



# POINTS OF HOPE

## Knowing God. . . . . BY JOHN PADGETT

I have come to see that there is a vast difference between knowing about God and knowing God in a personal relationship. Most of us who have grown up in church have heard the saying, "Christianity is not about a bunch of does and don'ts but about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ." At some level we would all agree to that premise, but understanding how that relationship translates to everyday living is somewhat of a mystery for many. 2 Peter 1:2 reads, "Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the Knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." What a benefit to us as believers that in the knowledge of God we get grace and peace multiplied to us. In a world filled with strife, chaos, confusion, fear and an overall unsettledness, we as believers can rise above the fray of all of that with grace and peace as we get to know God more and more.

In the very next verse, 2 Peter 1:3 reads, "seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." God has given us His divine power to experience life and godliness through knowing Him in a real and personal way. I John 4:16, "And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." The word "know" speaks in Greek of experiential, understanding God's nature, can distinguish, discern and are mindful of God's nature. God wants us to experience Him in such a way that we come to know who He is and we are to relate and live with him. Let me give you an example from a personal testimony of Derek Prince in his 1998 newsletter:

**My understanding of God as Father was revolutionized by a personal experience early in 1996. Ruth and I had been sitting in bed one morning, praying together as we normally do.**



**Suddenly I became aware of a powerful force at work in my feet and lower legs. It moved upward, until my whole body was forcefully shaken by it.**

**At the same time I was aware of an arm stretched out toward my head, seeking to press down on me something like a black skull cap. For a few moments there was a conflict between these two forces. Then the power at work in my body prevailed and the arm with the skull cap was forcibly dispelled and vanished.**

**Immediately, without any mental process of reasoning, I knew that I could call God my father. I had used the phrase "our father" for more than fifty years. Doctrinally, I was clear about this truth. I had even preached a series of three messages on "knowing God as Father." But what I received at that moment was a direct, personal revelation.**

**Let me share with you my interpretation of this experience. I was born in India and spent the first five years of my life there. Twenty years later, after I was saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit, I became aware of some dark shadow from India that always hung over me. I understood that it was one of India's "gods" that had followed me through life, seeking to possess me.**

There was one particular way that this ‘god” oppressed me. Every morning I would awake with a dark foreboding of something evil awaiting me. It was never anything precise, just some amorphous darkness. This unknown evil never happened, but every day the foreboding was there.

After I was baptized in the spirit, the foreboding diminished in intensity, but it never disappeared. I did, however, discover that if I set my mind to praise and worship the Lord, the foreboding would lift from me. Yet, it always came back the next morning.

The day the black skull cap was pulled away, the foreboding vanished – never to return! And from that morning, it became completely natural for me to address God as “father” or “my father”. I have now a personal relationship, not just a theological position! I have now been enjoying this new relationship for about two years...

Ever since I was saved, I have believed that if I continue faithful to the Lord, I will go to heaven when I die, but I have never really thought of heaven as my home. After that arm with the black skull cap was taken away, however, it has become natural to view heaven as my home. Shortly afterwards, I said to Ruth, “when I die, if you want to give me a tombstone, you can just write on it two words: “Gone Home.”

This was just one man’s experience with God. Each of us will experience God in a real unique way that is personal to us. Upon reading the book of Psalms we will discover a man, King David, who experienced God in many ways and had much to write about what he discovered of God’s nature and character. Living Hope Ministries desires to help many of you experience and discover the very nature of God in such a way that it transforms your life. We pray that each of you would have a testimony of how you have experienced God in your life and speak of the revelation of how God’s divine power has changed your life.

**ITINERARY:**

October 14, 21, 28: Overcomers: First Baptist Church, Boone, NC 7-9pm

Nov. 5, 12, 19: Overcomers: First Baptist Church, Boone, NC 7-9pm

Nov. 6-8: Williamsburg, VA with Trisha Frost (Shiloh Place Ministries), tentatively

Nov. 21-23: Corpus Christi, TX Wedding

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**MINISTRY UPDATES:**

\* We now have an office in Wilkesboro and are expanding our work in that area.

\* We continue with work with several area ministries and local churches as God has granted us much favor with what we are doing.

\*Our Thursday night group “Overcomers” continues to minister to a wide range of people dealing with addictions, anxiety, fears, mental and emotional problems, and deep- rooted relational issues.

\* Our area-wide event, Sermon on the Mount, was a tremendous success August 14-16. Please visit our website to see the pictures provided to us by Jonathan Burton Photography. Lew Sterrett and his team did a wonderful job presenting the gospel illustrated by horses. I do want to take time to thank our committee for all their hard work to make this event happen -- the committee members were:

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|------------------|------------------------|
| Rebecca Austin   | Autumn & Jessica Minor |
| Connie Barnette  | Steve Moody            |
| Che & Pam Brasch | Jeff Powell            |
| Susan Broderick  | Mike Roberts           |
| Bencita Brooks   | Gordon Rule            |
| Kerry Krieder    | Bud Russell            |



\* **Special Thanks** to all the local business who helped support the Sermon On The Mount event:

Adams Building Supply  
AF Banking  
Bald Guy Brew  
Beef O'Brady's  
Boone Rent-All & Parties Too!  
Carolina BBQ  
Charlie's Auto  
Cheap Joe's Art Supply  
Dutch Creek Trails, Inc.  
Garage Door Services of the High Country  
GDS Services  
Gragg Farms  
Hardee's  
Joe White Shoeing Service  
Kingsway High Country Church  
Linville Animal Hospital  
Moody Back Hoe Services  
Mount Vernon Baptist Church  
New River Building Supply  
Pro-Am Sports  
Watauga Building Supply  
Watauga Veterinary Hospital  
Watsonatta Western World  
Weichert Realtors  
Wendy's

\* **Special thanks** to Jeff and Bencita Brooks for their hard work in organizing our first Fund Raiser: Sermon on the Mount Softball Tournament. We had twelve teams from around the region that came and supported our event with great success.

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## FOLLOWING GOD:

Would **you** like to be part of this ministry as we follow God's "exceeding abundantly **beyond**" plans for us? You can do just that by regularly lifting us up in prayer, as well as by making a one-time donation or by becoming a monthly financial partner (which allows us to better plan for expansion). The vision God has given is great and it delights Him to see His people get involved in what He wants to accomplish!

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- Providing Comfort
- Restoring Hope
- Discovering Purpose

"This Hope is an anchor to the soul . . . "  
Hebrews 6:19