

Do You Know God?

By Del Wells

'Do you know God?' is the most important question you will ever have to answer. The quality of your present life and the location of your future life are determined by your relationship with God. Jesus is clear on this point: "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." John 17:3.

You will spend eternity in God's holy presence enjoying untold bliss if you know God. If you do not, you will be forever in darkness, suffering, and sorrow along with the devil and his evil forces. You must choose to know God through faith in Jesus Christ to ensure your place with God eternally.

Knowing God also enhances and maximizes your present life. Your growing relationship with God by faith in Christ gives you direct access to everything you need to live well and be godly (2 Peter 1:3,4).

So, do you know God? Most people do not although lots think they do.

- Atheists write God off as not being real and knowable.
- Agnostics act like they cannot be sure if God exists and therefore do not pursue a living knowledge of him.
- Religious people believe in the reality of God formally but rarely experience him relationally.
- Self-described spiritual people create their own version of God as an expression of their craving for self actualization.
- Church people tend to use God more than obey and please him.
- Only true Christ followers know God and conform their lives to his will.

Which group of people do you belong to? How does your view of God influence the way you live? If you think you know God, could you describe who God is to someone with certainty?

Where does your concept of God come from? Is the Bible your source of knowledge about God? If so, how well do you know the Bible? How much time and effort have you given to reading and absorbing it to understand God and your relationship with him?

The Bible is about God and how everything relates to him. When you read and study it with that perspective it teaches you about God and how you can know him personally. God reveals himself to you so you can discover who he is, why you should get to know him, how you can know him, and what your life is like with or without knowing him. God also details his eternal plan for the universe and your responsibility to forge a deep relationship with him. Ask God to help you to understand the Bible as you read it and he will. When you make the effort to know him, he will become real to you.

Telltale Signs You Do Not Know God Very Well

If you consider yourself someone who believes in God, there are numerous indicators to confirm if you know him and how well you do. It is not what you say you believe but what your life demonstrates about your beliefs that matters: *“To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.” Titus 1:15,16*

When you truly know God, your life will clearly show it. It is possible to think you know God but actually do not. Your mind and conscience can be corrupted with a worldly focus and will be shown by your attitudes and actions towards God.

No one knows God perfectly, but you can be in a trusting relationship with him that grows deeper each day. The purpose of this article is to help you evaluate your knowledge of God using the Bible as your measuring tool. The Holy Spirit will enable you to do an honest self-assessment if you ask him to. He will also show you how to develop a genuine connection with God utilizing his power for spiritual training in the Word and in prayer.

The following are common signs that someone does not know God very well, if at all. Read the accompanying Scriptures as you work through the list:

- Not believing God exists and is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe - Hebrews 11:3,6
- Doubting God instead of trusting him - Psalm 9:10
- Blaming God for the way things are because of man's sin - Proverbs 19:3
- Continuing to sin willfully - 1 John 3:6
- Questioning God's love for you - 1 John 3:1-3
- Disobeying Christ's commands - 1 John 2:3-6
- Not doing the will of the Father to produce good fruit - Matthew 7:15-23
- Being an unwise and unfaithful steward for God - Matthew 25:14-30
- Worrying about daily life instead of focusing on God – Matthew 6:25
- Not desiring to know Christ better - Philippians 3:10,11
- Loving the world instead of God - 1 John 2:15-17 / James 4:4

- Not actively loving others - 1 John 4:7,8

- Not living a godly life by utilizing God's provisions - 2 Peter 1:3,4

These are some of the signs that you have a limited knowledge of God. Rather than be offended by this revelation, let it be a wake-up call for you to get you actively growing your relationship with God. Your quality of your present life and eternal destiny depend on it.

Make knowing God your number one priority. Nothing else comes close to having an intimate, personal relationship with God. God says the more you get to know him, the better you understand him and his ways: *"This is what the Lord says: 'Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the Lord."* Jeremiah 9:23,24

You can know and understand God personally and deeply. It does require your daily, determined effort and is worth everything you give to it. You will gain a practical knowledge of God that solidifies your trust in him for whatever situation you face. You must ask yourself whether you want to know God and are willing to invest yourself fully to do so.

How Do You Get to Know God More?

Think about what you do to get to know an important person in your life better? How much does that consume your thought life, priorities, and plans? What are you willing to do to develop a closer relationship with them? You would do everything you could when the relationship is a priority for you. It is helpful to look at your relationship with God with the perspective that he must be your most significant relationship. Be ready to commit and do whatever it takes to know God deeply and intimately.

God has provided you with 3 supernatural resources you need to get to know him intimately. Integrate them into your daily living and you will facilitate your spiritual growth and maturity.

1) Invite The Holy Spirit To Keep Filling You With His Presence And Power

If you are a follower of Christ, the Holy Spirit lives in you. Continually ask him to fill your life with his presence and power to experience everything he has for you. He will transform your desires to want what God wants and help you to understand and apply God's word. The following Scriptures are examples of how the Holy Spirit connects you to God supernaturally.

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better." Ephesians 1:17

“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”- the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God...What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.” 1 Corinthians 2:9,10, 12

Stay open to the Holy Spirit to work in your life. He will enable you to utilize the other supernatural resources of the Word and prayer to know God better. The Spirit will transform your mind and heart and enable you to be more like Jesus.

