The greatest doctrine of the Bible is that God can be known in personal experience.

7. How did John explain the gospel that he and the other disciples preached? (I John 1:1-3)

8. What did John see as the purpose for preaching the gospel? (I John 1:3)

John preached from a continuing fellowship with God which he desired for others to enter into and experience.

Andrew Murray wrote in 1898; "The great lack of our religion is — we need more of God. We accept salvation as His gift, and we do not know that the only object of salvation, its chief blessing, is to fit us for, and bring us back to, that close intercourse with God for which we were created, and in which our glory in eternity will be found. That only is a true and good religious life, which brings us every day nearer to this God, which makes us give up everything to have more of Him." (Andrew Murray, *The Two Covenants*, Fort Washington, PA: Christian Literature Crusade, 1974, pp. 8-9)

9. What promise did God give Israel through Jeremiah the prophet? (Jer. 29:13)

A.W. Tozer explains, "A spiritual kingdom lies all about us, enclosing us embracing us, altogether within the reach of our inner selves, waiting for us to recognize it. God Himself is here waiting on our response to His Presence. This eternal world will come alive to us the moment we begin to reckon upon its reality." (A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*, Camp Hill, PA: Christian Pub., Inc., 1982, p. 52.)

10. How did the psalmist describe his pursuit of God? (Ps. 42:1-2)

11. Read Psalm 84. In this psalmist's pursuit of God, how does he compare the blessing of knowing God to seeking other things? (Ps. 84:10)

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Tozer continues; "The moment the Spirit has quickened us to life in regeneration our whole being senses its kinship to God and leaps up in joyous recognition. That is the heavenly birth without which we cannot see the Kingdom of God. It is however, not an end but an inception, for now begins the glorious pursuit, the heart's happy exploration of the infinite riches of the Godhead. To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love, justified in happy experience by the children of the burning heart. Come near to the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the heat of their desire after God. They mourned for Him, they prayed and wrestled and sought for Him day and night, in season and out, and when they had found Him the finding was all the sweeter for the long seeking." (*The Pursuit of God*, pp. 14-15)

12. Jesus' life was marked by His desire to seek the Father. What was Jesus in the habit of doing? (Matt. 14:23, Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12, Luke 9:28)

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Jesus was always withdrawing from the multitudes to a lonely place to be alone with His Father. Sometimes He would rise up before sunrise and go out to pray. Other times He would stay up and pray late into the night. It was always in lonely places and in lonely hours while others slept that he found His closest fellowship with His Father. Jesus relationship to His Father was one of the greatest examples He left for us to imitate.

13. What did Jesus say was the directive behind everything He did and said? (John 5:19:-20, 30; John 8:26, 28-29)

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As Jesus waited in the Father's Presence for Divine direction and enablement, so must we. The blessings of the New Covenant cannot be experienced apart from a personal ongoing relationship with the Living God. We cannot live and walk in the power of the new life unless we are guided by the Holy Spirit every day and hour. This kind of guidance cannot be known apart from much time in the Father's presence, acquainting ourselves with His voice, His will, and His nature.

14. When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well, what did He explain to her about true worship? (John 4:19-24)

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The early church was one which was caught up not in external forms and programs, but in the Presence of Christ. They understood that true Christianity was a worship of the heart. They came together to enjoy the Presence of their Risen Lord, to worship Him, to adore Him, to hear inspired messages from Him. Jesus Himself had promised them, "Wherever two or more are gathered together in My name there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:20)

In recent times, the church program has been substituted for the Presence and often becomes the center of attention. The most popular church is many times the one that can present the best program that interests the public. When Christians accept not only the substitution of the program for the Presence but then count on attending that program for their spiritual growth and omit personal seeking of the Lord, the effects will be the deadening of their spiritual life.

15. Isaiah began his ministry during the reign of king Uzziah. What indictment did God have against Israel? (Isa. 1:1-3)

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The Amplified version of the Bible says, " ...but Israel does not know or recognize Me."

16. Why had Israel become corrupt and wicked? (Isa. 1:4)

a._____

b._____

c._____

17. Although Isaiah had been prophesying during the reign of king Uzziah, in the year king Uzziah died, Isaiah had a revelation of God. What five things happened when Isaiah had this encounter with God? (Isa. 6: 5-8)

a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____

Even though Isaiah prophesied in the name of the Lord, sin was present in his life, as well as in Israel because a deep knowledge of God was lacking.

18. What will happen to us as we spend time beholding Him? (II Cor. 3:18)

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The Philips translation records: "We are transfigured in ever-increasing splendor into His own image, and the transformation comes from the Lord Who is the Spirit."

