

the first great step? How ~~f~~ do you know that they have sincerely and truly taken it? You will not know until you know what happens later, whether they have received Christ into their hearts and there is real living faith that is growing there, or whether it is like the seed that landed in stoney ground, or the seed that was choked out by the weeds. ~~W/We~~ We need to follow on to know the Lord.

In vs.6 of this same chapter he says, "For I desired mercy and not sacrifice, and knowledge of God more than burnt offerings," and he wants us to reach the point of Hos. 8:2 where Israel shall cry unto Me, My God we know thee." We've learned more and more truly to know Him. This is a grt. stress, a grt. emphasis in the book of Hosea, the dearth of knowledge and what it produces. "My people have rejected knowledge and therefore are destroyed." The Divine Knowledge - the fact that God always knows all about us~~y~~ and the Deepening Knowledge which is so important for our development in Christian life.

Now this thought is not simply in the Book of Hosea; it's not simply in the OT. It is also brought out very clearly in the NT. The NT has two words that are often translated "know." They are the words ~~GINOSKO~~ and OIDA. Now ~~GINOSKO~~ is a present tense. And OIDA, although often translated, I know, is actually a perfect tense. This suggests a difference between the two. They would seem to have originated in the Greek language with ~~GINOSKO~~ meaning "coming to know something, learning something," "stepping forward in realization" and OIDA, "having the knowledge of something." Now some interpreters go on from that and say OIDA is innate knowledge and ~~GINOSKO~~ is experimental knowledge. But I believe that most interpreters would agree that this is an erroneous deduction from it. That both of them are used in relation to all sorts of knowledge and in fact the primary original distinction that one is the beginning of knowledge and the other is the having of it is actually lost pretty much by the time the NT was written. And so they are practically synonyms by that time for the idea of -- which is expressed in the Heb. by YADAH.

Jesus in His great High Priestly prayer in the 17th chap. of John has a marvellous statement in the third vs. of that chapter. He says: And this is life eternal that they might know thee, the ~~the~~ only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." This is life