

*"But ye believe not, because ye are not of My Sheep, as I Said unto you. **My Sheep Hear My Voice**, and I Know them, and they follow me: And I Give unto them Eternal Life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My Hand."* John 10:26-28 KJV



There are three earmarks of a true believer. They hear God's Voice, God Knows them, and they follow Truth (obey God's Word). All three must be true or none of them are. Truth in your thoughts as you think during the day is the Voice of God. It may come from the lips of a child, a voice of a friend, a pastor, or a bird song. It may come as a whisper of Scripture, but however it comes, it is known, heard, and followed by the Child of God, because the Child of God knows God's Word. You cannot know what you do not read and study. Schools and colleges overflow with those seeking knowledge outside of their experience. You must learn before you can properly act. Did you know how to ride a bike or swim before you "learned?" I used this illustration once before, but it aptly demonstrates the point. Tom Hayes, an evangelist friend, related this in a sermon. He was visiting in the Holy Land and had been invited to share a morning cup of coffee with some local shepherds. They all gathered around the cook fire and chatted while their herds mingled together around them. As the session ended, one by one the shepherds rose and walked away calling to their flock. Miraculously, the sheep belonging to that shepherd would separate themselves from among the hundreds milling about and follow their shepherd. He knew how many he had and not only that, they knew his voice. When the Last Trumpet sounds, every lamb of the Saviour will separate and rise to meet Him in the air and He Will Know them each and every one. *"For the Lord Himself Shall Descend from Heaven with a Shout, with the Voice of the Archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* The sheep know the shepherd, because he keeps them close to him and tenderly cares for them. There was a practice for dealing with a straying lamb. The shepherd broke its legs. It may seem cruel, but death from a wolf or lion would be worse. While the lamb's legs healed, the shepherd would carry it about on his shoulders and feed and nurse it. By the time the legs healed, the lamb knew the shepherd and followed him everywhere. Our Father Does no less for us. Circumstances may seem cruel at times, but Father Allows them to draw us nearer, protect, and teach us. We learn to hear His Voice and to follow Him. *"The LORD Is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He Maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He Leadeth me beside the still waters. He Restoreth my soul: He Leadeth me in the Paths of Righteousness for His Name's Sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil: for Thou Art with me; Thy Rod and Thy Staff they comfort me. Thou Preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou Anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the House of the LORD for ever."* You must spend time with the Shepherd to know His Voice; that is, read and know God's Word.

True sheep will follow Master's lead,
And at His side they always feed,
They'll ne'er His watchcare need to plead,
Nor ever suffer any need. –CGP

The bottom line is NOT, "Do you know God?" The bottom line is, "Does God Know you?" If you are not sure, He Doesn't. His own KNOW that He Knows them for He Calls to them!

"I Am the Good Shepherd, and Know My Sheep, and am known of Mine." John 10:14 KJV