

**Knowing God**  
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Have you ever been in a situation where you thought someone was thinking something about you that they really weren't thinking? It impacted your relationship with them because you reacted to what you thought they thought – but it really wasn't true – because they were not thinking what you thought they thought!

I've done that before with people. Maybe they responded to me in a situation in a way that made me think they didn't like me or the way I was doing something. So, I start responding to them as if what I thought to be true was actually true – and then come to find out later – they were never thinking that at all. It was all in my imagination. But it affected our relationship.

Unfortunately, people do the same thing with God. Something happens and God doesn't respond like people want Him to and so they get all these vain imaginations about God:

- God doesn't love me or care about me
- God can't help me or won't help me
- God's not even there

And so they turn from God or run from God and what they really need to do is turn to God so He can reveal Himself to them.

We are beginning a new sermon series today. We just finished our Christmas series called Unto Us – which dealt with several of the attributes of God – wisdom, omniscience, omnipotence, eternalness, Father's heart, lordship and peace.

We feel led to continue speaking on the attributes of God in a new series called Knowing God. We also felt that our church theme for this year should be Knowing God and Making Him Known. That's why we exist as a church – to know God ourselves and to make Him known to others. It's another way to say our vision statement – Touching Heaven Changing Earth! That's also your purpose in life – to know God and to make Him known to others.

And one of the main things that affects knowing your purpose in life is your view of God. So I'm preaching today on Knowing God. Our concept of God – how we see Him – who we believe Him to be:

- Will determine how close we are to God –
- Will either hinder or help our understanding of God's word –
- Will either slow down or accelerate our spiritual growth.

The most important thing about you is what you believe about God! Knowing God is of vital importance – it determines where we live in eternity and it determines how we live on earth. John 17:3 says:

*This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

How we view God affects everything else in our lives.

### **1- There's a difference between "knowing about" God and really knowing God.**

Knowing about someone is about information. Knowing someone is about relationship. You can know about someone and have never even met them.

President George Bush used to be one of the owners of the Texas Rangers and if you attended a game – you could meet him and get an autograph between innings. So – I met President Bush – I've read a lot about him – I visited his presidential library at SMU – so you can say I know a lot about him. But, I don't know him like Laura Bush knows him. You see, knowing someone requires relationship with him.

The same is true with God. You can know about Him and not really know Him. But knowing someone does start with getting to know all you can about them. Then you build that relationship by spending time with them.

When I first met Deborah – I wanted to find out everything I could about her. But knowing about her was not enough. I wanted a relationship with her where we truly knew each other.

It's the same way with God. We need to know all we can about Him. But we cannot stop with just having correct theology. In John 5:39-40, Jesus addressed some very religious people who had vast portions of the Bible memorized. Here's what He said to them:

*You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*

You can search the Scriptures and miss the point: which is Jesus.

You can have Bible knowledge and not have eternal life.

You can know doctrine and not know God.

You can know the Word of God and not know the God of the Word.

You can be religious and not know Jesus.

So how can we know that we know God?

By the results that relationship has in our lives. So - I want to show you some of the results of knowing God.

### **1- The more you know God – the more spiritually strong you will be**

Daniel 11:32 says:

*The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.*

When you truly know God – you will be spiritually strong.  
 You will not doubt in times of darkness.  
 You will not cave in to peer pressure or political correctness.  
 You will not be double-minded and thrown about by every wind of doctrine.

When you know God you will be strong and carry out exploits. Exploits are daring adventures and heroic acts. The New American Standard Version says:

*The people who know their God will display strength and take action.*

To know here means “to learn to know – to know by experience.” When you have experienced the power of God – the presence of God – the grace and mercy of God – the faithfulness of God –

You will not be weak or passive!  
 You will be strong and you will take action!  
 You will lay hands on the sick and they will recover!  
 You will resist the enemy and he will flee!  
 Also –

### **2- When you know God you will tell others about Him.**

The very next verse after Daniel 11:32 says:

*They who are wise and understanding among the people shall instruct many and make them understand.*

When you get to know God – you want to tell everyone else about Him! That’s the way I was went I got to know Deborah. She was all I talked about. People got tired of me talking about how awesome she is. But that didn’t stop me. Out of the abundance of my heart my mouth spoke.

And when we truly know God we will want to tell everyone about Him! I was lost and He saved me. I was sick and He healed me. I sinned and He forgave me.

He changed my life forever and He can change yours too!

### **3- The more you know God – the more you will trust Him.**

Psalm 9:10 says:

*Those who know your name will trust in You, for You, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You.*

Do you trust God? Not just believe in Him, do you trust Him? Really? The test of whether or not you really know God is that you can go through the darkest times of your life without turning on God!

When you truly know God - you will not turn on God – no matter what happens. Why? Because you know Him!  
You know He is good all the time.  
You know nothing can separate you from His love.  
You know that He will work all things out for your good.

### **4- The more you know God – the more you will obey God.**

1 John 2:3-4 says:

*We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands. The man who says, "I know Him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

That's not saying we're perfect, but that our hearts are after God.

