

DO YOU KNOW GOD AS WELL AS HE KNOWS YOU? (Part 2): How Well Do We Know Him?

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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. We are fully known and loved by God and shall know Him fully:

1 Cor. 13:11-12: *¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

- B. In this series, we want to better understand how God knows us and then learn how we can grow in our knowledge of Him. We will break it down into three separate parts:

1. Part 1: Fully known and loved by God
2. Part 2: How well do we know Him?
3. Part 3: Growing in the knowledge of God

II. IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD

- A. Knowing God is not an option—it is eternal life:

John 17:3: *Now this is eternal life: **that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.***

1. We first need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through rebirth, water baptism, and the baptism in the Holy Spirit by which we become children of God.
2. **John 1:12-13:** *¹²Yet to all who **received Him**, to those who **believed in His name**, He gave the right to **become children of God**—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but **born of God**.*
3. **John 3:3-7, 16:** *³In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” ⁴“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!” ⁵Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, **no one can enter the kingdom of God***

unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at My saying, ***‘You must be born again.’*** ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that ***whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

B. Knowing God surpasses all else:

Jer. 9:23-24: ²³This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, ²⁴***but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.***

C. Paul counted everything as rubbish compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ:

Phil. 3:7-14: ⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, ***I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,*** for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰***I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings,*** becoming like Him in His death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴***I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.***

D. We need to grow in our knowledge of God

1. **2 Pet. 3:18:** ***But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.***
2. **Col. 1:10:** ***And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way:***

*bearing fruit in every good work, **growing in the knowledge of God.***

E. The fear of God is the first step:

1. **Prov. 1:7:** *The **fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge**, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*
2. **Prov. 9:10:** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and **knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.***

F. Knowing God is a promise of the New Covenant:

Heb. 8:10-11: ¹⁰*“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put My laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people. ¹¹No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because **they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.**”*

G. Knowing Jesus is knowing God:

John 14:6-9: ⁶*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷**If you really knew Me, you would know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.**” ⁸Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” ⁹Jesus answered: “Don’t you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’”?*

H. We need revelation knowledge:

Mat. 11:25-29: ²⁵*At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because **You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.** ²⁶Yes, Father, for this was Your good pleasure. ²⁷“All things have been committed to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and **no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.** ²⁸“**Come to Me**, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹**Take My yoke upon you and learn***

from [“of” KJV] **Me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

III. HOW WELL DO WE KNOW HIM?

A. Do we know God’s names?

1. **Ps. 9:10:** *Those who know Your name will trust in You, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek You.*
2. El Shaddai, Jehovah names, Adonai... the name of Jesus!
3. Do we know the Alpha and Omega—all of Jesus’ titles from A to Z?

B. Do we know God’s thoughts (His Word, His mind)?

1. We must know the REAL Jesus:

2 Cor. 11:2-4 (NKJV): *²For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. ³But I fear, lest somehow, as the **serpent deceived** Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you receive **a different spirit** which you have not received, or **a different gospel** which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!*

2. The REAL Jesus is the Jesus of the Scriptures:

- a) **John 5:39-40:** *³⁹You diligently **study the Scriptures** because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are **the Scriptures that testify about Me**, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to **come to Me** to have life.*
- b) **John 8:31-32** (KJV): *³¹Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye **continue in My word**, then are ye **My disciples indeed**; ³²And ye shall know **the truth**, and the truth shall make you free.*
- c) **1 Cor. 15:1-4:** *¹Now, brothers, I want to remind you **of the gospel I preached to you**, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²**By this gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins **according to***

the Scriptures, ⁴that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

3. If we want to know God, we need to know His word!
 - a) **Acts 17:11:** *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and **examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.***
 - b) **2 Tim. 3:15-17:** ¹⁵*And how from infancy **you have known the holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶**All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
4. Knowing God means obeying His word:
 - a) **1 John 2:3-5:** ³***We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands.*** ⁴*The man who says, “I know Him,” but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But if anyone obeys His word, God’s love is truly made complete in him.*
 - b) **1 John 4:7-8:** ⁷*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸**Whoever does not love does not know God**, because God is love.*
5. Those who continue to walk in sin and disobedience have NO relationship with God:
 - a) **1 John 3:6:** *No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. **No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him.***
 - b) **Mat. 7:21-23:** ²¹*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only **he who does the will of My Father** who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ ²³Then I will tell them plainly, **‘I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!’***

