

***I Wish I Knew Then  
What I Know Now!***

*John 6:60-64a (Topical Message)*

***Many times in life we miss the simple and gravitate to the complex!***

For example, some argue that Gospel can't be that simple as simply believing (Christ died and Rose Again for the Forgiveness of Sins). Or that as a Christian, I can't simply Depend on Christ as my life to live and grow in the faith. That is too simple or that's easy believe(ism), I need to depend on myself (Flesh) to add something to my faith. I made that mistake myself. Early on as a new Christian ***I pursued dependance of my flesh trying*** to grow and mature as a Christian and wasted a lot time, self-effort and the pursuit of the complex (Bible Knowledge) for the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 years on my Christian life ***with no results.***

***I Wish I Knew Then - What I Know Now!***

Today I want to look at John 6:60-64a and the concept of ones flesh profiting nothing! I discovered this year(s) after being saved, but ***Brothers & Sisters – Jesus told us this in John Chapter 6.*** I want to expound on 2 specific areas in the life on man that the flesh profits nothing! It is my prayer that those listening today will avoid wasting time, energy, and frustration in pursuing dependance on the flesh, and missing simple Faith.

Thus, the title of my message ***I Wish I Knew Then - What I Know Now!***

### **Flesh Profits Nothing in:**

- 1. Saving You**
- 2. Maturing You**

## **John 6:60-64a (NASB)**

<sup>60</sup> Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?"

<sup>61</sup> But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble? <sup>62</sup> "*What* then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? <sup>63</sup> "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. <sup>64</sup> "But there are some of you who do not believe,

## What is the Flesh?

**Flesh (Definition)** – (1) Living Life from one's own resources independently of God, or (2) the Physical Body

Both definitions are used in the scriptures. Looking at the context of the verse clarifies how the word flesh is used.

The Christian (Belief in the Gospel) has crucified the flesh. No longer does the flesh have power over the Christian. A Christian has a choice to yield to his flesh, or yield to God.

### **Galatians 5:24 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Paul also says that all Christians shouldn't put confidence in his flesh.

### **Philippians 3:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,

## What is the Flesh continued ?

*Unbelievers* are also described in the Bible as being *in the flesh*.

### Romans 8:8-9 (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> However, you are not **in the flesh but in the Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

So, **Unbelievers** are by birth spiritually dead and in the flesh (Living from their own resources independently of God).

And the **Believers** have crucified the flesh, but can choose to yield to flesh (Living from their own resources independently of God) or yield to God as their source to live life.

Looking at our passage of scripture today in context leading up to Chapter 6.

# Gospel of John

The book of John is a great Gospel because the goal of John writing the Gospel is to present evidence on who Jesus Christ is, and for his readers to believe in Him. Amen!

## **John 20:31 (NASB)**

<sup>31</sup> but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

*Up to this point in the book of John chapter 6*, Jesus turns water to wine. He converses with Nicodemus telling him about what it means to be born again. He encounters the woman at the well. He heals an official's son. He heals a lame man at the pool of Bethesda, telling him to take up his mat and walk (Considered Working) – Upset the Jewish Pharisees (Leaders).

## **John 5:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

He feeds 5000 at the sea of galilee, and walks on water.

Jesus has a conversation with the Jews who were starting to grumble about Him and His claims:

**John 6:47-48 (NASB)**

<sup>47</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> "I am the bread of life.

And goes on to say:

**John 6:56 (NASB)**

<sup>56</sup> "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Some believe this verse point to Christ establishing the Lord's Supper, but Jesus does this a year later before His Crucifixion in later chapters. This points back to verse 47 about ones who believe in him having eternal life, and Him being the bread of life: Man eats bread (food) to have life. Jesus is relating the physical to the spiritual, with this conversion being before Jesus's crucifixion. Belief in His body being broken, and His blood being shed gives man life (forgiveness of sins).

Jesus adds to this by saying a believer Abides in Christ, and Christ Abides in the believer (Christ in You – You in Christ).

