

Knowing God

Regulations or Relationship?

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If we were to ask people, "What is the greatest thing in your life?" we would have a number of different answers. How many would honestly respond by saying that knowing God is THE greatest of all? The Lord, Himself, said in Jeremiah 9:24 *But let him who glories (boasts) glory in this, that he understands and knows Me,...*

1. Our understanding of who God is may be shaped by past experiences or inaccurate Bible teaching such as a relationship of rules. We may attach subjective feelings to our understanding, shaping His Character according to our preferences (selective literalism). For many, the devil, has successfully perverted God's Character. (Genesis 3:1-4) His lies tell them that God is intolerant and focuses on obedience to the letter of the Law, never fully accepted. (John 5:31-40)
2. Paul made the knowledge of God THE primary thing in his life! Philippians 3:7-14 *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection,... I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
 - When we experience God's love, we will be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:19) Knowing God personally through a relationship with the Holy Spirit brings accurate understanding of His Word, peace, strength in trials and challenges, and a longing for more of Him.

Here are a few points to help...

1. God revealed His Character/Nature through the Old Testament Names. Proverbs 18:10 *The Name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe (set on high).* All of His Names were a direct answer to a particular need!

2. God revealed Himself in personal ways to many, including Abraham and Moses. In Genesis 22:1-9, when Abraham offered Isaac, his only, miraculous son, to God, God revealed Himself as the One Who Provides. In Exodus 3:1-12, Moses encountered Jehovah in the burning bush. We can read God's heart for His people when He said,
 - *I have seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt...*
 - *I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters...*
 - *I know their sorrows.*
 - *So, I have come to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians...*
3. Before God gave the Law He revealed His love and compassion for His people in Exodus 19:3-6, the "Preamble" to the Ten Commandments.
 - *I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself...*
 - *...you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people...*
 - *...And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...*
4. Jesus, who was the perfect Image of the Father, came to earth to deliver us from the power and result of sin that separated us from the Father. His compassion, revealing the Father's Heart, saturated His three years of ministry.
 - Hebrews 1:1-4 *...who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power,...*
 - Matthew 4:23 *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people...; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them all. (Luke 4:18-21)*

The Law was created to bring us to our need for salvation through Christ. (Galatians 3:24-25 *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*) Now that you've been born again, make it your highest goal to know Him on a deeply personally level through the Holy Spirit.