

DO YOU KNOW GOD AS WELL AS HE KNOWS YOU? (Part 3): Growing in the Knowledge of God

(No. 1248 – 4/22/24 – Sermon Online Zoom)

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. GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD SUMMARIZED

- A. Knowing God is His covenant promise to every believer:
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.”*
- B. We need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through rebirth, water baptism and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- C. Spend time with God—it’s the only way to know someone! We need a face-to-face relationship with Jesus:
2 Cor. 4:6: *For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

D. Know the Word of God

E. Receive revelation from the Holy Spirit

1. **John 14:26:** *But the Counselor, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*
2. **John 15:26:** *When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the **Spirit of truth** who goes out from the Father, He **will testify about Me.***
3. **John 16:13-14:** ¹³*But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴**He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you.***
4. **1 Cor. 2:9-16:** ⁹*However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, **no mind has conceived** what God has prepared for those who love Him”—¹⁰**but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.** The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way **no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.***

¹²*We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. ¹⁴The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned... ¹⁶“For **who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?**” **But we have the mind of Christ.***

F. Surrender to the will of God

G. Learn God’s ways and listen to His voice

H. Seek God earnestly and daily

III. SPECIFIC PRAYERS

- A. To experience God's presence and glory:

Ex. 33:12-16, 18: ¹²*Moses said to the LORD... "You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with Me.' "*¹³*If You are pleased with me, **teach me Your ways so I may know You** and continue to find favor with You. Remember that this nation is Your people. "*¹⁴*The LORD replied, "**My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. "***¹⁵*Then Moses said to Him, "**If Your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. "***¹⁶*How will anyone know that You are pleased with me and with Your people unless You go with us? What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the earth? "*¹⁸*Then Moses said, "Now **show me Your glory. "***

- B. To know Christ better—His hope, His riches, and His power:

Eph. 1:9, 16-21: ⁹*And **He made known to us the mystery of His will** according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ...* ¹⁶*I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.* ¹⁷*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may **give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.*** ¹⁸*I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order **THAT YOU MAY KNOW the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints,*** ¹⁹*and **His incomparably great power** for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength,* ²⁰*which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms,* ²¹*far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.*

- C. To know the love of Christ:

Eph. 3:16-19: ¹⁶*I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being,* ¹⁷*so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,* ¹⁸*may have power, together with all the saints, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,*** ¹⁹*and **to know this love that SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.***

D. To grow in the knowledge of God and His will:

Col. 1:9-12: ⁹*For 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.* 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,* ¹¹*being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully* ¹²*giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.*

E. To please God:

Heb. 13:20-21: ²⁰*May 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,* ²¹*equip 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.*

F. Lord, open our eyes, dig open our ears... circumcise our hearts. Please take away our blindness, dullness of hearing, and deadness of heart! Restore our souls, give us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us!

1. **Deut. 30:6:** *The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love Him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.*
2. **Acts 7:51:** *You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!*
3. **Rev. 3:14-22:** ¹⁴*To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.* ¹⁵***I know your deeds***, that you are neither cold nor hot. *I wish you were either one or the other!* ¹⁶*So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of My mouth.* ¹⁷*You say, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing." But YOU DO NOT REALIZE that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.* ¹⁸*I*

counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and **salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.** ¹⁹Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. ²⁰Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. **If anyone HEARS MY VOICE and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.** ²¹To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²²**He who has an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit says to the churches.

G. Choose knowing Christ over all else:

Phil. 3:7-11: 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.

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. God knows everything about us... He wants us to know Him in the same way!
- B. He loves us just as we are—He’s for us!
- C. Let’s leave everything else behind and press on for the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ:

¹**Come, and let us return unto the LORD:**
*for He hath torn, and He will heal us;
 He hath smitten, and He will bind us up.*
²*After two days will He revive us:
 in the third day He will raise us up,
 and we shall live in His sight.*

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 unto us as the rain,
 as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

—Hos. 6:1-3 (KJV)