



Grace and peace be multiplied unto your through the Knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 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.
II Peter 1:2 & 3

Where do we begin? **Such Knowledge is to
Wonderful for me; “ PS 139:6**

Human limitation; finite mind and sin limits our capacity to understand spiritual truths, and the mere fact that every thing to know about God hasn't been revealed.

As I begin I feel a little like the late Art Linkletter, who saw a little boy drawing a

picture and asked. “What are you doing?” The boy replied, “I’m drawing a picture of God.” Mr. Link letter said, “Well, I thought that no one knew what God looked like.” The boy looked up confidently and said, “They will when I get through.”

The study of the Knowledge of God is the most important pursuit in life.

*Simply to say there is a God doesn’t say a whole lot about him. Only awareness of him.

*More than that you have information about God; that is, knowing that he is the creator, powerful, big, grand, or majestic. Those are all true, but they’re most sufficient when we talk about knowing God.

*More than a religious experience with God, but to know him involves more than that.

To know God is to have him RUBBED OFF on you, to enter into relationship with God, so that who he is INFLUENCES who you are. One of the great tragedies today is that you can go to church and be aware of God; you can go to church and have information about God; and if your church has a great choir, you can even “feel” God; but you can leave church with Him never having rubbed off on you.

Life’s Most Meaningful Pursuit

It’s amazing how many things we brag about. Some of us can brag about our educational achievements. We’ve gone through school and we’ve done well. We’ve got a bachelor’s degree. We’ve earned a master’s degree. Perhaps we even graduated magna cum laude. We get recognition for that achievement. People call us by name, they give us titles, and, if we are not careful, we might boast about that.

“But let him that glorieth (boast) glory in this,
That he understandeth and knoweth me....”Jere 9:23 & 24

Life’s Most Authentic Pursuit

“And this is eternal life, that they may know thee...”St John 17:1-3

Jesus is talking about Quality of Life, not how long you are going to live. That’s why he said he came to give us life and to give it to us more abundantly/to the fullest. 10:10b

We want a Quality Life, without a Quality God dictating it.

Life, like that puzzle, has too many pieces. It looks too difficult. Well, I can tell you someone who can put the puzzle together; the puzzle-maker. God is the puzzle-maker who knows what protrusion matches with what indentation so as to connect the part of the puzzle.

Life’s Most Challenging Pursuit

Oh, the depth of the riches both of
The wisdom and Knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments
And unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became
His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to Him again?
For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be glory forever Amen. Rom 11:33-36

An Eternal Challenge

Do you want/love a challenge? Decide to get to know God. Getting to know God will never end, "How unsearchable" past finding out. The Knowledge of God will be a challenge because you will never learn it all.

A Revealing Challenge

"For who has known the mind of the Lord. The Knowledge of another person is not just contingent on one person's desire to have that information, but on the others desire to reveal it. God has made it very clear that He has a passionate desire to reveal Himself to us. In Hosea 6:6, God himself says that he desires us to Know him more that He desires our offerings.

A Priority Challenge

"But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. Duet 4:29 the sage says that the Knowledge of God is like a man searching for silver (Prov 2:4). Where can silver be found? Underneath the ground, so dig.
Why has God not made it easy? Because He wants to Know, "How serious are you? You get up and work out because you're serious. But when you've got to get up and spend time with me, you're too tired. You need that extra fifteen minutes of sleep. Are you serious? You have time to watch your favorite T.V. show, but you are always too tired to spend time with me. Are you serious?"

Getting to know God is a challenge because it's hard work to make it a priority. So where do you start? First of all, you must start with a desire to know God.

Moses – First of all, you must start with a desire to know God.

David – "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God." Ps 42:1

Paul – "that I may know Him ... Phil 3:10

Jesus – "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" Matt 5:6

YOU CAN NEVER GET TO KNOW ANYONE WITHOUT SPENDING TIME WITH
HIM

The Scripture says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (PS 46:10) Knowing God requires

time alone with Him. Back up from the frantic rat race and “be still.” The biblical word for being still is meditation. It means reflecting on who God is, what He has said, and what He has done.

THE NATURE OF GOD

Knowing the nature of God as He reveals himself, rather than how we wish He were, can save us from a life of confusion and defeat. When we talk about the nature of something, we mean what is intrinsic to its being, when we talk about the nature of God; we speak of characteristics intrinsic to His being. What does he do naturally?

God is a transcendent being Isa: 40:18-23, 25 & 26

When we say that God is transcendent, we mean that He is totally distinct from His creation. The word distinct is a synonym for transcendent. God is unique. He is one of a kind. You can make no comparison that will give you an understanding of God unless He grants that comparison, because there is nothing you can compare Him to.

*Distinct in His thoughts, Isa 55:8&9

*Distinct in His person, Ps 50:2

*Distinct in His Deity, Ps 97:9, 99:2, Ex 20:4, 32:1

God says, “Don’t make any likeness of me, and because anything you come up with will make me look bad.” We are to make no likenesses of God to enable us to worship him other than those He prescribes (like the bread and wine). When people paint-pictures of God – or even Jesus, since we don’t know what he looked like – and then use those pictures as objects to enhance worship, that’s idolatry. When we put up crosses to help us worship God better, that’s idolatry.

