

# Knowing GOD:

Think about a famous person from history or modern times that you know a lot of facts and information about...

*How much info could you list about that person in 2 minutes?*

Isn't it amazing that we can know **so much** about someone that we have never actually met before?

**The same can be true of God in our lives:** we can know all about Him – lots of facts – all kinds of information – but not know Him personally, for ourselves.

**I know Albert Einstein was real:**

- \* *I believe he was real.*
- \* *I believe that the info I know about him is true.*
- \* *But I didn't KNOW him; I've had no personal acquaintance with him.*
- \* *I don't know him – AND – he doesn't know me.*
- \* *He is real – but he is distant – and we don't know each other.*

**Abram, Moses, Saul** – they all had this same experience at first:

- \* *They knew God was real.*
- \* *They genuinely believed in God.*
- \* *They believed the information they knew about God was true.*
- \* *From our first introductions to these people, we can see that they even loved God, and that they wanted please God with their lives...*
- \* *But their knowledge of God, at least at first, was not personal.*
- \* *Their knowledge of God – and their desire to please Him – was distant and impersonal.*

**Then, for each of them** – and many, many more people in the Bible and throughout history – things drastically changed when this real-but-distant God became close, personal, 1-1 known to them:

**Abram** – Genesis 11:27-12:9

**Moses** – Exodus 2:11-3:12

**Saul** – Acts 8:1, 9:1-19

## #1 – God is Knowable

God has made Himself known to humanity. This is called "revelation". God has **revealed** Himself to mankind. He didn't have to do this. He could have remained distant & hidden from us. But He **chose** to show Himself to us! *How has God revealed Himself to humanity?*

**There are 2 primary ways:**

**1 – through JESUS.** See Colossians 1:15,19; Colossians 2:9; John 10:30; John 14:9-10; Hebrews 1:1-3.

**2 – through the BIBLE.** See 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21.

God's personality & character & commands are all clearly described in the Holy Bible, and these were perfectly demonstrated through the life, teachings, and example of Jesus.

**Other ways God reveals Himself to us:**

- \* *through creation (Job 26:7-14; Psalm 8:3-4; Psalm 19:1-4a; Romans 1:20)*
- \* *through other Christians who know and live according to God's Word (Proverbs 1:5; Prov. 12:15; Prov. 15:22; Prov. 19:20)*
- \* *through the poor and marginalized (Matthew 25:31-46)*
- \* *through our own circumstances (Genesis 50:20; Psalm 37:4; Psalm 90:17; Psalm 143:10; Proverbs 3:5-6; Proverbs 16:3; Acts 16:6-8; 1 Thessalonians 2:17b-18)*
- \* *through angels, dreams, & visions (Gen. 16:7-12; Exodus 3:2-4; Matt. 1:20-24; Matt. 2:13-21; Matt. 28:5-8; Luke 1:11-38; Luke 2:8-15; Acts 8:26-30; Acts 10:3-19; Revelation 1:1)*

These other forms of revelation are valid, BUT they are all **secondary**. We should always check all of these other ways against the 2 primary ways that God reveals Himself to us: through Jesus & the Bible.

**Verses on Knowing GOD:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10;

Deuteronomy 4:29; Jeremiah 29:12-14a; Jeremiah 33:3;

Matthew 7:7-8; John 10:2-4,14; Isaiah 30:21.

## #2 – God Knows You, personally

You are not distant and unknown to God; You are known to Him, both personally and individually.

See **Psalm 139:1-6,13-18** and **Matthew 10:29-31**.

## #3 – Get to Know GOD NOW, while you are young

**Don't wait** until you are an adult to get to know God personally, for yourself. **Don't wait** until you are an adult to become a passionate & fully-devoted follower of Jesus!

**You don't have to wait!**

- \* *David was about 15! – 1 Samuel 13:13-14*
- \* *Joseph was 17! – Genesis 39-41*
- \* *Jeremiah was a teenager! – Jeremiah 1*
- \* *Timothy was a teenager! – 1 Timothy 4:12*
- \* *The boy who shared his lunch so Jesus could feed the 5,000 was about 8! – John 6:8-11*
- \* *Samuel was about 10! – 1 Samuel 3:1-10*
- \* *Mary was about 14 – Luke 1:26-38*
- \* *Jesus' first 4 disciples (Peter, Andrew, James, & John) were probably in their late teenage years! – Matthew 4:18-22*

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