

# Knowing God

*Jim Downing*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Message could be expanded as taking the mystery out of knowing God.
- B. During Christ's last hours this was a great burden for him.

## II. Definitions.

- A. Who knows you the best? It takes a while for someone to know you.
- B. How well we know someone is relative to the number and depth of shared experiences.

## III. Characteristics.

A. Is it possible for someone who has known Christ for five years to know Him more than someone who has been a Christian longer? You can know about someone without knowing that person.

1. Illustration: the speaker knew someone close to Ronald Reagan and knew a lot about him, but he never knew him.

2. Some who have called Jesus Lord and did his works will be asked by him to depart because they never knew him. (Matthew 7:22-23)

B. Knowing God is not some extra-terrestrial out-of-body experience.

1. God has occasionally given people a glimpse of another dimension though.

a. Balaam's eyes were open. (Numbers 22)

b. Elisha was surrounded by horses and chariots of fire.

c. Stephen when being stoned saw the heavens opened and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father.

d. The example of a pilot who was blinded being guided to a safe landing - he lost contact with one of the dimensions. So too, when our first parents (Adam and Eve) first sinned, we lost connection with a spiritual realm. One day it will be revealed again.

2. God's omnipresence (being everywhere) is difficult to wrap the mind around.

#### IV. Areas of shared experience.

##### A. Regeneration. (Titus 2:5)

1. The “washing” of rebirth.
2. The example of an evangelist whose desire for alcohol was changed.
3. We share the life of Christ through this - it gives us a peace.

##### B. Through the Bible.

1. Through some mysterious way we share the life of God through experiences there.
2. We feed on the word to be healthy, intelligent, skillful and fruitful Christians.
3. Until there is one shared experience we do not know a person totally. The example of a man who shared a single blanket with someone in a blizzard - the other man kept stealing the blanket, and he got to know him well through that.
4. “If you don’t feel close to God, guess who moved?” God has provided for us experiences with him.

##### C. Prayer.

1. There are over 7400 promises in the Bible.
2. Prayer is the pouring out of the soul through Christ with the assistance of the Holy Spirit for the promises of God - John Bunyan.

##### D. Outreach.

1. When we pour out our soul to the poor, our soul will be watered. (Isaiah 58; Proverbs 11:35)
2. The example of a man who broke relationship with the speaker for fear of his disapproval about a romantic relationship.

#### V. Conclusion.

- A. We can know God as well as we want to.
- B. It is a hazard to have just one shared experience with Him.
- C. How well we know God is relative to the number and depth of shared experiences.

**Application questions.**

1. What observations did the speaker make about “shared experiences?” What do these look like with God?

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2. How are regeneration, Bible reading, prayer, and outreach experiences with God? Can one participate in these and not actually know God?

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3. Do you truly know God? What is your initial reaction after hearing this message? What will you do in light of it?

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