Some people deceive themselves into thinking God's commands don't apply to them! Others think that if they don't understand something God says – then they don't need to obey it. Not true! In fact, the amazing thing is that when we do what is right – even when we don't understand it – *then* our understanding will increase. Jesus said in John 7:17

*If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether My teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.*

In other words, obedience to God leads to greater understanding of His word and His ways. I want to let you in on a secret: God is not going to give you more revelation until you begin doing the things you already know to do.

In other words, God will give you more light when you walk in the light you have. His Word is a lamp to your feet, so as you keep moving in the light you have, the more light you will receive. In this series we are teaching you about God – but you must get to know God by building a relationship with Him. How does that happen? How does God make Himself known?

## **God Makes Himself Known Through Creation**

Psalm 19:1-4 says:

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.*

God can be seen in creation, yet many still try to deny it. But the Bible teaches that God reveals Himself through His creation and every single person can see it! Romans 1:20 says:

*Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — His eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

## **God Makes Himself Known Through Conscience**

It's pretty amazing – but you can go to any people group in any nation and they will have a sense of right and wrong. Where does that come from? From God. Romans 2:14-15 says:

*When Gentiles who have not the (divine) Law do instinctively what the Law requires, they are a law to themselves, since they do not have the Law. They show that the essential requirements of the Law are written in their hearts and are operating there, with which their consciences (sense of right and wrong) also bear witness.*

## **God Makes Himself Known Through the Holy Spirit**

1 John 3:23-24 says:

*This is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us. Those who obey His commands live in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us.*

Without the power of the Spirit, we will never understand the word or know God. 1 Corinthians 2:14 says:

*The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

It takes the Spirit of God to gain the knowledge of God.

It takes the Spirit of God to understand the Word of God.

### **God Makes Himself Known Through His Word**

The Bible reveals who God is and what God is like. John 1:1 says:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

If we want to know what God is like – we need to know His Word.

God stamped His power and attributes in the very fabric of creation. Then, He went a step further and wrote it down so that if we missed it in creation, we could see it in print. We can read about it – chapter and verse. So, in order for us to really know God, we need to be people of the Word - people who read the word and hear the word and believe the Word and confess the Word.

Every year, I give you practical ways to get into God's Word. Every year I hand out various Bible reading plans. The average reader can read through the Bible in 1 year in 12 minutes a day. I've got 2 plans for that.

If that's too much for you, I've got a read through the Bible in 3 years plan that should take you about 5 minutes a day. If that's too much, I've got a read through the NT in 1 year which should only take a few minutes a day. Just get in the Word. It will change your life!

The most important way we can know God is through Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:1-3 says:

*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

Wow – what powerful truth. God has spoken many ways – through creation, through His written word, through prophets – but the highest revelation of God is Jesus Christ.

God has manifested Himself in the person of Jesus Christ, who demonstrated His deity through the undeniable fact of the Resurrection. Do you want to know what God is like? Look at Jesus. He is the image of the invisible God. He made an invisible God visible. All the fullness of God dwells in Him.

So, to know God we must have the right understanding of who Jesus is. He is more than a good man, more than a prophet, more than a teacher.

He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.  
 He is the Messiah – the Savior – the Redeemer  
 He is the Healer and the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit.  
 He is the Alpha and Omega – the first and last – the beginning and the end.  
 He is the author and finisher of our faith.  
 He is the resurrection and the life.  
 He is the Lamb of God and the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.  
 He is the light of the world!  
 His name is wonderful, counselor, the mighty God the everlasting Father – the prince of Peace.

The Names of Christ show that He meets each of us at our point of need:  
 To the ARCHITECT He is the Chief Corner Stone.  
 To the BAKER He is the Living Bread.  
 To the BANKER He is the Hidden Treasure.  
 To the BIOLOGIST He is the Life.  
 To the BUILDER He is the Sure Foundation.  
 To the CARPENTER He is the Door.  
 To the DOCTOR He is the Great Physician.  
 To the EDUCATOR He is the Great Teacher.  
 To the ENGINEER He is the New and Living Way.  
 To the FARMER He is the True Vine.  
 To the FLORIST He is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley.  
 To the GEOLOGIST He is the Rock of Ages.  
 To the JUDGE He is the Righteous Judge of All Men.  
 To the JEWELER He is the Pearl of Great Price.  
 To the LAWYER He is the Lawgiver and the Advocate.  
 To the PHILOSOPHER He is the Wisdom of God.  
 To the POLITICIAN He is the Desire of All Nations.  
 To the PREACHER He is the Word of God.  
 To the PSYCHOLOGIST He is the Counselor.  
 To the REPORTER He is the Good News of Great Joy.  
 To the SERVANT He is the Good Master.  
 To the STUDENT He is the Truth of Truths.  
 To the WORKER He is the Giver of Rest.  
 To the SINNER He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World.  
 To the CHRISTIAN He is our Savior, Redeemer and Lord!  
 He is the friend who sticks closer than a brother.

He is the King of King and Lord of Lords and every knee will one day bow to Him and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

If you open your eyes – you can see Him in creation.  
If you open the Bible – you can see Him in its pages.  
And if you open your heart – He will reveal Himself in a personal way to you and live in you and through you forever.

So I want to close today by asking you if you know Jesus and are you trusting Him alone for eternal life? He is the way the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through Him.

I ask you – do you really know Jesus today?  
I want to give you the opportunity to get to know Him today.