FATHER FORGIVE US FOR A BAD PICTURE

God is a spirit being, St John 4:23 & 24

*God is immaterial, Luke 24:39

*God is a person, St John 4:24

*God is invisible, St John 1:18, Ex 33:18, 22

The Bible contains many anthropomorphisms, a word for your theological dictionary. This term is made up of two Greek words: anthropos, which means “man” and morphos, which means “form.” In other words, God speaks to us in “man-forms.” The bible may say, “The hand of the Lord is mighty to save,” or “The eye of the Lord can see.” The Bible may talk about God’s back, His face, or His ears. Those are anthropomorphisms, the use of human descriptions to help us relate to a spirit being we could not relate to otherwise,

God is an Eternal being, Ps 90:1, 2
*He has no beginning/ Self-Existent
Heavens, time, sun, earth, life,
*He is independent/Self-Sufficient

“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM:
And he said, thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel,
I AM hath sent me unto you.” Ex 3:14

That verb AM is very important because it mean that God forever lives in the present tense, He has no past, He has not future. The problem with talking about God is coming up with analogies because we are dealing with Someone who is transcendent.

God is an Immutable being – James 1:17
Immutability means not having the ability to change.

*Changeless in His Person
“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” Heb 13:8
*Changeless in His Purpose
“Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven. Psalm 119:89
“The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.”
Psalm 33:11
*Changeless in His Character
“Impossible for God to lie ... Heb 6:17-18
“Yea, I have Loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with love and kindness have I drawn thee.” Jeremiah 31:3

Although God’s character does not ever change, His methods may. Here is what I mean, God is constant; however, if a change on man’s part affects another part of God’s character, God is then free to relate to that person out of that part of His character rather than out of the previous part of His character.

For example, God was going to destroy Nineveh because of its sin. God does not change His mind about sin. But what changed was that the people of Nineveh repented. When they did, they appealed to another part of God’s character, His Grace. Jonah 3:4, 9 & 10 The Bible does say that God was going to destroy the people for their sin (Exodus 32:10), but Moses pleaded with God not to do it; (vs. 11) so the Lord changed his mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people. (vs. 14)

God is a Triune being

One God in three persons, equal in essence though distinct in function. Yet all three act in unity.

One (1) God

Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5, 48:16; 1 Cor 8:4

Three (3) Persons

The plurality of God also appears in the descriptions of God. Elohim (Gen 1:1, 26

The Father is called ... Galatians 1:1, 3 Eph 1:2-3

The Son is called ... John 20:28

The Holy Spirit is called ... Acts 5:3-4

In fact, in Hebrews 1:8 God the Father calls the Son "God"

Salvation; Father's Knowledge, Son's Blood, Holy Spirit's Sanctification, 1 Peter 1:2, II Cor 14:14, Eph 2:18, II Thess 2:13

Creation; God the Father – Gen 1:1, Jesus – Colossians 1:16, Spirit – Gen 1:2, Psalm 104:30

THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD

Sufficiency of God means He is totally and absolutely complete within Himself. Nothing can be added to or taken away from...

*God is responsible for his Creation. "All things have been created by Him and for Him."
Col 1:15-16

*God is Independent of his Creation. "...As though He needed anything..." Acts 17:22-25 by independent I mean that God does not need anything from His created order to enable Him to continue being God. God does not function out of necessity. You cannot offer anything that will enhance Him, nor can you take anything away that will detract from Him.

God's worship is within Himself. God adores Himself already. He's not like people, who want compliments. God does not need to be noticed. He does not need recognition. We come to worship God because He's asked us to, not because he needs us to.
Isaiah 6:2-3 (Job 22:2-3, 35:7-8)

*We are dependant on God. God's creation is not independent of Him. "...having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation..., that they should seek God, ... for in Him we live and move and have our being..." Acts 17:26-28

*We find completeness in him alone. I want to take one of the most beautiful poetic passages in scripture to make this final, all important point.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Psalm 23:1

1. Spiritual Needs – He restores my soul (vs. 2-3a)
2. Directional Needs – He guides/leads me... (vs. 3b)

3. Emotional Needs – I will fear no evil, ...thy comfort me. (vs. 4:12/2 he give his beloved sleep)
4. Physical Needs – Thou dost prepare a table before me...my enemies (vs. 5)
5. Eternal Needs - ...and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever. (vs. 6)

God is good not only for time, but eternity, if you know Jesus Christ, He's SUFFICIENT!

Now I have a question. Is there any issue in your life that doesn't fit into one of these categories? Your needs are spiritual, directional, emotional, physical, or eternal. Everything you need can be covered by the sufficiency of God as you live under His authority, according to His Will, and in concert with His Word. If you come to know him and live in Him obediently, willingly, and voluntarily, God will demonstrate to you His sufficiency.

The Holiness of God

*Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like thee, GLORIOUS IN HOLINESS, fearful in praises,
Doing wonders? Ex 15:11*

Holiness is one of those uncomfortable attributes because it reminds us how much unlike God we are. God does not conform to any standard recreated by others. HE IS THE STANDARD.

