

Knowing Him, Growing in Him

Colossians 2:6–7 · Ephesians 4:13

BIG IDEA: You can't grow the body without growing in Christ. The root system determines everything — and the root is knowing Jesus.

1 — KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD IS THE TARGET — NOT THE STARTING LINE (EPH. 4:13)

- This is deep, personal, relational, and experiential knowledge — not just information.
- The kind of knowing that changes you because it costs something to obtain.
- It's the difference between knowing about someone and actually knowing them.

Ephesians 4:13 CSB

"...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness."

John 17:3 CSB

"This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent—Jesus Christ."

KEY TRUTH: Eternal life isn't defined by knowing the right things — it's defined by knowing the right Person. And that target is in front of every one of us.

FILL IN THE BLANKS — SECTION 1

Eph. 4:13 — "...unity in the faith and in the _____ of God's Son..."

John 17:3 — "This is _____: that they may know you..."

Eph. 4:13 — Paul says until _____ reach it. This target is for every one of us.

Notes:

2 — THE ROOT SYSTEM — ROOTED, BUILT UP, ESTABLISHED (COL. 2:6–7)

- Just as you received him — by faith, trust, surrender — that's still how you move.
- There is no second-stage Christianity where you outgrow your need for Jesus.
- The root keeps feeding the branch. Always.

Colossians 2:6–7 CSB

"So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude."

Galatians 3:2–3 CSB

"Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by the Spirit, are you now finishing by the flesh?"

KEY TRUTH: You started the right way. What made you think the rest of the journey works differently? Faithful on the outside. Dry on the inside. The fix is always the same — back to the root.

FILL IN THE BLANKS — SECTION 2

Col. 2:6 — “Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, _____ to walk in him.”

Gal. 3:2–3 — You started by the Spirit. You continue by _____.

Col. 2:7 — “...being _____ and _____ in him and _____ in the faith.”

3 — OVERFLOW IS THE DIAGNOSTIC (COL. 2:7)

- Gratitude at this level is the natural, almost involuntary response of a soul resting in Christ.
- It's what happens when someone knows they've been given something they didn't earn.
- Three things that kill overflow: Striving, Drift, and Familiarity.

Colossians 2:7 CSB

“...being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.”

2 Corinthians 9:15 CSB

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

KEY TRUTH: Gratitude is a gauge. When overflow dries up it's almost never just a personality issue — it's a symptom. The fix: get back to knowing him.

FILL IN THE BLANKS — SECTION 3

Col. 2:7 — “...and _____ with gratitude.”

2 Cor. 9:15 — “_____ be to God for his indescribable gift!”

Three things that tend to kill overflow: Striving, Drift, and Familiarity.

Notes:

APPLICATION

This week, pick one. Just one. Go after Christ in:

- His Word — read slowly enough that something has a chance to hit you.
- Prayer — real conversation, not a monologue. Honest about the distance if there is distance.
- Someone further along — find a person drawing from the root. Have an honest conversation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing him? Where do you land right now?
2. Paul says “just as you received him, walk in him.” What posture did you have when you first came to Christ? Is that still how you're moving?
3. Which of the three things that kill overflow — striving, drift, or familiarity — feels most familiar to you?
4. How's your gratitude level honestly? What does that tell you about where you are with Christ?
5. What's the one concrete step you're taking this week — Word, prayer, or someone further along?

MY TAKEAWAY THIS WEEK

ANSWER KEY

S1: knowledge • eternal life • we all

S2: continue • believing • rooted / built up / established

S3: overflowing • Thanks