

## Knowing God

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### Scripture References

2 Peter 1:2, 3  
Proverbs 23:7  
Matthew 9:29  
Hebrews 1:2, 3

Galatians 5:6  
Daniel 11:32  
Romans 8:31, 32  
Psalm 16:11, *NLT*

### Summary

*To truly know God, we must see Him in the context of Jesus Christ. God is not angry, and He is not determined to punish us like He was with the people in the Old Testament. He is instead a God of love, mercy, grace, and healing, as expressed perfectly through Jesus' nature. God wants to give us every good thing we could ever need; in order for us to receive these things, we need to know Him as represented by His Son. Knowing God through a personal relationship with Him is different than simply knowing about Him, and it goes deeper than just the mechanics of having our needs met. Learning spiritual principles are fine, but they do not replace a relationship with God, Himself. Being in His presence and letting His love wash over us radically changes our entire outlook on life.*

#### **A. We must know the nature of God as He is now represented under the new covenant.**

1. According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue (2 Peter 1:3).
  - a. "Life and godliness" include healing, joy, deliverance, prosperity, and everything else we need. We receive those things through a relationship with God.
2. For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee (Proverbs 23:7).
  - a. If our perception of God is negative, then we will expect bad things from Him. We receive what we expect.
3. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you (Matthew 9:29).
  - a. Once we truly know God, it is difficult *not* to believe Him.

#### **B. Jesus gives us a perfect picture of what God is like. To know Jesus is to know God.**

1. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by 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 on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:2, 3).
  - a. We know what God is really like when we behold Jesus. Jesus gives us a clear understanding of the Father's nature.
  - b. The spiritual fruit of a Christian life comes out of knowing God, not merely following principles of faith. Our faith comes from our relationship with Him.
  - c. Experiencing God's love firsthand strengthens our faith in His love for us.

- d. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love (Galatians 5:6).
- e. It is God's will for us to know *Him*, without any sin-consciousness.
- f. Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord (2 Peter 1:2).
- g. When we know God, we will experience supernatural transformation.
- h. ...But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits (Daniel 11:32).
- i. We have the right impression of God when we realize that He is for us.
- j. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:31, 32).
- k. The love God has for us is similar to the love an earthly father has for his children, only on a supernatural scale. An earthly father's children trust him and have complete confidence in him; as *God's* children, we can have that same trust through a relationship with Him.

**C. There is no replacing a personal relationship with God. We must experience His love.**

- 1. There are several things we must know about a relationship with God.
  - a. We must substitute the knowledge we have *about* God for an intimate relationship *with* Him. Our Christianity should be evidenced by our faith and our love.
  - b. Everything seemed to work fine for us when we were first born again; we need to re-examine that. We were not bogged down by principles; all we had was Jesus.
  - c. There was a time when our minds were fixed on God, and we stayed in His presence; we must return to that time.
  - d. You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever (Psalm 16:11, *NLT*).
  - e. We need a conscious awareness of God so that we can be overwhelmed by His love.
  - f. We can live in a realm where we are so intimate with God that everything will work for us.
  - g. We need knowledge of God's Word, because His Word reveals His true nature. However, when we make the Word technical details and formulas about the mechanics of Christianity, we have lost our focus.

Category: faith

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