

Knowing God - What Does It Mean?

March 12, 2017

Rules of Relationship:

1. *The strength of the relationship depends upon commitment, time, communication and vulnerability.*
2. *Lack of communication breeds misunderstanding, suspicion and mistrust.*
3. *Relationships will become anemic, fragile and damaged when neglected.*
4. *The motions of relationship can replace the intimacy of relationship and the love be lost.*
5. *When the love is lost the relationship fails when tested.*
6. *No surrogate can take your place in relationship.*

To know God's heart, thoughts, motives and will.

Give God as much space as possible in your heart and life. Not only will He occupy whatever you give Him, He will overflow. So make as much room for Him as possible.

John 16:13 NASB

13 **"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."**

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 NASB

9 but just as it is written, "*things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.*"

10 **For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.**

11 **For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.**

12 **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.**

Colossians 2:1-3 NASB

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,

2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and **attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself,**

3 **in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

Proverbs 20:5 ESV

5 **The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.**

To have your own heart revealed to you in His Presence, through His Word, by His Spirit, listening to His voice. *God will always cleanse and heal what you permit Him to reveal.*

Psalm 139:1-6 NASB

- 1 For the choir director. A Psalm of David. **O LORD, You have searched me and known me.**
- 2 **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.**
- 3 **You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.**
- 4 **Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.**
- 5 **You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.**
- 6 **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.**

Psalm 139:13-18 NASB

- 13 **For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.**
- 14 **I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.**
- 15 **My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;**
- 16 **Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.**
- 17 **How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!**
- 18 **If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You.**

Psalm 139:23-24 ESV

- 23 **Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!**
- 24 **And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!**

Isaiah 6:1-8 NASB

- 1 **In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.**
- 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.
- 3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."
- 4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.
- 5 Then I said, "**Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.**"
- 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.
- 7 **He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."**
- 8 **Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"**

To know the Lord directly, uniquely and intimately without vicarious knowledge or experience from another person. *Surrogacy is impossible with your relationship with God.*

Hebrews 8:10-11 ESV

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

11 **And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.**

1 John 2:27 NASB

27 **As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.**

2 Corinthians 1:23-24 ESV

23 But I call God to witness against me--it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth.

24 **Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.**

Colossians 2:16 NASB

16 **Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day.**

Galatians 4:17 NASB

17 **They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them.**

Galatians 5:12 NASB

12 **I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves.**

Galatians 6:13 NASB

13 For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, **but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.**

Never confuse performance with knowing God.

Just as spirit opposes flesh and faith opposes sight, so the obsessive earthly busyness of doing and performing continually opposes God's methods waiting, resting and abiding. Eternally more is accomplished by waiting on and abiding in God than by doing.

Isaiah 30:15 ESV

30 For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "**In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.**" But you were unwilling,

Matthew 7:21-23 NASB

21 **"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter."**

22 "**Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'"**

23 "**And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.'**"

John 17:3 NASB

3 "**This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."**

Matthew 23:27-28 NASB

27 "**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness."**

28 "**So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."**

2 Timothy 3:1-5 NASB

1 **But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.**

2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 **holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.**

2 Peter 1:2-3 NASB

2 **Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;**

3 **seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.**

2 Corinthians 3:18 NASB

18 **But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.**

"Jonathan Edwards, pastor of the Congregational Church in Northampton, Massachusetts, expressed his concern for the 'general deadness throughout the land' and set himself to seek God for a 'revival of religion.'"

"During this time, Edwards preached his famous sermon, 'Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.' So powerfully did the conviction of sin grip the people that Sunday morning, that the penitent cries for mercy drowned Edward's voice. Hell became so real to the congregation that some clutched the backs of pews while others wrapped their arms around pillars to keep, as it were, from being consumed by its eternal flames. Edwards made hell 'real enough to be found in the atlas,' writes Edwards' biographer, Ola Winslow."

"The power that accompanied Edwards' preaching was not the result of his topic alone. Preaching on the terrors of hell did not monopolize his messages. He was, in fact, a very sensitive individual who could be melted to tears while contemplating the love and mercy of God. Neither was the power the fruit of oratorical skill, for Edwards normally read his sermons. His preaching derived its power from his prayer life. He would spend whole days and weeks in prayer prior to preaching a single sermon. The result was a revival that not only transformed the moral and spiritual character of his own community, but also that of the entire nation." Dr. Eddie L. Hyatt, 2000 Years of Charismatic Christianity, pp. 108-109.

"Waiting is a common instrument of providential discipline for those to whom exceptional work has been appointed." James Stalker, Scottish Presbyterian pastor