

KNOWING GOD

**The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you.
The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you.
The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you.
I want to know you more, I want to know you more.
The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you.**



Image: greg olsen worlds without end

Those are the first words of a worship song from a few decades ago. The first stanza is about knowing God more. The next two stanzas are about loving God more and then serving God more. Knowing God is the greatest subject of all. While in my mid 20's, I was blessed to get a copy of a book titled, **Knowing God** by J.I. Packer. It is a classic among all the books I have read. However, God's Book, the Holy Bible, is our best written source for revelation of God. Much like a ring displays a precious diamond, the Bible highlights the precious jewel of God who is full of glory, holiness, beauty, wisdom, power, justice, mercy and love. The first words of the Bible start with Him.

In the beginning God

As we travel through the Bible, we will learn about God's character and ability attributes. We will examine his various names and take note of his words and actions. The first revelation from God is that He is a creator..... 'In the beginning God created'. He not only created the whole universe, He created us! He knows more about us than we do and knows the purpose for why He created us. It is in our best interest to get to know Him. He also wants us to know Him!

GOD WANTS TO BE KNOWN

*Thus says the Lord: Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom. Let not the mighty man glory in his might. Nor let the rich man glory in his riches. but let him who glories **glory in this, that he understands and knows Me**, that I am the Lord, exercising loving kindness, judgment and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, says the Lord. - Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJV*

*Jesus spoke these words,and this is **eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus whom You have sent.** - John 17:1a, 17:3 NKJV*

The pursuit of the Apostle Paul.....

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ, and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if by any means, that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:7-11 NKJV

The majority of people in the world think they will go to heaven because they are basically good people. They may be good compared to many others in the world, but God says that

*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God - Romans 3:23
The wages of sin is death - Romans 6:23*

God lives in holiness and light. Sin cannot dwell in His presence.

God is light; in Him is no darkness at all. - 1 John 1:5 NIV

God, the blessed and only Ruler, King of Kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and might forever. Amen.

You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness. - Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV

It is only through Jesus Christ and the righteousness that he credits to believers in Him that we can come before God without guilt, fear or shame. - Romans 3:20-24;10:8-13; Hebrews 10:9-22, Hebrews 12:22-24. A true believer and follower of Jesus will walk in the light. Jesus spoke these words:

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. -John 8:12 NIV

If a person came to your house, would you let them in just because they said they were a good person? It is likely you would tell them to leave because you do not know them. People generally do not just let any old stranger enter their house without good reason. They are concerned about the safety and well being of those in their household. However, people do welcome friends into their house because they have a relationship. It is the same with God's heavenly house called heaven. He will receive those who are His friends that He knows.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name. Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' - Jesus / Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
- John 10:14, 27 - NIV

EFFECTS OF KNOWING GOD (Insights on Daniel from:
J. I. Packer, *Knowing God* -IVP 1973)

1. Those who know God have **great energy** for God

'The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.'
- Daniel 11:32b

2. Those who know God have **great thoughts** of God

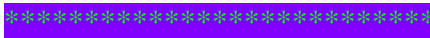
Daniel speaks often of God's sovereignty and His hand in ruling over the affairs of man in history. He has high thoughts of God as evidenced in his prayers - Daniel 2:20-23; 9:3-19

3. Those who know God show **great boldness** for God

Daniel and his 3 friends stood for their beliefs despite pressure from the king's edicts

4. Those who know God have **great contentment** in God

Daniel and his 3 friends were content in adverse situations because they had confidence in God's faithfulness and power. The apostle Paul also showed such peace through many tribulations and imprisonments.



Many of the topics in our web site I have written about over several years. This course on 'Knowing God' is different. Since I have done little writing on this subject, I am looking forward with excitement as to how God is going to give not only me, but all those reading this, a greater hunger to know God even more. Since God is so vast in all that He is and can do, it will take eternity to explore the greatest subject of all, knowing God!!!

- John Beckerink December 2021

