the car, and I will sleep. I can ride for miles without speaking.

I hear people mention their quiet time, and I think they are referring to time alone with God. What a wonderful way to fill quiet time! No useless rambling thoughts, just focusing on the Savior, thinking about Him, praising Him, calling on Him to hear my love, just being in His presence. He knows my heart!

He is the one who calls me to "be still and know." I often feel the need to write names and concerns on paper for God. Well, that's just silly! It does serve as a reminder for me, but the Lord of the universe does not need my to-do list. He knows my heart, my mind, my concerns, my fears, my hurts, and my joy. He is my Father. A father always cherishes time with his child. The Father God Almighty, creator of the universe, wants time with me. With my weaknesses and fears, I can step into the Most Holy Place with the One who formed me. Just think about how good He is. In my quiet time I can feel His arms and His love surround me.

When the battle rages, He abides, just like when Aaron and Hur stood shoulder to shoulder with Moses. As long as Moses' hands were up, the battle was his. Those arms became weary and fatigued. His friends, his men on the battle front, had to hold Moses' arms up. We have our own Aaron and Hur holding us up.

In the throes of battle, we often don't think to give in to quiet time. But we are fatigued and often weary like Moses. Who is your Aaron, your Hur? A sister, your spouse, your bff? Who is that person who prays with you and holds you up?

Aaron had to step away and find a rock for Moses to sit on. Sometimes it feels like our person has stepped away, maybe to find help. Hold on! You are not alone. In that quiet time you are near to the heart of God! She will be back with just what you need. While she's gone, call on Him. He does not want us to feel defeated.

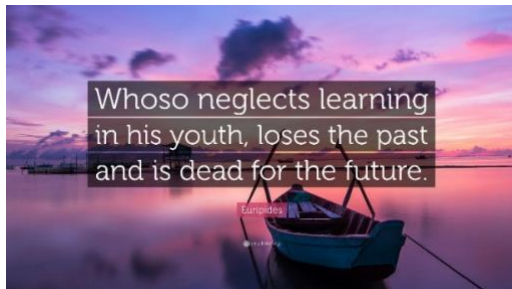
I've experienced a day with a sweet sister when she held me with the strength of Aaron and Hur. Alone with my heartbreak and fear of the unknown, I reached out to my precious friend. In minutes she was sitting beside me! She prayed and held me while my body shook with tremendous fear and pain. She held me while my spirit ached with weariness and fatigue. There seems no way to thank her for facing that battle with me. There are no words to let her know how amazing her strength was for me. May we never hesitate to be someone's Aaron or Hur.

Listen to the Holy Spirit when He calls you. Share quiet in a simple but profound way. Never fear when your Aaron has to step away to get a resting place for you. Your heart may lurch, but do not faint. Call on Him in the quiet time. He meets you, even as the battle rages. I suspect Aaron and Hur were quiet as they called on Him for strength. Most likely Moses was quiet as he praised God for Aaron and Hur.

Whatever the battle or the reason, go to your quiet place and be still. Because He is there.

Nettie Martin, Rolla, MO

✦✦✦✦✦



✦✦✦✦✦

To Know Him Is to Love Him

In 1958, The Teddy Bears released a song titled, "To Know Him is to Love Him." It was a '70's love song about the romantic love of a girl for a guy, but the premise of that song can also have a spiritual application.

When I was growing up, I learned **about** God. What I regularly heard about Him terrified me. I can't say that I loved Him back then, but I definitely feared Him. That wasn't all bad because Ecclesiastes 12:13b says, "*Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole*

duty of man." My fear of Him led to duty, but it didn't bring me to love Him.

Loving Him came years later when I began to **know** Him. I began to understand His tremendous love for the humans He created, although I still didn't understand that He loved *me*. After all, I didn't follow all the rules that well. I "fudged" on some of them and fell far short on others. *How* could He love anyone as imperfect as I?

Hosea 4:6 says: "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*" Hosea was not talking about scientific or secular knowledge. God's law had not simply slipped their minds. They had consciously rejected, ignored, and eventually forgotten God. They had no desire and no intention to remember, and they willfully strayed from His teachings.

~~~~~  
*The desire of knowledge,  
Like the thirst of riches,  
Increases ever with the acquisition of it*  
*Laurence Sterne, Tristram Shandy*  
~~~~~

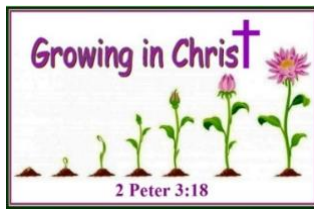
For me, it was just that I had learned only about the severity of God. Paul wrote in Romans 11:22: "*Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness.*" As I learned about God's love and kindness, I began to lose some of my fear. Eventually, I learned about His love and that, yes, He could love even me—a nobody from nowhere. I learned that He could and did love me, and He could also use me in His kingdom.

