

WE CAN KNOW GOD

Part 1 of Knowing God. Hebrews 1:1-2.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. January 28, 2024.

INTRODUCTION TO THE KNOWING GOD SERIES

The highest knowledge we can gain is knowledge of God.

- We were created to know God.

It's easy to create a false god.

- We can even make ourselves into a false god.

Daniel DeWitt: "There are about a million ways to get God wrong, and the path to getting him right is extremely narrow... Our understanding of God shapes everything else about our lives."

<https://blog.newgrowthpress.com/getting-god-wrong/>

Knowing God as he truly is leads to many positive benefits.

- Worship, trust, confidence, power.
- We've got to get God right.
- On the book table:
 - Incomparable by Andrew Wilson
 - Knowing God by J.I. Packer
 - The Real God by Chip Ingram

CAN WE KNOW GOD?

Three questions ...

1. Can we know God?
2. Is he interested in being known by us?
3. And if so, how can we know him?

The answers are in Hebrews 1:1-2.

Hebrews 1:1-4 (ESV) Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Observation 1: God speaks.

- Verse 1: he spoke.
- Verse 2: he has spoken.
- God is not silent.

Observation 2: God spoke by the prophets.

- The Old Testament preserves some of that communication/revelation.
- It is the written Word of God.

Observation 3: God spoke by his divine Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- He is creator, sustainer, savior, and supreme.
- He is the Living Word of God.

John 1:1 (ESV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:18 (ESV) No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

- The New Testament preserves some of that communication/revelation.

Three Answers ...

1. We can know God. He can speak/communicate.
2. God is interested in being known by us. He spoke by prophets and Son.
3. We can know him by hearing and reading the Written Word of God, the Bible, in light of the Living Word of God, Jesus.

WE CAN KNOW GOD

God is above and beyond us, BUT ... he has communicated to us.

- Therefore, we should take full advantage of God's self revelation and get to know him better..

I have two goals for this series:

- Goal 1: We will be spiritually stronger by working to know God better.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV) Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he

- Goal 2: We'll love God more deeply, and experience his love more deeply.

Psalms 84:2 (CSB) I long and yearn for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh cry out for the living God.

Ephesians 3:17-19 (CSB) I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, 19 and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Commit to three steps during this series:

1. Pray daily: "Lord, I want to know you better."
2. Read and study to know God better.
3. Be here or online every Sunday to hear the teaching.

SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

READING

- This week, read Chapters 1-3 of Ingram **OR** Chapters 1-3 of Packer **OR** pages 13-36 of Wilson.

GET STARTED

- Make sure everyone in the group is introduced.

DIVE IN

- Review the study guide. What were Peter's main ideas, insights, or Bible passages related to knowing God?
- Read Psalm 145. Then, identify and discuss the multiple descriptions of God. Paint a verbal portrait of God. Which characteristics of God appear to be emphasized?
- Discuss the practical implications of the Psalm 145 portrait of God. How do his attributes or characteristics impact our lives?
- Discuss A. W. Tozer's statement, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us" (The Knowledge of the Holy). How is this true/false in your life?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Pray to know God better.
- Pray for the Cornerstone.
- Pray for the members of your small group