

*In search of...*

# Truth & Right

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## Thinking & Knowing

The past two weeks have been a great learning experience for me. If I were to try to sum up exactly what things have been like, adjusting to how our life is now that Vivianna has been born and we brought her home, that would deal primarily with two words: "thought" and "know."

For instance, I thought I knew about how often babies need to eat and that new parents lack sleep. Now, I know what it means to operate on just a few (interrupted) hours of rest, trying to accomplish all of the things that need to be done, like laundry, mowing, studying the Bible, and working on lessons. Likewise, I thought that we had the house ready for her to come home. Now, again, I know that the way we had the bassinet (amongst other things) had to change and so much of what we had prepared is as-of-yet untouched.

More significant than

anything else I can think of and could talk about, however, is how I thought I would be prepared to handle everything emotionally. I know now how it all feels, like being overwhelmed at seeing this little person for the first time, and counting ten little fingers and ten little toes. Each passing day I know more and more about what it means to love someone in this way. Sure, in my life prior to this, I had cousins, and friends, and they had children, and I felt close to them and loved them. And certainly in all of this I love Jessica; that has never changed, except that I love her more then ever now, but that love is altogether different.

Now maybe you are wondering if I am just using this medium to gush about being a new father; while I cannot deny going on probably a bit more than necessary, allow me to assure you that I am not "just" doing that, saying these things

just to say them or out of pride. I want to explore how formerly I thought and now I know from a spiritual angle. Consider 1 Kings 5:9-12, "So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.' But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, 'Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?' So he went away in a rage."

There are many people in the world today who have their own thoughts about God, religion, and the world as a whole. We all think and approach situations differently, and there is nothing wrong with having your own individual opinion. But what all of us have to realize is just that: they are opinions. Unless we have facts to back up what we say & do, all we have is our "think-sos." Someone might say, "I thought that being a Christian meant giving up having fun and preaching to everyone around me." But, after reading, believing, & obeying the Scriptures, they can say, "Now I know that being a Christian

means putting God first, then others, & myself last. It means I was a sinner who did not deserve forgiveness, and I am in no place to judge anyone. God will judge."

But it is not just the Lord that we can have misconceptions about; have you ever at one time thought something about someone you know, perhaps a coworker or family member, only to later find out & know that what you thought was wrong? Even the best of us at picking up on hints regarding a person's mannerisms and personalities is not correct all the time. Frankly, it would be surprising to meet someone who can accurately predict others more than half the time! We are not mind readers, and we are not usually as smart as we would like to think we are. Remember that God can see what we cannot: "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Heb. 4:12)

And, in addition to all of that, sometimes we think something (until we know better) not about God, or other people, but about circumstances in general. Here is an example: "I thought that all churches of Christ met at 6:30 Sunday evenings, isn't that a command?" Sadly, tradition can hinder sometimes a lot more than it can help. We can become stuck in our ways that, unless clear teaching is taking

place, we begin to think that "the way it's always been done" is the way it HAS to be done. Those who are mature in Christ know that many matters have nothing to do with the doctrine, and as such are up to that autonomous congregation to decide. Be careful not to let freedoms and opinions take precedence. "We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ," (2 Cor. 10:5)

Bringing all that I've said full-circle, in a way, one more thing that I thought before that now I know is that I thought I understood God sending His Son to die for us. But now that I have a child, to even contemplate that has a whole new meaning. He loved us enough to send Him, and Jesus loved us enough to go through with it and die, all while we were still sinners! "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:9-10)

Whether you have a deep understanding of what it means to be a parent and love a child or not (I still have a long way to go), how can you be aware of what the Lord did for us and not respond with loving Him, obeying His commandments?! We don't think God loves us, we know!

Jarred Currence

Happy Moments,  
*Praise God.*

Difficult Moments,  
*Seek God.*

Quiet Moments,  
*Worship God.*

Painful Moments,  
*Trust God.*

Every Moment,  
*Thank God.*

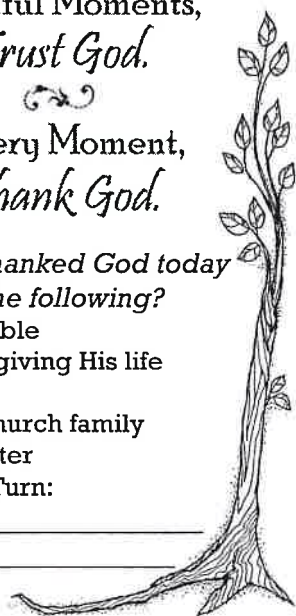
*Have you thanked God today  
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- Laughter
- Your Turn:

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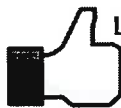
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# BIBLE Trivia!

**DIRECTIONS:** After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

**1. In what city did Paul address some of the most brilliant men of his time?**

- a) Corinth
- b) Antioch
- c) Athens
- d) Jerusalem

**2. What judge's servant killed him at his own request?**

- a) Tola's
- b) Abimelech's
- c) Barak's
- d) Jephthah's

**3. How many jars of water did Jesus turn into wine?**

- a) Seven
- b) Eight
- c) Twenty
- d) Six

**4. What woman's absence made the Israelites pause in their journey to the Promised Land?**

- a) Zipporah's
- b) Miriam's
- c) Rahab's
- d) Elisheba's

**5. What did a man at Jesus' crucifixion run to find for the dying Jesus?**

- a) A sponge
- b) His mother
- c) A burial cloth
- d) Herbs to ease the pain

**6. What church tolerated the heresy of the Nicolaitans?**

- a) Ephesus
- b) Antioch
- c) Thyatira
- d) Pergamum

**7. What sneaky Israelite confessed that he had stolen goods from fallen Jericho?**

- a) Achan
- b) Phineas
- c) Eleazar
- d) Abinnadab

**8. Who said, "Surely the Lord is in this place."?**

- a) Esau
- b) Gideon
- c) Jacob
- d) Eli

**9. Where was Paul mistaken for the god Hermes?**

- a) Iconium
- b) Lystra
- c) Derbe
- d) Philippi

**10. In Jesus' parable, how many virgins were to accompany the bride & groom?**

- a) Twenty-four
- b) Forty
- c) Ten
- d) Twelve

## **LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS & VERSES:**

- 1) B, Reference: Acts 24:24
- 2) D, Reference: Matthew 18:21-35
- 3) A, Reference: 2 Samuel 3:20
- 4) D, Reference: Joshua 24:32
- 5) C, Reference: Luke 7:36-43

- 6) A, Reference: Judges 18:2-28
- 7) C, Reference: Romans 16:15
- 8) B, Reference: Numbers 11:1-3
- 9) A, Reference: John 3:30
- 10) C, Reference: 1 Chronicles 29:29