

## *Knowing God*

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

**John 17:3** – And this is life eternal, that they might know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You hast sent.

**Philippians 3:8-10** – That I may know Him.

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 purpose for your life.

**John 15:4-5** – The degree of abiding will be the degree of fruit bearing. V. 7 – It is this close relationship and communion that makes prayer effective.

How can we know God better?

- I. **STUDY THE WORD** – God has given us His Word to reveal Himself to us. Get to know God’s character. What is God like? How can we know Him? Christ is the revelation of God. God made Himself a man in Christ so we can see Him.
  - A. Jesus came to show us God. He is the expression of God’s character.

1. Hebrews 1:1-3 – God spoke in the Old Testament in many portions and ways, but in the New Testament He spoke through the Son, the exact representation of His nature or character.
2. Character – essential qualities, an individual’s pattern of behavior; personality.
3. Matthew 13:35 – Jesus came to show us things about God that had been hidden since the foundation of the world.
4. John 1:14, 16-18 – The Word (Logos – the expression and thoughts of God) became flesh. V. 18 – Jesus has explained God. We beheld His glory. John 2:11 – His glory was manifested in miracles.
5. Colossians 1:15 – Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God.
6. Matthew 11:27-30 – The Son reveals the Father.
7. Titus 3:4 – The kindness of God and His love for mankind appeared. This is the part of God we see in Jesus.

B. Jesus demonstrated God in the Gospels.

1. John 10:10 – His purpose in coming (1 John 3:8).
2. Acts 10:38 – His ministry summarized.

Notice He met needs of all who came. He never turned any down or told them to wait.

Notice how many times the word “immediately” is used (Matthew 14:31; Hebrews 2:18)
3. Matthew 14:27 – It is a characteristic of Jesus to constantly encourage people not to fear.
4. He always demonstrated God’s will:

(John 5:19; 5:30, 36; 8:26, 28-29, 38; 10:25,32; 12:45; 14:7-9; 17:6)

Some Examples:

John 8 – The woman caught in adultery.

John 4 – The woman at the well.

Luke 7:11-15 – The raising of the dead son.

John 21:25 – So many other things that books couldn't contain it all.

Acts 10:38 – He went about doing good and healing all...

- C. Renew your mind from a wrong picture of God to a right picture of God by studying Jesus. He is still the same! He is the same towards you! (Heb 13:8)
- D. Accept and appropriate what you see.

II. **PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP** – Spend time developing your relationship with God, as much time as it takes.

A. Attitudes to come to God in

- 1. Come expecting Him to be a rewarder (Hebrews 11:6)
- 2. Come with righteousness consciousness (A sense or awareness of your right standing with God).
  - a. Don't come apologizing for yourself or degrading yourself in false humility. **YOU ARE WELCOME IN HIS PRESENCE.**
  - b. James 4:6-8 – You humble yourself in His presence by accepting His thoughts.
  - c. Don't concentrate on your faith or lack of it; concentrate instead on Him, on His love, His

mercy, His present help and listening ear, His wonderful promises.

- 3. Come with expectancy.
  - a. Matthew 6:6 – Pray to the Father who is unseen.
  - b. Matthew 6:8 – He knows what you need before you ask.
  - c. John 6:37 – He will not cast you out in any way.
  - d. He delights in *your* prayers. (1 Peter 3:12) He likes to spend time with *you*.
  - e. Romans 10:12 - He is rich unto all who call upon Him, rich in mercy, rich in help, rich in caring and love.
- 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 – Worship 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 your soul bless the Lord. Make your mind focus on His goodness, His mercy, His love – not on yourself or anything concerning you or your situation at all.
- 2. Psalm 103 2 - ...forget not His benefits...Bring your memory with you when you come. List His benefits.

3. Bring your imagination when you come.
  - a. Study the Word for accuracy. See things as the Word describes them. See God as He presents Himself, not after your experience or someone else's.
  - b. Visualize yourself before Him worshipping.
  - c. Visualize Him as described in His glory yet hearing you and delighting in you.
  - d. Put God's Words back into His mouth. Speak God's thoughts to yourself.

C What to do with your body when you come.

1. Find a comfortable position.
2. The Bible speaks of standing, kneeling, lying prostrate, lying on your bed, dancing, raising your hands, clapping, shouting, playing instruments.
3. Romans 12:1 – Present your body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. This is your reasonable worship. (1 Pet 5:7; Ps 37:5)

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 – You give thanks well, praise God, declare His wonders, 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. This increases your praise and worship vocabulary.

3. Just speak from your heart to God and tell Him what He means to you. This can be a cure for a wandering mind when you do it out loud.
4. Take note of what worshippers in the Bible said as words as worship and use them.

Some passages describing the throne: Revelations 4:2-11; 1:13-17; 5:8-12; Isaiah 6:1-6; Ezekiel 1:22-28; Revelations 15:8; 21:23.