- c) **Mat. 25:11-12:** [Master to the foolish virgins]:
¹¹“*Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’*” ¹²“*But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’*”
6. Beware of false teachers who twist or don’t know the Scriptures:
- a) **Mat. 22:29:** [To the Sadducees] *Jesus replied, “**You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.**”*
- b) **2 Pet. 3:16-18:** ¹⁶*He [Paul] writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort* [“twist” NKJV], ***as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.*** ¹⁷*Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.* ¹⁸***But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.***
- c) **Isa. 8:20** (NKJV): *To the law and to the testimony! **If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.***
- C. Do we know His plans for us? (All our days are already written in His book!)
1. **Jer. 29:11-13:** ¹¹“***For I know the plans I have for you,***” declares the LORD, *“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*” ¹²*Then you will call upon Me and come and **pray to Me,** and I will listen to you.* ¹³***You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.***”
2. We cannot know God if we are not willing to surrender to His will and obey Him:
3. **John 7:16-17:** ¹⁶*Jesus answered, “My teaching is not My own. It comes from Him who sent Me.*” ¹⁷*If anyone **chooses to do God’s will,** he will find out whether My teaching comes from God or whether I speak on My own.*
4. **Rom. 8:28-29:** ²⁸*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.* ²⁹*For those **God foreknew He***

also **predestined** to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.

5. **2 Pet. 1:10:** *Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to **make your calling and election sure**. For if you do these things, you will never fall.*

D. Do we know what pleases God, what He loves and hates?

1. **John 8:29:** *The One who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for **I always do what pleases Him**.*
2. **2 Cor. 5:9-10:** ⁹*So we make it our goal to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.*
¹⁰**FOR we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.**
3. **Heb. 11:5-6:** ⁵*By faith **Enoch** was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as **one who pleased God**.* ⁶**And without faith it is impossible to please God**, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.
4. **Gal. 6:7-8:** ⁷*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.* ⁸*The one who **sows to please his sinful nature**, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who **sows to please the Spirit**, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*
5. **Eph. 5:1-10:** ¹*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children* ²*and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.* ³*But among you there must not be even a hint of **sexual immorality**, or of any kind of **impurity**, or of **greed**, because these are **improper** for God's holy people.* ⁴*Nor should there be **obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking**, which are **out of place**, but rather thanksgiving.* ⁵*For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.* ⁶*Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.* ⁷*Therefore do not be partners with them.* ⁸*For you were*

Nothing
pleases
God like
real faith!

once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and **find out what pleases the Lord.**

6. **Col. 1:9-10:** ⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰And we pray this in **order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.**
7. **1 Thess. 4:1:** Finally, brothers, **we instructed you how to live in order to please God**, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.
8. **Heb. 13:15-16, 20-21:** ¹⁵Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a **sacrifice of praise**—the fruit of lips that confess His name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to **do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased...** ²⁰May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹equip you with everything good for doing His will, and **may He work in us what is pleasing to Him**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
9. **Heb. 1:9:** You have **loved righteousness and hated wickedness**; therefore God, Your God, has set You above Your companions by anointing You with the oil of joy.”
10. God delights in obedience (1 Sam. 15:22), kindness, justice and righteousness (Jer. 9:24), and showing mercy (Mic. 7:18).

E. Do we know His voice?

John 10:1-6, 14-16, 27: ¹“I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. ³The watchman opens the gate for him, and the **sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.** ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of

When our ears are plugged, the only voice we can hear is our own!

them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ *But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.*” ⁶ *Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what He was telling them.*

¹⁴“*I am the good shepherd; **I know My sheep and My sheep know Me**—* ¹⁵*just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father—and I lay down My life for the sheep.* ¹⁶*I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd...* ²⁷***My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.***

F. Are we familiar with His ways?

1. Israel didn't know God's voice or His ways:

Heb. 3:7-10: ⁷*So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, **if you hear His voice,*** ⁸*do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert,* ⁹*where your fathers tested and tried Me and for forty years saw what I did.* ¹⁰*That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and **they have not known My ways.**’”*

2. **Ps. 25:4-5, 8-9:** ⁴*Show me Your ways, O LORD, teach me Your paths;* ⁵*guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long...* ⁸*Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, **He instructs sinners in His ways.*** ⁹*He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.*

3. **Ps. 86:11:** *Teach me Your way, O LORD, and I will walk in Your truth.*

4. **Isa. 30:21:** *Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “**This is the way; walk in it.**”*

G. Have we tasted and seen, heard and touched Him?

1. **Ps. 34:8:** *Taste and see that the LORD is good...*

2. **Heb. 6:4-5:** ⁴*...those who have once been enlightened, who have **tasted the heavenly gift,*** *who have **shared in the Holy***

*Spirit, ⁵who have **tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age...***

3. **1 John 1:1:** *That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen with our eyes**, which we have looked at and **our hands have touched**—this we proclaim concerning **the Word of life**.*

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. Knowing God is eternal life—it is extremely important in the life of every child of God.
- B. Just as we are fully known by God, God wants us to know His heart, mind, thoughts, and ways; He wants us to know His plans and will; He wants us to be familiar with His voice; He desires an intimate, personal relationship with us.
- C. Next week we will examine a number of ways in which we can grow in our knowledge of God.