It took learning more about Him to grow out of my fear. I learned that, even though the children of Israel disappointed Him and transgressed His laws so many times, He still loved them and wanted the best for them. I learned that He loved humans so much that He was willing for His Son to die so that people can be saved. In fact, He had that plan from the very beginning!

My knowledge of God, His word, and His love for me grew over the years. Now like the Teddy Bears group, I can say, "To know, know, know Him is to love, love, love Him. And I do!"

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, MO

✦✦✦✦✦



◆◆◆◆◆

Knowledge

Hosea 4:6 says, *“⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Since you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the Law of your God.”* The priests of God had forgotten and so had neglected to teach the people the scriptures, the covenant God had made with His people through Moses on Mount Sinai. Because of this, they had committed spiritual adultery by worshipping the idols of the nations around them. Exodus 20:3: *“³ You shall have no other god before Me.”*

God commanded Hosea to marry an adulterous woman, Gomer. This may cause us to raise our eyebrows and ask why God would give Hosea such a command. At this time, Hosea is living among God’s people who are prostituting themselves and worshipping idols instead of the one true God. This marriage is symbolic of the relationship between God and His people – the unfaithful wife and the faithful husband; the unfaithful nation and the faithful God.

How much do the words of Hosea apply to us today? Do we study God’s word daily searching the scriptures like the Bereans in Acts 17:11? *“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians for they received the message with great eagerness and **examined the scriptures every day.**”* (emphasis added) (NIV). 2 Timothy 2:15 says, *¹⁵ Be diligent* (KJV says “study”) *to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* (NKJV). Having the wisdom to “rightly divide the word of truth” is vitally important.

We can be tossed to and fro with every teaching and false doctrine if we are not solidly grounded in the truth as stated in Ephesians 4:12-15, *“...¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the*

truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

Is secular knowledge more important to us than biblical knowledge? Are we being destroyed because of our own lack of Bible knowledge? We are forgetful people. We will forget if we do not continually study. We may not worship gods of wood and metal, but we have our own gods to worship—jobs, wealth, recreation, position, power, material possessions and sometimes even family. Anyone or anything that comes before the Father becomes our god. God, the true God, must be number one or not at all.

Being a disciple of Christ involves counting the cost. Luke 14:26-27 *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”*

2 Peter 3:18 says, *“¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* Do we have enough Bible knowledge to combat the daily temptations Satan throws at us? In Matthew 4 when Jesus was fasting and praying in the wilderness for 40 days and nights, He was probably very weak physically. That’s when Satan attacked. He attacks when we are most vulnerable. But every lie that Satan presented, Jesus answered with scripture. Are we able to do the same? Lack of study and knowledge of God’s word is sin. James 4:17, *“¹⁷ So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, for him it is sin.”* This scripture applies to studying as much as anything else.

We are not given miraculous knowledge. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that we study God’s word diligently—daily and with wisdom—to know how to rightly divide His word and resist every temptation. We must keep our faith strong. In doing so, we keep His church strong.

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, MO

◆◆◆◆◆

Knowledge

A friend of mine, a religious woman, but unschooled in the scriptures, adamantly informed me, “I will not fear my God. He is my friend, and I will not fear him.” How sad.

Proverbs 1:7 tells us, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

I think what my friend failed to realize is that fear in this instance does not mean terror, but rather respect to the point of obedience. As parents we want our children to dread our discipline enough to mind our instruction, but we do not want them trembling in fear each time they are in our presence. God expects that same fear in us. We need to realize He has the power to impose severe punishment for disobedience, but because He loves us, wants us to obey out of love as well. John 14:15 says, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." When we do that, we do not tremble in terror, but we do fear, or respect, what God could do to us if we do not.

The only way we can obey is to know what God's will truly is. That takes knowledge, and that comes from hearing, reading, and study of the Bible.

May your knowledge and love for God increase daily.

Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, LA

◆◆◆◆◆

Things I've Learned

I've learned... that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned... that when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned... that just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned... that having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned... that being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned... that you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned... that I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.

I've learned... that no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned... that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned... that simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned... that life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned... that money doesn't buy class.

I've learned... that it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned... that under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned... that to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned... that when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned... that love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned... that the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I.

I've learned... that everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned... that no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned... that life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned... that opportunity is never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned... that when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned... that I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I've learned... that one should keep her words both soft and tender, because tomorrow she may have to eat them.

I've learned... that a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned... that when your newborn grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, you're hooked for life.

I've learned... that everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned... that the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

Source Unknown

◆◆◆◆◆



◆◆◆◆◆