

Growing in the Knowledge of God

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I. Introduction.

A. Taking the mystery out of knowing God. (John 17:3; Philippians 3:10)

B. Paul's desire to know God was like a chariot racer pressing forward.

II. Taking the mystery out of knowing God.

A. What it is not.

1. It is not knowledge, nor riches, nor power. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

2. We instead delight to know God personally and practically.

B. What it is.

1. There is a difference between knowing about a person and knowing a person. All the books about knowing God really consist of knowing about God.

2. How well you know a person is relative to the number and depth of shared experiences. Therefore how well you know God is relative to the number and depth of shared experiences.

C. Shared experiences with God.

1. Salvation.

2. Prayer.

3. Divine intervention.

4. Health.

D. Most do not boast in knowing God, but in material things. (Jeremiah 9)

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

2. Knowing God is more of a delight than all knowledge. (Exodus 13; Deuteronomy 34:10)

a. According to Josephus Moses was highly educated.

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

3. Knowing God is more of a delight than power. Daniel chose knowing God over power. (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)

E. Shared experiences are essential for knowing.

1. The example of a person who said that he would never say he knew a person until he had been caught with him in a blizzard with one blanket.

2. When we stop sharing experiences with someone or God the relationship will fade.

3. We often stop sharing experiences with God because He may have a differing idea of how things are supposed to be.

4. Age does not hinder delighting in God.

III. Conclusion: How well you know a person is relative to the number and depth of shared experiences. Therefore, how well you know God is relative to the number and depth of shared experiences.

IV. Discussion.

A. The story of the purchase of the Navigator Headquarters.

B. The story of Dawson Trotman's death.

Application questions.

1. What does it mean to know God? How does the speaker illustrate the value of this.

2. What place does knowing God have in the Christian's life? How would you rate its importance in regards to other Christian practices? Explain.

3. What are the shared experiences we can have with God? Reflect on one of your shared experiences with God (if you have any) and explain why that was special for you. Develop a plan to begin regularly practicing a lifestyle that experiences God.
