



THIS I KNOW

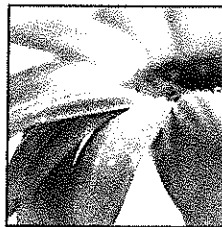
“CHRIST’S LOVE IS GREATER THAN ANYONE CAN EVER KNOW,
BUT I PRAY THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO KNOW THAT LOVE.”

Ephesians 3:19 NCV



ow do you know someone loves you? If a song can be trusted for the answer, we could turn to

“It’s in His Kiss,” which hit the top ten back in 1964. It’s familiarly known as the “Shoop Shoop Song,” thanks to the memorable support provided by the backup singers.



CLEARING + THE + COBWEBS

Ever listened to *K.T.’s Groovin’ Medleys*? On

that CD, Kathi Troccoli adjusts some familiar hits into songs of worship.

Have *you* ever taken a love song or a ballad and changed it around a little bit to make it apply to Jesus?

Does he love me, I wanna know.
How can I tell if he loves me so?

Is it in his eyes (oh no, you'll be deceived)
Is it in his sighs (oh no, he'll make believe)
If you wanna know if he loves you so,
It's in his kiss (that's where it is)

Is it in his face (oh no, that's just his charm)
In his one embrace (oh no, that's just his arm)
If you wanna know if he loves you so,
It's in his kiss (that's where it is)

How 'bout the way he acts (oh no that's not the way,
And you're not listening to all I say)
If you wanna know if he loves you so,
It's in his kiss (that's where it is)

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:7, 8 NKJV

Come on ladies! Shoop, shoop, shoop, shoop . . . ! Okay, *maybe* that's the way you can tell if a young man is in love. But how can we know that God loves us? Again, we can turn to a song: "Jesus loves me this I know, For the Bible tells me so." It's a sweet refrain we've known since childhood. Simple, yet profoundly true. How can we tell if He loves us so? He's told us so.



1. We can be confident of God's love for us—of Jesus' love for us—because the Bible tells us He loves us.

- How are we to love one another, according to John 13:34?

Scripture is filled with encouragement for our faith because we are so vulnerable to doubt and fear when we feel overwhelmed by life.

Barbara Johnson

- According to Romans 8:37, victory is ours through Christ, who . . . what?

- According to Revelation 1:5, all praise should go to whom?

*If we can acknowledge that
what we see in the world
is not all there is, we are
strengthening our eyes
of faith.*

Nicole Johnson

2. Knowing means confidence, assurance, certainty. We know that we know that we know! But it's also good to remember that we don't know everything! What does Paul tell us in 1 Corinthians 13:12?

3. Let's think for a minute. We started with "Jesus loves me, this I know," but that's not the only thread we've woven our faith from. The Bible is filled with truths that we can *know* beyond a shadow of a doubt. Match a few of them up here.

___ Exodus 18:11

___ 2 Kings 5:15

___ Job 19:25

___ Job 19:26

___ Job 42:2

___ Psalm 135:5

___ Ecclesiastes 3:14

___ Jonah 4:2

a. I know that after I die, I shall see God.

b. I know that whatever God does, it'll be forever.

c. I know there is no God except the God of Israel.

d. I know that God can do everything.

e. I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods.

f. I know that God is gracious and slow to anger.

g. I know that the LORD is great.

h. I know that my Redeemer lives.

4. Paul's enthusiasm is contagious. What did he tell Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:12?



We have to stand in the complexity of all that God is working on, not just in the simple part we can see for ourselves.

Nicole Johnson

5. We can share Paul's certainty in Jesus' abilities. What can we be confident of, according to 2 Corinthians 5:8?



*Each day the Lord brings
with it a reason to rejoice.*

Thelma Wells

6. What is another aspect of God's love and care for us which lends Paul confidence, according to Philippians 1:6?

It's a silly little tradition, but familiar enough. Picture a young lady, sitting on a green slope dotted with wild flowers. In her hand she holds a daisy, and she's slowly plucking the petals and scattering them on the ground. "He loves me, he loves me not, he loves me, he loves me not." Hardly a reliable method for determining another's affections, but the lovesick find comfort in any little good omen. Thankfully, with Jesus, we have no need to gauge His feelings by guesswork or little signs. His love for us is constant, and His declaration of love was clear.

7. What does Paul want us to know, according to Ephesians 3:19? Why is his hope for us paradoxical?

8. In Romans 8:38, Paul takes a look at the evidence of Christ's love in his life and says, "I am . . . what?"

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38, 39 NKIV

*When we, by ourselves,
know who we are in
Christ, when we have
a strong personal
relationship with Him,
then we have so much to
offer each other.*

Sheila Walsh

9. We are assured of Christ's love for us. "Jesus loves me, this I know." This allows us to do what, according to Ephesians 5:2?

DIGGING DEEPER

Nobody likes to be told "I told you so!" At least, not when we've just made some small blunder. But we can take comfort in Jesus' "I told you so's" of Scripture. He repeated that little phrase quite often!

- Matthew 24:25
- John 3:12
- John 10:25
- John 14:29
- Mark 13:23
- John 9:27
- John 14:2
- John 16:4



PONDER & PRAY

God was not coy in His love for us. He declared it to all who would hear Him in no uncertain terms. This week, ponder through the verses we've explored so far about God's great love for us. What would happen to our confidence of that love if even one of these verses was missing from the Scriptures? Give thanks to God this week that He's been so forthright in communicating His love.



TRINKET TO TREASURE

This week's little token hearkens back to that little game of plucking flower petals. "He loves me, he loves me not." Your trinket is a daisy. Its sweet simplicity can serve as a reminder that we needn't wonder whether God loves us or not. We know He loves us because He's told us so. We can lean on the Scriptures, for they give us all the assurance we need that we are cherished by our Heavenly Father.

