

Knowing God

Jeremiah 9:23-24 ²³ Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.

The highest knowledge anyone can attain is the knowledge of God, and God wants to be known!

Proverbs 9:10 ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

God says the greatest thing we could boast about in life is that we know and understand Him.

God tells us in this passage how it is we can come to know Him and what things too often hold us back.

Step 1: Cast aside every hindrance! You have not known God because walking in the flesh has filled your life with idols.

Galatians 5:16-17 ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

God desires to be known, but seeking wisdom, strength, or riches first will keep us from knowing Him.

Proverbs 26:12 ¹² Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Pride of knowledge, praise for insights, understanding instead of prayer, etc.

Habakkuk 1:11b ¹¹ "...But they will be held guilty, They whose strength is their god."

Idol of self, self-image, self-esteem, self-reliance

1 Timothy 6:9-10 ⁹ But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Pride of possessions, vainglory, self-exaltation

Daniel 11:32b ³² ...but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.

Step 2: Focus! To know God, we have to give our undivided attention to Him in the Word and in prayer on a daily basis.

Matthew 6:6 ⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

Find a quiet place with an actual door you can shut, or a place you will not be disturbed and consecrate it to the Lord.

Before you read the Bible, ask God the Holy Spirit to give you revelation and understanding.

Psalms 119:18 ¹⁸ Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.

Psalms 119:169 Let my cry come before You, O Lord; Give me understanding according to Your word.

Focus on God in your Bible reading. He is revealing Himself all the time- open your eyes and see!

Jeremiah 9:24 ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.

Proverbs 6:16-19 ¹⁶ There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

What does God love and delight in? What does He hate and despise? These things reveal His unchanging nature to me. I am getting to know God!

Now we are ready for the application of this highest knowledge: Looking to Jesus, we learn to live as God is in this world!

1 John 4:17 ¹⁷ By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

Are you realizing you need a more passionate love for Him?

Live in the gospels for a long while, and let your prayer be, "God, reveal Jesus to me. I want to marvel at Him."

John 1:18 ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

Jesus with Pharisees, forgiving and healing, driving out demons, suffering and dying, rising and ascending

Luke 6:40 ⁴⁰ A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.