**John 6:60-62 (NASB)**

<sup>60</sup> Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble? <sup>62</sup> "What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?

**You don't believe Me – What if you see Me ascend into Heaven, then would you believe?**

## Flesh Profits Nothing in:

### 1. Saving You

<sup>63</sup> "It is the Spirit who gives life; **the flesh profits nothing**; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. <sup>64</sup> "But there are some of you who do not believe."

Jesus says it is the Spirit that gives life –

**Brothers & Sisters** – What saves a person from spiritual death, is Spiritual life from the Spirit of God indwelling them.

#### **Romans 8:8-9 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> However, you are **not in the flesh but in the Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Jesus is making a strong statement about Spiritual life. It's only obtainable by a person who has the Spirit (Holy Spirit). Jesus says whoever believes in Him has eternal life (Spiritual Life) already in John 6:47. The Spirit gives life. Amen!

Now,

**the flesh profits nothing;**

The flesh here is not the physical body, but – **(1)** Living Life from one's own resources independently of God,

**In other words** – Living depending on self-effort to a standard profit(s) nothing in obtaining spiritual life. In this context, the Jews were attempting to keep the Law thinking that it gave them Spiritual (Eternal) life.

**John 5:39-40 (NASB)**

<sup>39</sup> "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; <sup>40</sup> and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

**Brothers & Sisters-** The Flesh profits nothing in obtaining Spiritual Life. Spiritual Life is obtained by faith and not any works of the flesh.

the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. <sup>64</sup> "But there are some of you who do not believe."

Today, some of you still don't believe -

**1 Corinthians 1:23 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

### ***Warning***

There is no being a **good person doctrine** in the Bible which imparts Spiritual Life! There is no **doing good deeds doctrine** in the Bible which imparts Spiritual Life! There is no **works of the Flesh doctrine** in the Bible which imparts Spiritual Life! There is no **golden rule keeping doctrine** in the Bible which imparts Spiritual Life!

This is man's reliance on his flesh thinking he will obtain the Spirit (Spiritual Life)–

***Jesus says the Spirit gives life, the flesh profits nothing***

***Faith*** in the Gospel message gives man Spiritual life. The Flesh profits nothing!

## Flesh Profits Nothing in:

### 2. Maturing You

<sup>63</sup> "It is the Spirit who gives life; **the flesh profits nothing**; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. <sup>64</sup> "But there are some of you who do not believe."

We have already established that the Flesh profits nothing in saving a person. It's the Spirit who gives life by faith in the Gospel Message.

Most Christians would agree with this, but many ask how does a Christian live once he has Spiritual Life?

***Remember what the Flesh is here in context*** – (1) Living Life from one's own resources independently of God,

***If you Believe the Flesh profits nothing in Obtaining Spiritual life – Do you Believe the Flesh profits nothing in maturing and conforming you into the image of Christ?***

Or

***If you Believe the Spirit gives life by faith in the Gospel – Do you Believe the Spirit initiates by faith you maturing and being conformed into the image of Christ?***

## ***Warning***

Most Churches have missed this great truth from scriptures. They teach the Flesh profits nothing for obtaining Spiritual life, but teach the Flesh is the way to mature and grow into the image of Christ. If the Flesh profits nothing, then it profits nothing! Amen.

***Or***

Again, most Churches have missed this great truth from the scriptures. They teach man is saved by faith (not works of the flesh) in the Gospel message, but teach man matures and grows by self-effort and works of the flesh, and not by faith.

***Brothers & Sisters – What a mess, and an inconsistent message!***

No wonder the Church has no power in our culture today. The church has been teaching to rely on one's flesh to mature, grow and be used by God!

