

# Knowing God

*Jim Downing*

## I. Introduction.

- A. The best definition of what it means to know God.
- B. Preview.

## II. What is the greatest good?

- A. One time this was a great topic of discussion. They concluded the first is knowledge because it leads to income and power.
- B. The wise are not to boast of their wisdom, strength, or riches, but that he understands and knows God. (Jeremiah 23:24)

## III. There is a difference between knowing a person and knowing about a person.

- A. Illustration: the speaker knew someone close to Ronald Reagan and knew a lot about him, but he never knew him.
- B. Whose lives have you made studies of? There is a difference between knowing about someone and knowing someone.
- C. Who knows you better than anyone else? If you have been married less than fifteen years, your parents probably know you better than your spouse.
- D. 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.
- E. How well we know someone is relative to the number and depth of shared experiences.

## IV. What it means to know God.

- A. How well we know God is relative to the number and depth of shared experiences.
- B. A Christian can know God better who has been a Christian for a shorter time than another.

## V. You know God better than you think you do.

- A. We have all shared the experience of inviting Jesus in for salvation.

B. The example of Richard Nixon: he may have only had one shared experience with Jesus.

C. If we made a list of shared experiences, it would probably consist primarily of things forgiven and secondly of prayers answered.

D. Probably the reason that we say that we do not know Him better is because we are neglecting sharing experiences with Him.

1. He bails us out a lot. (Psalm 19)

2. God's presence will go with us. (Exodus 33:14)

## VI. Illustrations.

A. Although knowledge is what Moses had, he wanted to know God more. (Deuteronomy 34:10)

B. Abraham was interested in knowing God. (Genesis 13:2)

C. Daniel was powerful but knew the most important thing was to know God. (Daniel 11:32)

## VII. Conclusion.

A. The example of a pilot who was blinded being guided to a safe landing - he lost contact with one of the dimensions.

B. Why does not God show himself? (Hebrews 10:31, 12:39)

1. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

2. God is a consuming fire.

3. God operates on a frequency of holiness while we operate on a frequency of sinfulness.

4. God is gracious in keeping us out of his dimension.

C. This is not an out of body experience, but a biblical experience.

1. We do not need these kinds of experiences.

2. We have all we need in the kind of experiences described.

D. How well we know someone is relative to the number and depth of shared experiences. Is it right to carry this over into the spiritual?

E. Knowing God is progressive.

F. Knowing God happens first in the forgiveness of sins.

**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? Is his picture comprehensive? Does it go too far? Why or why not?

---

---

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

---

---