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Knowing God Today, in the End Times, and Forever

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~ A Saturday Morning Post #366 ~

Knowing God is most important in your life. And knowing God is knowing who He is, His identity, and what He is like, His character, and what He does, His purpose. God's word is filled with stories of people who knew God. Enoch knew God's presence and walked with Him. Abraham knew God's goodness and trusted Him. Moses knew God's holiness and obeyed Him. David knew God's love and worshiped Him. Mary knew God's mercy and trusted Him. Peter knew Jesus is Lord and lived for Him. Paul knew God's grace and died for Him. These believers and others like them knew God, and therefore loved Him and served Him. And God wants you to truly know Him, to have a close walk with Him, and to forever do what is good, right, and true. 2 Chron. 31:20-21

A person first knows God's identity, character, and purpose when he is born again. *"I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord"* (Phil. 3:8). *"God... is the One who has shown in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge*

of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6). *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent"* (John 17:3). Eternal life is an eternal relationship with the living God, is knowing Him personally, spiritually, experientially, and eternally.

Eternal life, knowing God, is not based on the ways of the world, the teachings of men, or the lies of the devil. It is not obtained by having money, fame, fun, power, or friends, but by knowing God and having Him fill your life with His love, joy, peace, and purpose. (Luke 6:24-26). Jeremiah says: "*Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast of his might, and let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises love, justice, and righteousness on earth."* Jeremiah 9:23-24

Eternal life, the Christian life, is forever experiencing the life of God. Peter tells us, *"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us... that... you may become partakers of the divine nature"* (2 Pet. 1:2-3.) Living the Christian life is being a partaker of this divine life, is knowing God and experiencing His grace, His power. *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever."* (2 Pet. 3:18). Make it your goal to know God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son.

What does it mean to know God? First, it means you know who He is, His identity. You know that God is the **Creator**, the One who made the entire universe and everyone and everything in it. You learn that He is the **Lord** of all, of all beings, people, and things. You know He is your spiritual and heavenly **Father.** You understand that He is the **Judge**, that He knows every thought, word, and deed, and decides what is right and wrong, and rewards the righteous and punishes the unrighteous. You believe that God is a **Giver** of what is good, that He

blesses and empowers you for His purposes and glory. Isaiah 43-45

You know that Jesus is the Lord of all. You know He is the **Creator**. You know He is the **Savior**, for He saves you from sin. You learn that He is your **Redeemer**, for by His death, He buys you out of slavery, rescuing you from the devil. You believe that He is the **Reconciler**, enabling you to be a friend of God. You know He is the **Head** of the church, the leader of the church. You understand that He is the **Judge.** And you realize He is the **King**, for He rules His kingdom. 1 Cor. 15:24-28, Heb. 1

You know that the Holy Spirit is your Helper, for He helps you to live for God. You believe He is the **Creator.** You understand that He is your **Teacher**, for He teaches you what you need to know and do. You learn that He is your **Leader**, guiding you in a godly and purposeful way. You see that He is your **Strength**, giving you the power to do what is right. You know He is the **Sanctifier**, for He makes you holy. John 14:16, 16:13; Rom. 8:14

Second, you know what God is like, His attributes and character. You understand that God is **self-existent**, that He never came into being, that He forever exists in and of Himself. You realize **He is self-sufficient**, He does not need anything from anyone; You know that He has all He needs – all power, wisdom, love, etc. You understand that **He is immutable**, never changing in His character or plans, and therefore always dependable and trustworthy. You know that **He is omnipotent**, having all the power to fulfill all His plans, to do whatever He desires. You believe **He is omniscient**, knowing all that can be known about everyone and everything, past, present, and future. Ps. 139

You know God is omnipresent, He is everywhere, not necessarily in a physical way, but in a spiritual way. You believe **He is wise**, always making the best decisions regarding everyone and everything; He has devised perfect plans and He fulfills them. You understand that **He is faithful**, He never forgets and never fails to do what He has planned, and that’s because He is wise, omniscient, powerful, and sovereign. You realize **He is just**, always doing what is holy, what is in accordance with

His word and character; He metes out justice for sin, either by Christ's atoning death for those who believe in Him, or by eternal wrath in hell for those who reject Him.

