

## Yes, You Can Know!

By: David Sproule

Let's do some word studies and then make the application.

In the book of First John, there are several words that are key terms, which are used repeatedly in the book. One of them is the word "know." There is more than one Greek word that is translated "know" in English, but I want to focus only on the uses of the Greek word *oida*, which means "fullness of knowledge."

As we go through these verses in First John, ask yourself, "Can we *really know* these things? Fully? Completely? Can I actually be certain?" Of course, you are going to answer that "yes" every time, but I want you to see how the word is used.

We read that "you...*know* the truth" (2:21). "You *know* that He is righteous" (2:29). "We *know* that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him" (3:2). "You *know* that He was manifested to take away our sins" (3:5). "We *know* that we have passed from death to life" (3:14). "You *know* that no murderer has eternal life" (3:15). "We *know* that we are of God" (5:19). "We *know* that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding" (5:20). No question! We know these things with absolute certainty!

Another word that runs throughout the book is the word "have." Consider these instances when the word "have" is used in the present

tense. Again, as you read these, I want you to ask yourself, "Do we *really have* these things?" Of course, you are going to answer that "yes" every time, but I want you to see how the word is used in the present tense.

"We *have* fellowship with one another" (1:7). Do we truly "have" that for sure right now? "We *have* an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (2:1). Do we truly "have" that for sure right now? We "*have*" the "commandment" to "love" our "brother" (4:21). Do we truly "have" that for sure right now? Yes, we really "have" these things right now.

We've examined those two words for a reason. They are both key words that are found in [First John 5:13](#). "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may *know* that you *have* eternal life." Some Christians struggle with having confidence that they are going to heaven.

The Bible says that those who keep on believing and obeying the Son of God (the emphasis of the present tense Greek word for "believe" [*pisteuo*]) can "KNOW" (as certain as they know the truth, know Jesus is righteous, etc.) that they "HAVE" (as real as having fellowship with one another, having Jesus as our Advocate, etc.) "ETERNAL LIFE." Dear faithful Christian, God says that you can KNOW that you HAVE a home waiting for you in HEAVEN! Now, let's live like it!

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# No Baptism = No Faith

By: Selected

Mark chapter eleven records that time when the Jewish leaders came to Jesus and asked Him a great question all religious leaders should be asked. Their motives for asking the question were wrong, but their question gives great insight into the path to have a relationship with God. The question was, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?” (v. 28). He had just cleansed the temple, driving out the animals and the moneychangers, and their question was phrased twice, but it was the same question. It focused on authority for religious actions.

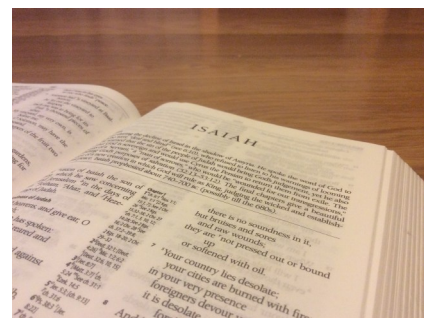
Jesus had addressed this so many times, and they had not heard Him. So, He turned the question around and asked them the same question about their behavior. He phrased it by asking about their attitude toward the baptism that brought the remission of sins and by what authority had John done this. By what authority had John come and baptized thousands? These leaders were clever and thought about what might happen if they gave either of the two possible answers. Was the baptism for the remission of sins something John thought up or was it actually a baptism revealed from heaven?

Read the text carefully. They knew if they said it was from John or any mortal that they would lose the favored leadership position they had, for all the people knew John was truly a prophet. The only other alternative was to say that it was a revelation from heaven, not from man. They could not possibly say this, for they knew Jesus would ask about their behavior

when they heard John preached baptism preceded by repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4).

Now, before you read the next paragraph carefully recall what they said. He asked them about the authority, and they knew that if they said it was from heaven, Jesus would ask a question for which there was no answer. The text does NOT say that if they said it was from heaven Jesus would then reply asking why they had not been baptized by John. Do not read any further until you phrase Jesus’ possible response? Jesus would NOT have asked them why they had not been baptized by John.

They said, “If we say, ‘From heaven.’ He will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’” John taught baptism was for the remission of sins, and Jesus taught that our baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). The question is not why have you not *been baptized*, but why did you not *believe* Jesus? A failure to obey and teach His words is a deeper question. This failure is not to reject baptism, but it is a failure to believe. It is not a rejection of baptism, but a failure to have true faith!



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## Upcoming Events

TODAY: Monthly Potluck luncheon after morning worship. Please bring a covered dish/dessert to share. There will be a 12:45pm service to follow.

Sunday, April 12: Monthly youth devo hosted at the White home. Boys bring drinks and girls bring desserts.

May 2-3: Midtown's Challenging the Church with speaker Brant Stubblefield.

Area events:

\*Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.\*

## Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Veronica Serenil who will be undergoing treatments for her cancer.

Janis Fossati, Willie Fossati's mother and Nancy Fortenberry's sister, who will be having medical tests done.

### 2026 Pocket Directories

Pocket Directories are available on the table in the foyer.

### Graduate Candidates

We are getting ready to honor our graduates. Please let Nina Siegel know if you have a graduating student for the 2025-2026 school year.

## Service Roster

Week of April 5, 2026

### Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Dan Fielder  
Song Leader..... Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Ron White  
Closing Prayer..... Willie Fossati

### Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Cody McCoy  
Cup..... Randy D'Herde  
Offering..... Bryant Siegel  
Assist..... Caleb Lehtinen  
Assist..... Lupe Escojido  
Assist..... Blake Jacobs

### Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer..... Kevin Sheeran  
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Bill York/  
Bryce Dolan

### Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy  
Song Leader..... Barry Lehtinen  
Devotional..... Randy D'Herde

### Other

Prepare Communion for April..... F. Rosales

## Congregational News This Week

### Birthdays

Nancy Dorries..... April 6  
Krista Lehtinen..... April 6  
Maren Fielder..... April 8  
Audrey Fielder..... April 8  
Shiloh Cammock..... April 11

### Anniversaries

Desmon & Naomi Flonnory..... Apr. 9

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men’s Encouragement &  
Winter Youth Retreat  
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and  
Communication  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Minister

Cody McCoy

## Weekly Reading

Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served,  
but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for  
many.  
Matthew 20:28

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of March 29, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....64  
A.M. Worship.....88  
P.M. Worship.....63  
Wednesday Worship.....70

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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**midtown**  
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