

Getting to Know Jesus

This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3, NIV)

Think of the friends or family to whom you are the closest. At one time they were just faces in the hall, two-dimensional people like the many you brush past every day. You may have known their names and a bit about them. Perhaps you made small talk and exchanged pleasantries. But they were nothing more to you--you didn't really know them, and they weren't yet a part of you.

But somehow, something happened. Maybe you experienced a good time or survived a difficult situation together. Or perhaps simple sharing grew into a kinship. The other face became a living person, a real friend. That friend became a part of your love for life itself.

Often such friendships are unexpected. We sometimes know people for many years, never dreaming that they will someday be very special to us.

Even as Christians, as believers in Jesus Christ, our relationship with Him can fall into this pattern. Though we have met Him and know a little about Him, He is a name, a two-dimensional figure in a busy world that centers around ourselves. Our desires are so real, and He is not.

But hopefully, something happens--something good, something difficult, or just the Spirit's faithful work within us. We become aware that He is a real being. He comes to life on a personal level. We know Him, not as a vague something beyond our grasp--a phantom in a corner of our minds--but as a personality who interacts with us hour by hour.

We begin to discover how wonderful and interesting and enriching such a unique relationship can be. If a human friendship can become so life-changing, imagine a friendship with an all-loving, infinite God. Imagine how awesomely beautiful it is to share life with One who is constantly not just with us, but in us, experiencing our innermost feelings before we can even express them. We can know Him, learn from Him, rely on Him, and enjoy Him--and He, us.

I want that kind of friendship. I want to move beyond the cardboard images of Christ. I want His reality to grow in me until other people sense it and are drawn to Him. I so much want it for you as well.

Hymn: [I Want to Know You](#)