

GETTING TO KNOW GOD

Matthew 6:19-34; 5:8 John 10:27; 14:1, 21-23 Hebrews 11:6; 12:22-24 Psalm 34:8

Introduction: Most people don't really know God. They have heard that there is God and have just added Him to the other things that don't matter in their thoughts. People use His Name in terms of profanity, times of frustration, surprise, disgust, times of anger. The truth is most people do not know God personally and the possibility of doing such has never entered their minds. However, Christians are supposed to be different. We pray "Our Father..." and supposedly talk directly to God about things of interest to us and usually close our talk with God in the name of His Son, Jesus, thus creating the image that we have a personal acquaintance with almighty God. If the truth were known, there are millions of Christians who are surrounded by a shadow of uncertainty that God is not all that real and knowable and do not really know God all that well personally.

I. THANKFULLY WE CAN KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD PERSONALLY

1. God is revealed in the Bible as being loving and wanting to be loved back.
 - God walked among the trees in the garden with Adam and Eve.
 - God would speak, plead, love, work with, reveal Himself to people whenever they were receptive to Him.
2. God can be and wants to be known with the same degree as people know one another.

II. THERE IS WITHIN OUR HEARTS THE MEANS BY WHICH WE CAN KNOW GOD PERSONALLY AND INTIMATELY

1. We have no problem knowing our physical world with the senses God instilled within us.
 - There is also implanted within each one of us the spiritual faculties needed to know God.
2. After salvation, those spiritual faculties are awakened and made alive by the Holy Spirit.

III. WHY THEN, DO MOST CHRISTIANS KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT GOD?

1. The fact of habitual unbelief.
 - Faith activates one's spiritual sensitivity and awareness. When one is lacking faith, there will be a numbness toward spiritual things.
 - We are surrounded by a spiritual kingdom, easily within our reach, waiting for us to see it.
 - God, Himself, is waiting for us to respond to His presence and once we do, the eternal world will come alive and by our faith and obedience we will become involved in it.
2. Our fascination with the world.
 - We were born into this world, live in this world, and it will be here after we are gone.
 - We see, feel, hear, smell and taste the things of the world.
 - The world is all we know and all we have needed to exist has been right here in the world.
 - We don't need faith for our world to continue to be our real world.

IV. AS REAL AS OUR WORLD IS, GOD IS MORE REAL

1. God was before the world and all that is in and on the world.
 - All things we know about came from Him.
 - People did not imagine God nor create Him. God was the beginning of all things.
2. Faith creates nothing. It relies upon that which is already here. God and His Kingdom are real.
3. Our world demands our constant attention day and night for our entire lifetime providing all that we shall ever need to live in this world.
4. Sin has clouded our spiritual eyes so that we cannot see that other REALITY, the spiritual kingdom of God which is all around us. **IT IS REAL AND IT IS HERE!**

V. TO KNOW GOD PERSONALLY, ONE MUST FIRST SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. We were born into this world without choice, but we cannot walk in God's Kingdom and our world at the same time. We are given the choice.
 - God's Kingdom is here, not way off somewhere but it is as real as our world and as near.
2. Our soul has eyes with which to see and ears with which to hear the Kingdom of God and only the touch of Jesus Christ can activate that within us which will enable us to see and hear God and His Kingdom as clearly as we see and hear our world around us.
3. As our spiritual faculties mature and grow, we are enabled to walk closer to God until He walks at our side as He did Adam, Abraham, Jacob, Elijah, Elisha and all the other prophets along with the spiritually mature men and women through the ages.

CONCLUSION:

1. Remember, you cannot know God personally and closely as He wants you to if you try to walk with the world at the same time. You have to choose which you want to be with.
2. God's Kingdom is not at some far-off place but it is as near as our world, it's right here.
3. How close to God do you want to walk? How well do you want to get to know God?
It's up to YOU.