You know God is good, He is kind, benevolent, generous, a blessing to all, especially to believers. You know **He is merciful** and **forgiving**, not giving a person what he deserves. You understand that God **is gracious**, giving to a believer the grace he does not deserve to do whatever He has planned for him to do. You know **He is loving,** that He is always thinking about His people; that He is always concerned, patient, caring, and available. You believe **He is holy** – He is unique, unlike anyone else; and that He is sinless and perfect, forgiving those who repent and who believe that Jesus died to pay for their sins, and then rose from the dead.

You know God is eternal, that He has always existed and will never cease to exist. You learn that **He is incomprehensible**, never able to be completely understood, for He never fully reveals Himself. You realize that **He is transcendent**, that He is above all things and exalted above all things; and that He can never be contained or limited by His creation. You believe that **He is sovereign**, supreme, and has all authority, perfectly ruling the universe so as to carry out His divine will. You know that **He is glorious**, great, majestic, divine, beautiful, magnificent, and awesome, words describing the sum of His attributes and character, and inspiring the glory and praise that is due Him and Him alone.

Third, you know the purposes and plans of God, the triune God, by knowing that He is Lord, Father, Head, Creator, Giver, Savior, Judge, King, Helper, Teacher, Leader, Sanctifier, etc. And God's character, His omniscience, power, wisdom, love, justice, sovereignty, glory, etc., enable Him to carry out His purposes and plans.

Knowing God's identity, who He is, and His character, what He is like, and His purposes, what He does, is essential if you are to know your identity, if you are to have character, and if you are to fulfill God's purposes. And I am not talking about head knowledge, but knowing God experientially, knowing Him in a personal way. You can only walk with

God, you can only love Him, trust Him, obey Him, and have a good relationship with Him, if you know Him. It was only because Peter knew God that he was a man of God and lived his life for Him. In the very last verse of his very last epistle Peter commands us, *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."* 2 Peter 3:18

The identity, character, and purpose of God is also illustrated by the word *"name."* Ps. 9:2 – *"I will sing praise to Your name."* Ps. 9:10 – *"Those who know Your name will put their trust in You."* Ps. 20:7 – *"We will remember the name of the Lord."* Ps. 29:2 – *"The glory that is due His name."* Ps. 54:1 – *"Save me, O God, by Your name."* Ps. 72:17 – "*His name shall endure forever."* Ps. 89:16 – *"In Your name shall they rejoice."* Ps. 102:21 – *"Declare the name of the Lord."* Ps. 116:13 – *"Call upon the name of the Lord."* Ps. 124:8 – *"Our help is in the name of the Lord."* God's name, His identity, character, and purpose, is the basis for everything, from praising to preaching to praying. Jesus said, *"If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it"* (John 14:14). So pray *"in Jesus' name."*

One reason a Christian struggles and does not grow, love, and serve God like he should is because he does not truly know God. Hosea rightly and strongly states, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."* (Hos. 4:6). He goes on to say, *"So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord"* (Hos. 6:3). Ultimately, it is God Himself who enables us to know Him. *"I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord and they will be My people and I will be their God"* (Jer. 24:7). Paul prays for the Ephesian believers to grow in knowing God – *"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him."* Ephesians 1:17

You can know a gazillion things in this information age, but most importantly, you must know God. You must know He is Lord; you must know His love; and you must know His purpose. This is especially true in this post-Christian culture, in these increasingly lawless times, and in the years leading up Christ's coming and the rapture of the church. Knowing God in an intimate way in the tough years ahead is what you need more than anything else! But what should you do to grow in your

relationship with God, in your experiential knowledge of Him?

* Determine to know God. Be like Paul who said, *"I want to know Christ."* Phil. 3:10
* Study God's word, specifically the stories and truths that reveal His identity, character, and purpose.
* Think about God's identity, God's character, and God's purposes.
* Observe the lives of godly Christians, and get with them, and learn from them.
* Read Christian biographies, and read good books on God's attributes.
* Pray for yourself and others that you grow in your relationship with God, in your experiential knowledge of Him.

"I am the good shepherd, and I know My own, and My own ***know Me****"* (Jn. 10:14). *"Love is from God and everyone who loves is born of God and* ***knows God****"* (1 Jn. 4:7). *"The Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so we may* ***know Him*** *who is true."* 1 John 5:20

P.S. We finished a 9-part series on Matthew 24, a most important chapter that speaks at length about the troublesome days ahead. That's why I wrote this post, to stress our need for having a good, solid relationship with God. Here is a post about how He will be our strength during the years ahead – "God Will Keep You Strong to the End."