

## THE LORD ALREADY KNOWS

A few years ago I heard a radio preacher made the following amazing statement: "Let God know that you love Him, and as a result of this He will love you." As I reflected upon this strange assertion there were a couple of things in particular that struck me. First, the man was ignorant of God's *omniscience*. He was unaware of the fact that God already knows whether we love Him or not, for he said we need to "let God know" that we love Him. And secondly, the man was ignorant of the *Scriptures*, for they show clearly that our love for God is a *consequence* of His love for us—not the *cause* of His love for us: "We love him, because he first loved us" (See 1st John 4:18). This man obviously fell in the category of those to whom our Lord said, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God" (Matt. 22:29). Christ did not mean that they were ignorant of the *letter* of the Scripture, for they were well versed in *that*, but He meant that they did not know the *meaning* of the Scriptures.

We do not have to listen very long to a man speak of his religion in order to know whether he has a proper concept of the God of the Bible or not. The minute he speaks of our *letting* God know a thing we immediately realize that he does not believe in God as the Bible portrays Him. And, the minute he says something that blatantly contradicts clear and distinct declarations of Scripture, we automatically know that he has either not *read* the Bible, or he has refused to *believe* it, or he has not *understood* it.

The Scriptures are very clear that we cannot acquaint God with anything (See for instance John 16:30 & 21:17, Acts 1:24). The Scriptures are also clear that God has loved His people with an "everlasting love" and has consequently drawn them to Himself with lovingkindness (Jer. 31:3). He even loved them when they were dead in sin (Eph. 2:4-5). It is because of the manner of His love for them that they are called His sons (I John 3:1). When He gives them divine life, He makes *them* to know that *He* loves *them*, and then the closer to Him they live the more evidence of His love He imparts to them. They do this by keeping His commandments---or in other words, rendering humble obedience to His precepts. —Elder Ralph Harris.