

HOW TO KNOW GOD

John 17:3

Introduction: All of us have seen or even met someone that we were instantly interested in and wanted to know more about, right? Giving logical thought and consideration of "who" would be the most interesting and important person you could possibly get to know the answer would have to be - God! God is the most interesting and fascinating person alive. Now, would you say that you know God personally? How well do you know God? Strangely enough, most people's image of God is that of their own earthly father. If he was a good person, then God is a good person, etc. God is a living person who thinks and has feelings and we get an awful lot of our characteristics from Him. If God can be known personally, and He can, then how does one get to know God?

I. FIRST OF ALL, GOD HAS TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO YOU, PERSONALLY

"...And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3)

1. First of all then, to know God personally, He must make Himself available and knowable to us.
 - God has taken the initiative in making Himself know to us.
 - By nature
 - By His written Word

2. How then, can we, being finite, ever come to know personally, the Eternal God?

"...God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in portions and many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power." (Hebrews 1:1-3)

"...If you had known Me, you would have known My Father, also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." (John 14:7)

3. Only believers in Jesus Christ can ever know God personally.
 - The Holy Spirit, at the moment of belief in Jesus Christ, indwells the believer and equips and enables that believer to know God as God wants that person to know Him.

II. SECONDLY, YOU MUST RESPOND TO GOD UPON HIM REVEALING HIMSELF TO YOU

1. It seems only logical that a person would want to know as much about God as possible.
 - Sadly, most Christians know very little about God.
 - Knowing God personally will cause one to begin to think like God.
 - Moses, for one, desired to know God as much as possible.

"...Now therefore, I pray Thee, if I have found favor in Thy sight, let me know Thy ways, that I may know Thee.." God replied: "...My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest..." (Exodus 31; 13-14)

- David wrote about the same desire:
 - "...As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God; Where shall I come and appear before God?" (Psalm 42:1-2)*
 - "...O God, Thou art my God; I shall seek Thee earnestly; My soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee, in a dry and weary land where there is no water..." (Psalm 63:1)*
- Paul also had a desire to know God, personally:
 - "...But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I might gain Christ..." (Philippians 8:7-8)*
- Getting to know God personally is the single most important thing in the Christian's life.
- Sadly, Christians long after the things of the world as non-Christians do because they do know God personally.

2. What God reveals must be accepted with no questions asked.
 - What one has always thought about God doesn't matter! One must accept without reservations or questions what God chooses to reveal about Himself.
3. One must commit him/herself totally to God if one wants to really know God personally.
 - One must learn about God with the intellect (mind). Thinking, meditating upon what God reveals.
 - One must become emotionally involved with God. Emotions came from God.
 - One must do something about what has been revealed, discovered. One must live consistently with what has been learned about God.

CONCLUSION:

1. God expects certain things from each Christian, and he/she must choose to obey.
2. If one truly knows God personally, then he/she will do what God expects.
3. One's willingness to obey God increases understanding God more and more.
4. Believing what God reveals and committing one's self to total involvement with God, whatever changes are needed, brings one closer to God.
5. One should ask God every day to show something about Himself.
6. One should read God's Word every day, looking for some truth about God.
7. Remember this, the Christian who is in God's will, knows God personally, and will always be active for God.