2) Absorb God’s Word Into Your Life Daily

God has revealed himself to you in his Word. You study the Bible to learn who God is and how to develop a relationship with him. Knowing God well requires the ability to understand what he tells you. The Holy Spirit illuminates the Word for you and helps you to know how to apply it correctly. God’s word will transform your perspective and priorities so that they align with his will. Studying the Word will also increase your faith in God to trust him with everything.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16,17

Remember to ask the Holy Spirit to help you absorb God’s word as you read, memorize, meditate on, and apply it. You will know God more as he speaks his Word into your life through the work of the Holy Spirit.

3) Pray About Everything Before, During, And After The Fact

The Holy Spirit will help you to stay connected to God through an ongoing conversation with him. As you mature spiritually, you know better what to say to God by being informed by his Word. You can distinguish what God is communicating to you in your spirit as you learn to listen to him. There is no situation in life that you should not involve God in through prayer. Focus on God and he will direct every step you take and provide whatever you need when you need it.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:18

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5,6

When you pray, you are including God in your situation. The more you engage with God, the more you know him. Submit yourself to the Holy Spirit and he will keep you close to God.

Practices That Help You Know God Better

It is vital to stay filled with the Holy Spirit daily. He teaches you about God and helps you know what and how to pray. The following are disciplines that you need to make a priority because they facilitate the building of your relationship with God. Evaluate how you are participating and progressing in each one as you work your way through the list:

- Develop the desire to know God through Christ (Philippians 3:10,11).
 - What you want the most, you will make the time for.
- Make the time to learn about God in the Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
 - God reveals himself in the Bible so plan to read all of it.
- Quiet yourself before God alone (Psalm 46:10).
 - You need uninterrupted quality time to get to know God better.
- Learn to listen to God through the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10b-16).
 - God communicates to your spirit by Holy Spirit revelation.
- Be open and honest with God (Psalm 139:23,24).
 - Do not allow anything to come between you and God.
- Humble and submit yourself to God to get closer to him (James 4:7,8).
 - Expressing worship is one way to get near to God.
- Trust God as your initial response to everything (Proverbs 3:5,6).
 - Establish believing God as your default reaction in every situation.
- Show God he can trust you with everything he gives you (1 Corinthians 4:2)
 - You experience God’s favour and blessing by being trustworthy.
- Learn Christ’s commands and obey them (1 John 2:3-6 / John 15:10,11)
 - You experience God’s love and joy filling you through obedience.
- Stop habitual sinning to show that you know God (1 John 3:6 / Hebrews 12:1-3).
 - Rely on the Holy Spirit’s power to help you live like Jesus.

- Give your best effort to spiritual growth to increase your knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 1:5-8).
 - o The more you add to your spiritual qualities, the better you will know Jesus.

These are some of the practices to know God better. When you consistently do these things over time, you develop a close relationship with God that will be obvious to you and others.

Telltale Signs You Do Know God Well

When you make the effort to know God better, there will be positive indicators that your relationship with God is solid and growing. Keep in mind that your initial reactions to situations are just that – initial. As a human, temptations to question, doubt, fear, blame, disobey, hate, and act out are normal. It is how you respond next that reveals how well you know God and have been transformed by him.

In contrast to the list of signs of not knowing God at the beginning of this article, the following are indicators that you do know God and are growing your relationship with him. As you work through the signs, think about how positive these realities are for your ongoing wellbeing:

- You trust God with your situation (Psalm 9:10 / 2 Timothy 1:12).
- You believe that God loves you as his child extravagantly (1 John 3:1).
- You are sure that you are saved and live in Christ by faith (1 John 4:13-15).
- You are learning and obeying Christ's commands. (1 John 2:3-6).
- You stop sinning habitually by keeping in step with the Holy Spirit (1 John 3:6 / Galatians 5:16).
- You focus on God first to have your needs met (Matthew 6:33).
- You love God instead of the world and its desires (1 John 2:15-17 / James 4:4).
- You love your church family. (1 John 4:7,8).
- You keep your mind free of spiritual strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
- You willingly offer yourself completely to God for his use as worship (Romans 12:1).
- You know and do God's will by having your mind renewed daily (Romans 12:2).
- You live well and act godly by utilizing God's provisions in Christ (2 Peter 1:3,4).

Your Response

Do you see the evidence of knowing God in your life? If you do, you can be confident that your relationship with God is real. You must never settle in at that point but make it your daily goal to know God in a deeper way. The closer you get to God, the more you take on his characteristics so that you resemble him in the way you think and act.

You learn to recognize God's presence, hear him speak to your spirit, comprehend what he is teaching you, and understand what he wants you to do. You live as one fully loved and cared for by the Creator of the universe which has a powerful impact on your sense of wellbeing. You treat others like Jesus would in your place and influence them to know God like you do.

If after reading this article you realize that you do not really know God, ask yourself why you would not want to. Do not miss out on the life your Creator has for you in the present and for eternity. Talk to someone you know that has a relationship with Christ and ask them to help you take the steps to becoming part of God's spiritual family. That is the best decision you will ever make as you will be transformed from your old way of living to a brand new life designed by God that is fulfilling and complete.

If you do know God, make it your ambition to know him better everyday. Be motivated to pursue everything God has for you by growing your relationship with him daily. Integrate the Holy Spirit, the Word, and prayer into your lifestyle choices and ministry efforts. Refer to the list of signs of knowing God regularly to measure your progress from where you were to where you are that day. You will not regret the investment you make in being close with God.

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About the Author:

Del Wells is an ordained minister with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada having served the local church for 37 years as a pastor. His vision is to see people transformed daily by having their minds renewed with the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Utilizing his teaching gift and drawing on his many experiences and spiritual insights, Del has written numerous courses, studies, and articles to help followers of Christ learn to live well, be godly and impact the world around them for Jesus.