

KNOWING GOD

Hosea 6:3 - Then shall we shall know if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as latter and former rain unto the earth.

John 17:3 - And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. A close relationship with God is the most important thing you can develop in life. It is our purpose for creation and redemption. Without it you will never be fully complete or fulfill the true purpose for your life.

John 15:4-5 - Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. The degree of abiding will be the degree of fruit bearing. V. 7 - If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. It is this close relationship and communion that makes prayer and all of life effective. V. 8 - By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Phil 3:7-10 - But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things 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...

HOW CAN WE KNOW HIM BETTER?

- I. **STUDY THE WORD** - God has given us His Word to reveal Himself to us.
 - A. Christ is the revelation of God. God made Himself a man in Christ so we can see Him.
 1. Hebrews 1:1-3 – The Old Testament presents a partial picture of God, but the New Testament presents Him exactly and completely in Christ.
 2. Colossians 1:15 — Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God.
 - B. Renew your mind from a wrong picture to a right picture by studying Jesus. He is the same today, the same toward you (Heb 13:8). Whatever you see Him doing, saying, healing, providing; you can expect Him also to do for you. (Acts 10:38)
 - C. Accept and appropriate what you see (Heb 4:2). It takes faith and expectation to make anything of God work for us. **EXPECT HIM TO BE THAT WAY TO YOU – EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE, ON EVERY OCCASION.**

II. **PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP** - Spend time developing relationship.

A. Attitudes to come to God in.

1. Come expecting Him to be a rewarder (Hebrews 11:6). This is a prerequisite; he who comes to God must believe not only that He is but that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
2. Come with righteousness consciousness (Isaiah 54:14). Become rooted and grounded in the reality of you being in right standing with the God of the Universe! Know beyond doubt that **GOD IS FOR YOU!** (Romans 8:31-32) And know that you are welcome in His presence. Draw near boldly.
 - a. Don't come degrading yourself. You are a new creation, His workmanship, and you have no business degrading God's creation.
 - b. Don't concentrate on your faith or lack of it; concentrate on Him, His love, His mercy, His provision and promises and on His desire to do good things for you.
3. Come with expectancy.
 - a. Matthew 6:6 - Pray to the Father who is unseen. **HE IS** there in that secret place! He is actually there with you listening to you.
 - b. Matthew 6:7 – He hears without complicated or religious words or perfect prayers.

- c. Matthew 6:8 - He knows what you need before you ask.
- d. John 6:37 - He will not cast you out when you come. He likes to be with you. He actually likes you.
- e. 1 Peter 3:12 - He delights in your prayers.
- f. Romans 10:12 - He is rich unto all who call upon Him. He has plenty of what you need and will give it to you!

4. Hebrews 4:16 - Come with boldness and confidence.
5. Hebrews 10:22 - Draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.
6. Hebrews 12:28 – Draw near with reverence and awe.

B. What to do with your mind when you come.

1. Psalms 103:1 - Bless the Lord oh my soul... **Make it do it.** Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving.
2. Romans 12:1 - ...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service (worship).
3. Psalms 103:2 - . . . Forget not His benefits. . . Bring your memory when you come.
4. Bring your imagination when you come. You can visualize Him as anything He says He is. You can visualize Him as doing anything you see Him doing in the Word, see

Him doing it for you. You can visualize Him fulfilling His promises to you.

- a. Mark 11:24– See Him answering your prayers when you pray.
- b. Study the Word for accuracy.
- c. Visualize yourself before Him worshiping, acceptable in Christ, and Him enjoying your worship and listening to your prayers.
- d. Visualize Him as described in His glory, yet hearing you and delighting in you.
- e. Put God's own words back into His mouth. Remind Him. (2 Chronicles 20:6-12)
- f. 1 John 5:14-15 - Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. See Him listening and answering your request at the time of prayer. You can leave with the answer!

C. What to do with your body when you come:

1. Romans 12:1 - Present your body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. This is your reasonable worship.
2. Find a comfortable position. If your knees ache or body parts fall asleep, you will not be concentrating on God. And if you are too comfortable, you may fall asleep.

3. The Bible speaks of standing, kneeling, prostrate, lying on your bed, dancing, raising your hands, clapping, shouting, and playing instruments.

D. What to say when you come to God.

1. You can speak in tongues. (1 Corinthians 14:17; Acts 10:46; 2:10; Romans 8:26, 27 – Doing this, you give thanks well, praise God, declare His wonders, and express your deepest longings and pray His perfect will.
2. While reading the Bible, keep a notebook of words and expressions that express what you would like to say to God and use them in prayer. This increases your praise and worship vocabulary.
3. Listen to anointed, scriptural worship music and sing the words while concentrating on them.
4. Just speak from your heart and tell God what He means to you and what is going on with you. Treat Him as if He were your very best friend.
5. Take note of what worshipers in the Bible said as words of worship and use them. There is endless worship going on around the Throne of God, and you can join in.