Jesus told us - **the flesh profits nothing;**



# ***The Flesh Profits Nothing!***

*In Living Life*

*John 6:63b*

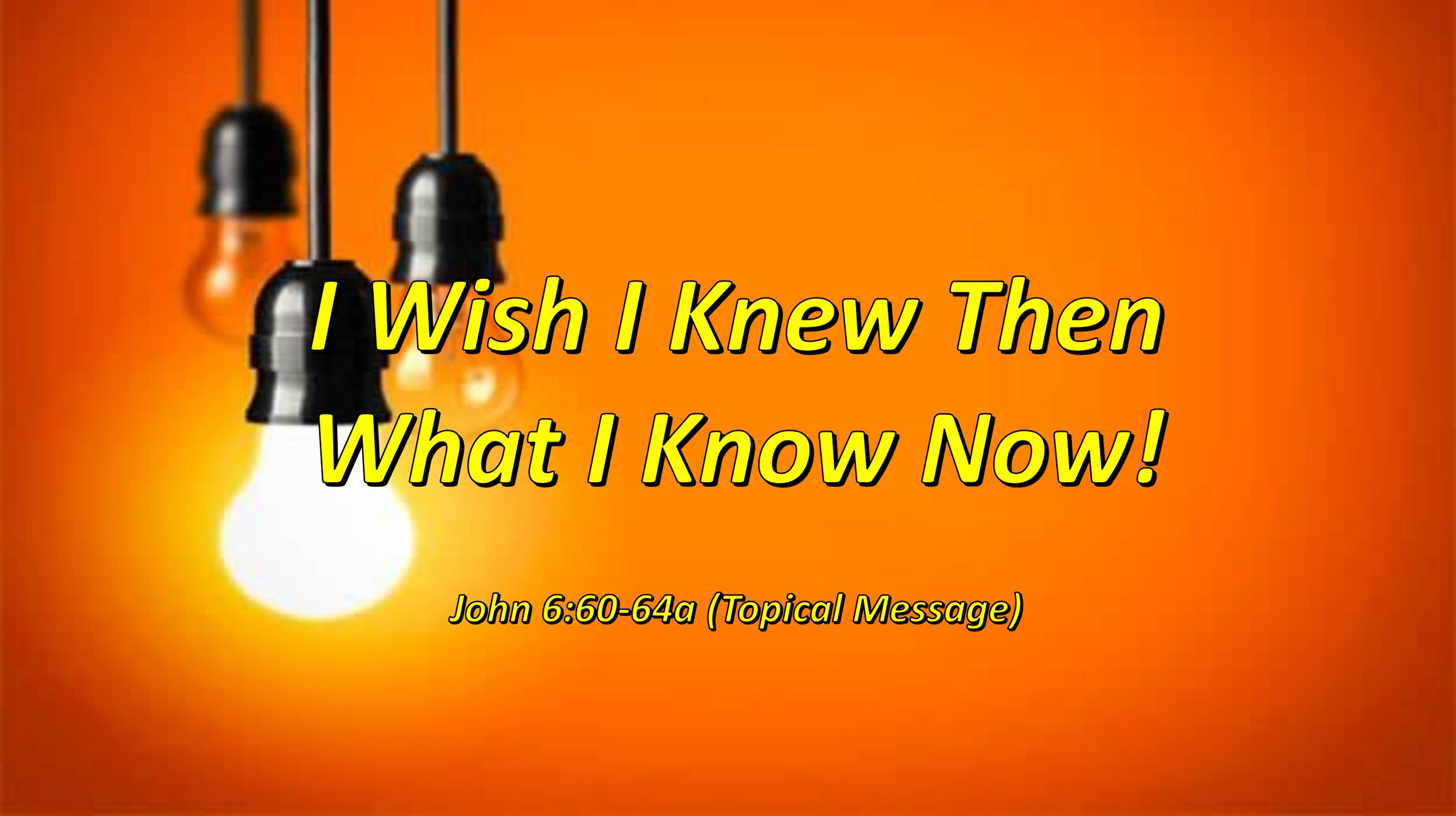
A photograph of a rugged, rocky mountain trail winding uphill. The ground is covered in dark, jagged rocks and patches of dirt. The background is a soft, hazy landscape of rolling hills and mountains under a grey, overcast sky. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

*I Wish I Knew Then  
What I Know Now!*

*The Flesh Profits Nothing*

*in Saving You  
or Maturing You*

*John 6:60-64a*



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