

## **Knowing God: Enjoying Relationship with Him**

*“I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection...”  
Philippians 3:10*

Knowing God is the greatest pleasure and privilege in life. The writer of Psalm 77 grasped this reality, declaring God’s greatness to be a continual source of awe and wonder. A.W. Tozer said that knowing God is the easiest and yet the most difficult thing in the world.

Coming to know God takes nothing more than believing with childlike faith. At the same time, God is too great – too beyond-us – to be fully understood or fully explained.

When acute suffering compelled Job to cling to God, he thought about God’s vast and magnificent power over all creation (Job 26:14). When the Apostle Paul attempted, at length, to explain God’s plan of redemption, his mind and heart reached a bursting point (Romans 11:33)!

Have you ever turned the thought of God over and over in your mind? It is a healthy and humbling exercise.

As Christians, we must never stop seeking to know God better and love Him more. That is the aim of this lesson. If you will commit to meditate on the truth of Scripture, the Holy Spirit will give you eyes to see details of God’s portrait that a passing glance cannot fully appreciate.



## Receiving Grace & Forgiveness

What does Ephesians 1:7 state about grace & forgiveness?

---

---

---

What part does grace have in our salvation according to Ephesians 2:8,9?

---

---

---

**Grace** is not only “unearned, undeserved favor” – but it is also favor shown to the one who deserves the opposite. We often confuse the reality of grace with the concepts of sympathy, empathy and kindness. Real grace is not the result of a passing sentiment, but is the responsible out-pouring of a loving heart. Grace does not relieve someone of their responsibility or consequence of their action; it is a willing attitude of walking alongside the one responsible even when the impact of the consequence may spill over onto you.

**Matthew 6:12-15 & Luke 11:4 teach us about forgiveness**

---

---

---



In the book of Matthew (who was an accountant/tax-collector) we find a “spread-sheet” term – debt – in connection with Jesus’ teaching about forgiveness. To *forgive* is (in part) defined as ‘to cancel a debt’.

In the book of Luke – we find the broader, all-inclusive term “sin” (Luke 11:4). The word choice in Matthew could lead us to see forgiveness only through the lens of a credit/debit system of life ... but remember, our record-keeping isn’t always accurate. *Forgiveness* also includes in its definition – “to cover or pardon”.

**Enjoying Who God Is** [read and interact with the information on the additional pages referring to the attributes, nature and character of God]

How does my “knowing Who God is” enable me to enjoy relationship with Him?

---

---

---

### **Developing a Personal Devotion Time [PDT]**

#### **Prayer**

- Prayer is a spiritual communication-line to heaven
- Prayer is vital to our relationship with God  
(as is communication to any relationship)
- Prayer is a powerful tool in the ministry of the Holy Spirit as He “schools-us”-teaches us –in the classroom of God’s Word
- Prayer is a faith-building conversation where my priorities are challenged and my will is surrendered & conformed to God’s will
- Prayer is an invitation from God not only giving us access into the arena where He is supernaturally & powerfully at work – but it is also an opportunity to be a part of the team-on- the-field doing battle with our opponent



What does James 5:16 tell us about prayer?

---

---

---

*“Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of omnipotence”  
Charles Spurgeon*

What do we learn from **Proverbs 15:29**?

---

---

---

**Bible Reading & Study**

What are the benefits of my reading, studying and learning the Bible according to:

Psalm 119:11

---

---

2 Timothy 2:15 & 2 Timothy 3:16,17

---

---

---



## **Worship**

What do we learn about worship from:

John 4:23,24

---

---

---

Romans 12:1,2

---

---

---

**Worship is a Spirit-initiated response to the truth of Who God is & what God has done;** truth revealed in Jesus Christ and the inerrant Word of God.

**Worship is pleasing to God and vital for people.**

In worship, *true worshippers* honor & glorify God for Who He is and what He has done. In worship we experience His presence.

True worship exalts Jesus making Him known to people who are seeking Him.

True worship challenges people who deny His existence because worship reveals what every human heart knows – that our existence is life-less & empty without relationship with God.

True worship is established in & upon the truth of Jesus – apart from Jesus our attempts at “worship” are deceitful & irrelevant.



## The Attributes of God

God's attributes are essential qualities of Who God is; qualities that He alone possesses. Knowing these attributes deepens our faith and leads us to worship the Lord.

**God is eternal.** While believers will live forever, only God is eternal. God was not created; there was never a time when God did not exist. **Read Psalm 90:2**

**God is unchangeable.** The Bible teaches that God is immutable, which means He does not change. He has no need to develop or grow further, and there is no danger that He will degenerate or become less than perfect in any way. **Read Psalm 102:25-27**

**God is all-knowing.** The Bible teaches that God is omniscient, meaning He has complete and perfect knowledge. God is fully aware at all times of all things and has unlimited understanding. **Read Psalm 139:1-6; Psalm 147:5**

**God is ever-present.** The Bible teaches that God is omnipresent, meaning He is present everywhere at all times. At the same time, God is not limited, nor can He be contained, by any time or space. **Read Jeremiah 23:24; 1 Kings 8:27**

**God is all-powerful.** The Bible teaches that God is omnipotent, meaning He has unlimited strength, skill and ability to do all He desires to do. There is no challenge too difficult, no circumstance out of control, no problem beyond His ability to solve.

