



WOW: Word Of the Week

Intimacy (Again)

July 31, 2024

Early in 2021, I wrote a series of articles about prayer. One takeaway from that study was that meaningful prayer depends on intimacy with God. Prayer is more than asking for things. Prayer is relationship, hanging out together, simply spending time together, what I sometimes describe as “wasting time with God.” Thinking about prayer, I wrote a WOW: Intimacy, which you can find at this link: www.bobyoungrsources.com/articles/word-of-week_intimacy.pdf

More recently, the word “intimacy” has surfaced repeatedly in my work on the new video series, “Knowing Jesus.” An invitation video was released early this morning on the dedicated YouTube channel: [Knowing Jesus - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@KnowingJesus24) (@KnowingJesus24). Knowing Jesus depends on having an intimate relationship with Him.

Therefore, I wanted to write about intimacy with Jesus, but I had already written about intimacy. Perhaps a different word? My search for a different word led me to synonym lists and new insights. Intimacy is frankness, transparency, vulnerability, familiarity, affection, closeness, relational, personal. I did not find a word I liked better than intimacy. So, **Intimacy (Again)!** Not about prayer, but about what it means to know Jesus.

Knowing Jesus is not the same as knowing about Jesus. Consider four Jesus-followers from the New Testament.

PHILIP. The John 14 conversation between Jesus and Philip is convicting.

If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? (John 14:7-9)

After three years, Philip did not yet know Jesus? Philip was among the earliest believers (John 1:43-46).

PAUL, nearing the end of his life, writes these words, “I want to know him” (Phil. 3:10). Did he not know Jesus? Is he saying that he wants to know him better?

PETER. Have we misread Peter’s final admonition (2 Pet. 3:18), “Grow in grace and knowledge....” Have we limited knowledge to mental affirmation? Should growing in knowledge include “knowing Jesus?”

JOHN. Truth matters in knowing Jesus. John is clear.

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him... (1 John 2:3-4a)

Certainly knowing Jesus includes knowing Jesus’ story. The subtitle of the new video series is: “a fresh retelling of the story of Jesus.” Knowing Jesus includes understanding. But perfect understanding does not guarantee “knowing Jesus.”

Knowing Jesus is relational—hearts **touching**, changed, **transformed**, **tuned**, spiritually developed. Knowing Jesus influences how I spend my **time**. As I spend more time with Jesus, that time becomes deeper, more frequent, more comforting. Knowing Jesus **transforms** what I am passionate about. His heart becomes my heart. Knowing Jesus increases my passion and commitment for seeking and saving the lost. Knowing Jesus changes what I **think** about and what I **talk** about.

I pray that the video series, “**Knowing Jesus**,” will help you find new wings to carry you closer to the heart of Jesus, to help develop his heart within your heart, so that his heart will become your heart.

I pray that the video series will help you see “the surpassing worth of knowing Christ” (Phil. 3:8). To know him, live out resurrection power, to become more and more like him in every way.