

Names of God - Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. There is no greater subject than to know God.
- B. It may take effort to know Christ. (Philippians 3)
- C. What does it mean to know God, how does one go about it, and how does one measure progress?
- D. Knowing God is as exact a science as lowering blood pressure.

II. What knowing God means.

- A. The person you know the most intimately is the person you have shared the most intimate experiences with. It is a matter of number and depth of experiences.
 - 1. This is true with God.
 - 2. It is possible that a young Christian can know God more than an older Christian because of this principle.
 - 3. Illustration: a man who said he will never say that he knows a person until he is caught in a blizzard with someone with one blanket. As long as there is one potential experience unshared we are lacking in knowledge of that person.
- B. David experienced God progressively and he learned progressively that God comes to our rescue first in little things. (1 Samuel 17)

II. How one goes about knowing God.

- A. Long before we came to know Him, we came to learn that we could ask Him for help and we would receive help. (Psalm 34)
- B. Our first major experience in knowing God was when we came to know Him through salvation. We were delivered from a body of death through Christ Jesus.
 - 1. God is a God who is able to blot out our sins. (Isaiah 43:25)
 - 2. We became a new creature at that time. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 40)
 - 3. We came to know God through the first experience of Him dealing with our sin and sin nature.
- C. Every experience since salvation has been in response to:
 - 1. Invitations. (Psalm 34:8)

2. Promises. There are seven thousand of them in the Bible.

3. Commands.

III. Progress in knowing God.

A. It is possible to know about someone without knowing that person. So it is with God. Paul was consumed with knowing God as His bond-slave.

B. Knowing God is the most important thing. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

1. Knowing God is more of a delight than riches.

2. Knowing God is more of a delight than all knowledge.

a. According to Josephus Moses was highly educated. (Acts 9:22)

b. Yet Moses wanted to know God over all this.

3. Knowing God is more of a delight than power.

a. Daniel chose knowing God over power.

b. God knew that God would redeem him when he refused to compromise. (Daniel 11:32)

4. Knowing God is more valuable than all three: riches, knowledge and power.

a. Abraham became willing to offer his own son in order to know God.

b. David knew God progressively through heightened challenges and experiences. (Psalm 36:10)

IV. The Names of God previewed.

A. There is a name of God and an action that follows from it.

B. God is master, provider, sanctifier, etc.

Application questions.

1. What was the main point of the author's message? What characterizes his vision of what it is like to know God?

2. How in your opinion does the author do in encapsulating what it is to know God? Does it go too far? Does it not go far enough? Explain.

3. What will you do to encourage more shared experiences with God in your own life? List three things you will commit to.