God's Holiness unlocks the door to understanding and making sense out of everything about Him. This attribute infiltrates all the other attributes. His love is holy love. His omniscience is holy omniscience. His omnipresence is holy omnipresence. Everything has been infiltrated by this defining attribute of God called holiness.

God even calls Himself by that name. Throughout the Old and New Testament He is called "The Holy one" Is 1:4, 40:25, Job 3:3, John 17:11, 1 Peter 1:15-16

Holy (H) Qadosh) iness – Selected, pure, hol, consecrated, pious, sacred, separate, saint.

1. *His majestic holiness is without equal and is completely perfect. James 1:13-14, Ex 15:11*
2. *He is the judge of what is right and PURE. Psalm 22:2-4*
3. *He is free from the moral imperfections and failures associate with mankind. Hosea 11:9*
4. *He is dependable and faithful to his promises. Psalm 22:3-5*
5. *He is absolutely separated from evil. Isaiah 17:7*

HE CANNOT TOLERATE SIN!!!

“God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all” 1 John 1-5

When Mary was reciting her praise to God she said “... and holy is His name.” Luke 1:49

He is never emphatically called by any name except one; Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of Hosts” Isa 6:3. At the least of who God is, is His holiness.

God swears by his holiness (Psalms 89:35). Why? Because it is the fullest expression of His character, it fully explains who He is. The Bible declares that God’s law is holy (Rom 7:12) and that God is holy in all of his being (Leviticus 19:2). Holiness is the centerpiece, the defining point, the heart of the matter of who God is.

- The higher God becomes to us the lower we should become. Isa 57:15
- Tremble and quivering, and selflessness before God Holy Judgement. Hab 3:16, Rev 16:1-5
- Insignificant and dumb (speechless) leading to REPENTANCE. Job 42:6

“WOE IS ME ... Isaiah 6:5 “cursed am I”

Then he said, “I am ruined”, or undone. The word ruined means to unravel. Isaiah said “I’m coming apart” because he saw God in all His awesome holiness.

Reflections:

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Reflections:

- When God came down, Mount Sinai shook. He had not even said anything yet. Just his presence made the mountain shake violently. Exodus 19:16-18
- If they even try to* take a peek at God they would surely die. Vs 21
- The Tabernacle had three different compartments, divided by three curtains. One

curtain hung across the outside entrance into the court. Another curtain covered the entrance into the Holy place where the lampstand, the showbread, and the altar of incense. The third blocked entrance into the “Holiest of all” where God’s presence was. Only the high priest was allowed to go in there, and only once a year. You see, unless blood was on that altar covering your sin, you’d better not try to go past the curtain because of sin. God’s Holiness is terrible. It’s terrible in the Old Testament. It’s terrible in the New Testament. Heb 12:29

- Everything Purged 9:21-22
- Everyone Purged vs. 24-25
- Everybody’s Priest vs 28
- Everlasting Entrance Heb 4:16

The Sovereignty of God

God’s sovereignty concerns His absolute rule and control over all of His creation. God rules absolutely over the affairs of men. He sits on the throne of the universe as Lord. Everything that happens come about because he either directly cause it or consciously allows it. Nothing enters into History or could ever exist outside of History that does not come under the control of God.

- God does what he please- Psalm 24:1, When you start making universes, creating planets, and giving life, perhaps then you can start dictating how God ought to run the universe. That divine prerogative always belongs to God, never to us, and He does whatever He chooses.
Job 23:13, 42:2; Ps 115:3, 135:6; Prov 16:4, Eph 1:11; Rom 11:36; Rev 19:6
“For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns”

- God’s glory and will (we exist for him ... 1 Cor 8:6) is the revealing of his sovereignty. When His will is done it cause His glory to be seen. So then His sovereign will is the plan, but we chose the way for it to be seen or reveal. His Glory will ultimately be done, either through you, around you, over you, by you, or in spite of you. Man’s choice and God’s will, EX 3:10, 4:10 & 11; Judges 6:14&15, 7:9 & 10, 13-15; He has willed some things, but he will not do certain things until we pray. Jas 4:2
- God’s sovereignty and our sin. First, he allows evil/sin/disobedience because of his love. He does not wish to coerce obedience. For God to coerce obedience would invalidate the authentic nature of the obedience. Personhood would be reduced to robotics, Rom 8:27. Second, in light of the fact that God hates sin, cannot sin, or tempt others to do so (rom 1:18; Jas 1:13), we note that God is allowing everything that can be attempted to thwart his kingdom so that

throughout the ages to come, it will be unquestionably clear that nothing or on one can succeed against the almighty. Finally, we must naturally conclude that God will get more glory with the existence of sin than without it. Because some of God's attributes are most clearly demonstrated against the backdrop of sin; His love Rom 5:8; His holiness/wrath Rom 1:18,(9:22 & 23; His grace Eph 2:1-7

God's Sovereignty and our perspective the proper kind of positive things. Strength says as Christ supplies, I can do (Phil 4:13). Being totally dependent upon His supply.

Comfort and Confidence Rom 8:28

That's why at the end Paul says "I am convinced ... "vs. 38 & 39