

Five Steps to Know the Lord

24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

31 “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true.

32 There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.

33 You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.

34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

35 He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.

36 But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

37 And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

41 “I do not receive honor from men.

42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.

43 I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

44 How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

45 Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust.

46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

1. Search the Scriptures

- To search is very necessary
- Jesus never minimized the necessity of searching the Scriptures
- He recognizes that the Scriptures indeed testify concerning Himself
- We need to read the Bible
- We need to study the Bible
- We need to memorize the Bible
- We need to recite the Bible
- We need to know the Bible
- We need to be enriched in our knowledge of the Bible
- The more we read the Bible, the more we are assured that they testify concerning the Lord Jesus

2. Come to the Lord, the Word

- Am I willing to come to the Lord Himself?
- Am I satisfied to only have the black and white letters of the Bible?
- Am I satisfied to be convinced that the Bible is true and that Jesus Christ is true?
- Am I satisfied to know that the Bible is the greatest book in the world?
- Am I satisfied to be convinced concerning the Lord Jesus?
- Or do I want to have the Lord Jesus Himself?
- To have the presence of the Lord
- To have the speaking of the Lord
- To have life
- To grow in life
- To be changed in life

3. Hear the word of Jesus

- **He who hears My word (v. 24)**
- Do I hear?
- To hear is to pay attention
- To hear the word of God is not just to read it, but to let it speak to me

a. My word

- The word is actually the voice of the Son of God
- **The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God (v. 25)**
- We cannot divorce the Bible from the voice or speaking of the Son of God
- **The word is actually God Himself**

b. The Word testified

1. By John the Baptist: a light to testify to the truth
2. By the Son's work, which is greater than that of John
3. By the Father Himself
4. By the Scriptures or the Bible, the written word of God

- When I come to the Lord Himself, the Lord will speak to me directly and personally
- This is not just to obtain knowledge concerning the Lord or His work
- This is to obtain a specific word from the Lord concerning my daily life or my service to the Lord, or my concept concerning the church life
- I realize I am dead without the specific speaking of the Lord
- When the Lord speaks to me and touches me, I am made alive
- I am sensitive to Him, in His presence, and alert to His heart's desire, which is the church

4. Believe the word

- Not sufficient to hear, but to believe
- The word must have a result
- To believe is to receive
- To believe is to acknowledge that I have a lack, a need
- To believe is to realize that I am sinful, in need of a Savior
- To believe is to respond to the word
- To believe is to believe Jesus (v. 46)
- To believe is to believe the words of Jesus (v. 47)

5. Let the word abide in us

- But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe (v. 38).
- The word must abide in us, stay in us
- Many times, we may have the Lord's speaking, and be impressed with the Lord's speaking
- We forget the Lord's speaking quickly
- I may not be willing to remain in the Lord's speaking
- When we let the word abide in us, we are brought to the Father Himself, so we can know Him and His heart's desire

Condition	Action	Result
Dead	Search the Scriptures	Testimony of Jesus Christ
Dead	Come to Jesus	Receive life
Dead	Hear and believe the word of God	Pass from death, judgment, to life
	Let the word abide in us	Know the Father, the source

