

“Can I Really KNOW God?”

Greg Wendschlag July 21, 2019

4 Steps to Knowing God

Step 1. Come to an understanding that God is a real, knowable person.

“We must know before we can love. In order to know God, we must often think of Him; and when we come to love Him, we shall then also think of Him often, for our heart will be with our treasure.” — Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*

- God made man in **His image**.
- God is not **like us** but rather we are **like Him**.
- We can **know God** with the same level of immediacy that we **know any other person**.

“Taste and see that the Lord is good.” Ps. 38:4

“My sheep know my voice.” John 10:27

Next step: I believe that God is real and that I can know Him.

Step 2. Become aware that God is here.

“Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.” (Gen. 28:16). Jacob had never been for one small division of a moment outside the circle of that all-pervading Presence. But he knew it not. That was his trouble, and it is ours. Men do not know that God is here. What a difference it would make if they knew.” - A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

- God **wants to be seen**. He isn't avoiding you. He's here in this place and everywhere you will ever go.
- Nearness to God is not a **locational** issue but a **relational** one.
- Have I realized that if I'm not “close” to God that it wasn't God that moved?

“Where shall I go from your presence?” Psalm 139

“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made...” Rom. 1:20

Next step: This week I will start each day with awareness of His presence. I will live each day with my mind focused on His presence. I will go to sleep each day thanking God for being with me.

Step 3. Realize that God is known by faith.

“A God whom we could understand exhaustively, and whose revelation of Himself confronted us with no mysteries whatsoever, would be a God in man's image, and therefore an imaginary God, not the God of the Bible at all.” — J.I. Packer, *Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God*

- The **spiritual** world is as real, more real, than the **physical** world.
- Our **habitual error** is thinking that reality only exists in what we can discern with our **five physical senses**.
- The Christian must learn to live "**other worldly**".

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Heb. 11:1

"Live by faith not by sight!" 2 Cor. 5:7

Next step: I am willing to take the step of faith and believe in God even though I don't see Him.

Step 4. I can only know God if I **seek Him**.

"While it is good that we seek to know the Holy One, it is probably not so good to presume that we ever complete the task." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*

- The difference between people who know God and those who don't is in the **seeking**.
- Knowing God does not come at the push of a button but by a **determined heart**.
- God will not deny **anyone** who **diligently** seeks Him.

"When you said, Seek my face; my heart said, Oh Lord your face will I seek." Ps. 27:8

"Come near to God and He will come near to you." Jms. 4:8

What does it mean to seek God?

1. Refocus your awareness to His presence moment by moment.
2. Talk to the Lord daily, continually, to develop a listening ear.
3. Read and obey the Bible to train your flesh to submit.
4. Fellowship with the church and learn the practicality of His presence.

Next Step: I understand that I must seek God and therefore realize that He is seeking me. I understand that I must talk to Him in prayer, read and obey His Word, fellowship and grow with His family and share this with others.

Prayer

"Father, I want to know you. I admit I have had a preoccupation with visible things. You have been here all along but I didn't know it. I have been blind to your presence. Open my eyes that I may see you in and around me. Help me to seek you moment by moment for your glory. Amen."