

Show Me Your Glory

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study
Various Scripture

Worthwhile relationships are based on knowledge. When we meet someone for the first time, we do not consider that we know that person until we can learn more about that person, such as his or her history, personality, likes, dislikes, and desires. As we learn more about a new acquaintance, we better understand how to carry on a relationship with that person. In the same way, a vibrant relationship with the triune God must be rooted in a firm understanding of who He reveals Himself to be in His Word.

Exodus 15:11–13, “*Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? **12** You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them. **13** “You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.*

Psalms 89:5–8, *Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! **6** For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord, **7** a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him? **8** O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O Lord, with your faithfulness all around you?*

It is evident that man never attains to a true self-knowledge until he has previously contemplated the face of God and come down after such contemplation to look into himself. -John Calvin

I. God must enable us to be persuaded or we would never believe in Him.

- A. The natural mind is blinded (**2 Corinthians 4:4**, *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*)
- B. Human wisdom is inadequate to know God (**1 Corinthians 1:21**, *For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.*)
- C. God must remove our blindness and irrationality caused by sin and enable us to evaluate the evidence rightly, and believe the Scripture (**1 Corinthians 2:4–5**, *And my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom [words understood without assistance or God’s revelation; wisdom curated without respect to or opposed to divine revelation], but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5** so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

II. The Difference in Knowing “About” God and “Knowing” God.

- A. Knowing “about” God – facts, statements, doctrines, verses.
- B. Knowing God
 - 1. We know is attributes. We know who He is; we know His person.
 - 2. The Dangers of Getting to Know God (4 dangers in Romans 1)
 - a) We exchange the immortal God for perishing man (**Romans 1:23**, *And exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*
 - (1) **Exchange** (*Allassō*) – to exchange one thing for another.
 - (a) To make different
 - (b) To alter
 - (c) To replace
 - (2) **Acts 17:29**, *Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.*
 - (3) **Psalms 106:20**, *They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.*
 - (4) **Jeremiah 2:11**, *Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.*
 - (5) **Deuteronomy 4:16**, *Beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, (see **Deut 4:16-18**)*

- (6) **Matthew 5:17**, *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”*
- b) We exchange truth for lies (**Romans 1:25**, *Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!*)
- c) We refuse to acknowledge God (**Romans 1:28**, *And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.*)
- (1) Acknowledge – to recognize; to discern something clearly and distinctly, or as true and valid; often with a personal acquaintance that necessitates a reaction (Joseph – revealed himself to his brothers)
- d) We ignore God’s righteous decree **Romans 1:32**, *Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*
- (1) Endorse and approve of those who practice and partake.

“How different is the God of Scripture from the ‘god’ of the average pulpit.”

Arthur Pink

III. God is Incomprehensible

- A. We can never fully understand God
- Psalm 145:3**, *Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.*
 - Psalm 147:5**, *Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.*
 - Psalm 139:6**, *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.*
 - Psalm 139:17**, *How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!*
 - Romans 11:33**, *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*
 - 1 Corinthians 2:10–12**, *These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.*
- B. We can never fully understand any single thing about God
- His greatness; understanding; riches; judgments; ways; love; mercy; holiness; etc.
- C. Yet, we can know God truly – all that Scripture tells us about God is true!
- He is love (**1 John 4:8**, *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*)
 - He is light (**1 John 1:5**, *“...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*
 - He is spirit (**John 4:24**, *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

IV. The Impact of Knowing God

- A. The knowledge of God instills reverence and fear.
- B. The knowledge of God will induce us to prayer and when answered, ascribe blessing to God.
- C. The knowledge of God will lead us to obedience to Him (if not, our lives are corrupted since His will ought to be the law of our lives!)
- D. The knowledge of God will impact the knowledge of ourselves.
- From our abject poverty becomes more apparent the infinitude of the goodness of God.
 - We cannot aspire to him earnestly until we have begun to be displeased with ourselves (pride & comparison to any other).
 - Until the face of God is contemplated, we always seem to ourselves just, and upright, and wise, and holy. Until we are convinced, by clear evidence, of our injustice, vileness, folly and impurity.