

The Secret to Spiritual Success

March 7, 2021

John 17:3 ESV

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

- Everything about being a Christian works by a personal, living and growing relationship with God; and nothing, about being a Christian, works without that relationship.
 - eternal (aiōnios) *without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be*
 - life (zōē) *the absolute fullness of life that only God possesses*
 - know (ginōskō) *Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse, relational and experiential intimacy, to learn to know, to become known*
- *The secret to spiritual success is a communion with God which is spiritual, alive, interactive, intimate and continual.*
 - *Not knowledge about God, but a relationship of knowing the Person of God.*
 - *Success, not by working harder, achieving more or performing better, but by knowing God in a personal relationship.*

John 4:23-24 ESV

23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

- *Worshipping in spirit means that knowing God:*
 - *does not originate in the mind or intellect*
 - *does not originate in emotion*
- *Worshipping in Truth means we come to Father:*
 - *by the Truth of His Word, not our personal perception of truth*
 - *on His terms, not ours*
 - *seeking His will and His pleasure, not our own*

2 Peter 1:1-2 ESV

1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge [epignōsis] of God and of Jesus our Lord.

knowledge

- epignōsis (noun) *precise and correct knowledge, full discernment*
- from epiginosko (verb) *to know thoroughly and accurately, to perceive who a person is, to find out, to become fully acquainted with, to understand*

2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge [epignōsis] of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

- *This communion with God is a holy intercourse where He gives:*
 - *His holiness for our worldliness*
 - *His purity for our sinfulness*
 - *His strength for our weakness*
 - *His joy for our sorrow*
 - *His hope for our depression*
 - *His healing for our infirmities*

2 Peter 1:5-11 ESV

5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue [*aretē* - moral goodness, virtue, excellence], and virtue with knowledge [*gnōsis* - from *ginōskō* - to know relationally & experientially],

6 and knowledge with self-control [*egkrateia* - the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites], and self-control with steadfastness [*hypomonē* - enduring, patience continuance], and steadfastness with godliness [*eusebeia* - piety, godliness, holiness],

7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.