19. Who did Jesus say were the ones who truly love Him? (John 14:21)

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20. What were Jesus' commandments? (Matt. 22:37-40; John 13:34-35; John 15:12, 17)

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21. What will Jesus do for the one who has His commandments and keeps them? (John 14:21)

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Other translations say, "I will manifest Myself to him, reveal Myself and make Myself real to him." Disclose means to open up, to bring to light, to lay open, to view, to reveal by word, to tell, to disclose the secret thought of the heart. Jesus promised those who really loved Him that He would reveal the secret counsels of God's heart; that He would show them His power and His glory and would reveal Himself to them.

Of the twelve disciples that followed Jesus, there were three, Peter, James and John, who were His closest friends. Because of this deep friendship, Jesus took Peter, James and John up to a high mountain to show them His glory.

22. What did they see and hear? (Matt. 17:1-5)

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We know that these three disciples loved Jesus because He disclosed Himself to them. Were Peter, James and John more special to Jesus than his other disciples? Did Jesus love them more? No, these three men were always walking as closely to Jesus as they could possibly get. They followed Jesus everywhere. It is because they loved Him more.

23. On the evening before His crucifixion, Jesus took His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray with Him. What did He do? (Mark 14:32-33)

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24. What did Jesus tell them? (Mark 14:33-34)

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To these men, His closest friends, Jesus began to show His grief and distress. Jesus wanted only those who loved Him deeply to be near Him in His greatest sorrow.

After Jesus' arrest in the garden, most of His disciples ran away and hid because they were afraid for their lives. Only John followed Jesus to the cross. In such a time of crisis those who loved Jesus the most stayed by Him.

Of the twelve disciples who followed Jesus, it was John who showed that He loved Jesus most of all. John along with Mary the mother of Jesus, His mother's sister, and Mary Magdalene were the only people who dared to stand at the foot of the cross. To so identify with a crucified man could mean certain death.

25. What did Jesus say was the greatest demonstration of love? (John 15:13)

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John and the three Mary's showed the greater love for their Master. They did not care about their own lives. They loved Jesus intensely and did not want to abandon Him at the hour of His suffering. The rest of the disciples, however, showed by their actions that they cared more about themselves than they did about Jesus. At the crucifixion, the others stood at a distance, with the crowds, because they feared that they too might be arrested.

Jesus was greatly moved by the affection and devotion of these four people. When Jesus saw His mother and John, the disciple whom He loved, standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to John, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour John took her into his own household. It was to John that Jesus committed the care of the dearest person in all the world to Him — His very own mother. It is only to one who is deeply loved and trusted that a man will commit his most treasured possession.

When John wrote his account about the life of Jesus, he revealed — of all those who wrote the gospels — the deepest understanding of who Jesus really was. It is John's gospel that reveals Jesus Deity, as God in human flesh. In his gospel, John always speaks of himself as being the disciple whom Jesus loved. John was confident of Jesus' love for him. Of the remaining disciples who had personally walked with Jesus, John was the only one who did not die a martyr's death; for standing at the foot of the cross, he had already shown that he was ready to lay down his life.

It was also to John that Jesus entrusted the book of Revelation. It was to John that He revealed the secret counsels of His heart. The book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ reveals the history of the Church, the glorious triumph of good over evil, and the final victory and glory of Christ's coming kingdom.

26. What did Jesus do for those who fear Him? (Ps. 25:14)

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After Jesus' crucifixion and burial, Mary Magdalene, one of the women who had stood by Jesus at the foot of the cross, went to Jesus' tomb early on the first day of the week. When she arrived at the tomb, she found that the stone had been rolled away and that Jesus' body was gone. She ran to get Peter and John. When the men came to the tomb and saw that the body of Jesus was gone, they returned to their own home.

27. What did Mary do? (John 20:10-13)

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28. What happened? (John 20:14-18)

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Mary Magdalene was the first person to whom Jesus revealed Himself after the resurrection. It was by her that He first sent word to His disciples of His victory over death. Most of the disciples were in hiding because they feared for their lives. The beloved John had come; Peter being deeply repentant because of his recent denial of the master, had come also. John records of himself that when he saw that the body was gone, he believed. This reveals to us that John had an understanding of who Jesus was. Both men returned home. Mary alone remained, deeply grieved, seeking to find His body. As a result of Mary's love for Him, Jesus chose her as the first to behold His glory. Jesus was irresistibly moved by the strength of her love for Him.

Peter, James, John, and Mary were all lovers of God. It was not that God loved them more than the others or had favorites upon whom He bestowed special blessings. But the reason that God came close to them and revealed Himself to them in ways which He had not done for others was because they loved Him more than other people did. Such has been the testimony of numerous saints in all ages.

29. If we press on to know the Lord., what can we be certain of? (Hosea 6:3)

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MEMORY VERSE: John 14:21