**Read Jeremiah 32:27; Psalm 62:11**

## The Nature of God

The Bible clearly declares the nature of the one true God.

**Read Deuteronomy 6:4**, what does this verse tell us about God?

---

---

---



This verse (Deuteronomy 6:4, the *shema* of Judaism – *shema* being the Hebrew word translated “hear” in English) is foundational to the Scriptures. The most commonly used name for God in the Hebrew Old Testament is *Elohim*, which is a plural form. The repeated use of a plural term for the one true God gives us an Old Testament glimpse of the triune nature of God.

This is a mystery the human mind cannot fully grasp or comprehend, but the Bible plainly indicates there is no discrepancy in the teaching of this truth known as the **Trinity**. Although the word Trinity does not appear in the Bible, it is the best description of this Biblical truth. Father, Son & Spirit are One, yet three distinct persons in terms of their relations within the Godhead.

**God the Father.** God is called the Father in both the Old and New Testaments. The Lord God said of Himself, “I am a Father to Israel ... (Jeremiah 31:9). Jesus called God “My Father” and taught the disciples to pray stating “Our Father Who is in heaven ...” (Matthew 6:9).

**God the Son.** The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is fully God and became a man who was fully human. Jesus did not become God- He has always been God. Speaking of His participation in the creation of all things, the apostle John declares that Jesus existed before time began (John 1:1-4). Jesus Himself said, “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58).

**God the Holy Spirit.** Jesus told the disciples that when He returned to the Father, He would send “another Helper, that He might live in you forever” (John 14:16). In Greek (the language of the original New Testament) the word *another* means “of the same kind.” Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, who is distinct from, yet equal to, Jesus and the Father.

We worship a God Who is far beyond what our minds can absorb or our language fully describe.

What do we learn about God – and us – as we read Isaiah 55:8,9?

---

---

---



## The Character of God

As we have already seen, God has essential qualities that He alone possesses. We will now consider some of the characteristics of God that He gives us the capacity to possess as well. These are qualities we can, and must, share with God. These are qualities to reach toward & embrace in ever-increasing dimension.

Before we consider these characteristics, we must be clear on two points:

(1) because God is inherently perfect, He will always be infinitely more than we can ever imagine or become (i.e., God is wise, but He will always be infinitely wiser than we can become). God's Word tells us we are to "be perfect", meaning fully grown, mature". It paints the picture of having reached the goal – namely to be conformed to the image of Christ Jesus.

But we will never be "god" ... remember, there is only one.

(2) the only way these characteristics are formed in us is by the power of the Holy Spirit who is at work in our lives. The Bible says, "As the Spirit works within us, we become more like Him" (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Simply put, our part is to read God's Word – which reveals Who God is and what He is like – and then cooperate with the Holy Spirit, who will instruct us, convict us, and enable us to live out what we learn. The beauty of the process is that it is not a long-distance relationship: God's Spirit lives within us.

**God is holy.** The Greek word for *holy* means "unpolluted by wickedness." God is completely set-apart from all that is impure or depraved. He has no part with sin (Habakkuk 1:13). God's holiness is the standard – the pattern – for His people to emulate or measure themselves by. As individuals we must be morally, ethically, spiritually, and physically pure.

**God is righteous and just.** God always does what is right and fair. God Himself is the definition of all that is right and fair in His dealing with humanity. Because He is righteous, God requires obedience and trust – even when we can't see or understand what He is doing. God is just, He will not allow sin to go unpunished, or injustice to prevail.





We all struggle with the reality of “life isn’t fair”, we need to remember – and know with certainty – that the day will come when we will understand and praise God for His ways (Revelation 15:3-4).

**God is loving.** One simple definition of God’s love is that He “eternally gives of Himself to others”. Let the magnitude of that sink in. God’s love is unconditional and cannot be earned or lost. In spite of our unlovable condition (Romans 5:7-8), God chose to love us. His love exceeds our comprehension and compels us to love Him and others in return.

**God is merciful and gracious.** God is moved with compassion toward those who suffer whether by circumstances out of their control or even through misery brought on by their own sinfulness. In mercy, He relieves our pain and pardons our sin (Psalm 103:8-14). In grace, He covers our sin with His own blood and saves us from the punishment we deserve (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8,9). We can depend on God’s grace to give us all we need to live for and serve Him (2 Corinthians 12:9).

**God is faithful.** God is completely trustworthy and true to His Word. He can be relied on and will always do what He has promised. As His servants, we are expected by God to be faithful, and He will reward us accordingly (Matthew 25:14-29).

