

# KNOWING GOD

God desires for me to grow in my understanding of Him. From birth until I received Christ as my Savior, I formed habits of worldly understanding.

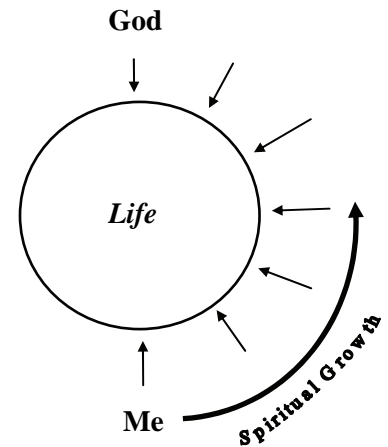
Now He wants to gradually transform my understanding of Him so that I increasingly view life from His perspective. A godly perspective produces godly behavior. It does not please God if I simply attempt to change my outward behavior without allowing Him to transform my inward thinking.

If I want my relationship with God to grow, I need to make conscious choices to seek Him wholeheartedly, in much the same way that a marriage relationship needs to be nurtured.

To not hinder God's work in and through me, I need to maintain an open, honest and teachable attitude towards Him. Since He alone really knows me, my role is to willingly allow Him to make the appropriate changes in my understanding. Jesus is the visible picture of God's character, and the One in whose image God will mold me, as I allow Him.

God desires for me to know Him intimately, in a way that goes beyond mere knowledge "about" Him.

**His** perspective of life should increasingly become **my** perspective of life.



*Godly behavior is the natural outcome of His continuing inward transformation of my convictions and values*

*... for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

(1 Sam. 16:7)

## 1. MY ATTITUDE

**a. God desires for me to grow in my understanding of Him, to know His heart.**

Jer. 9:23-24 *Thus says the Lord, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, ...*

John 17:3 (Jesus said) ... this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.

Rom. 8:29 *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, ...*

Rom. 11:36-12:2 ... *do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (see also 2 Cor. 3:18)*

Eph. 3:16-19 ... *that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.*

*The highest goal of learning is to know God!*

**b. In order to grow I need to actively pursue a closer relationship with Him.**

Psa. 63:1 (David wrote) *O God, ... I shall seek You earnestly; my soul thirsts for You, ...*  
Prov. 2:1-5 (Solomon wrote) *My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; for if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; if you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will discern the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God.*  
Matt. 7:7-8 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.  
1 Peter 2:2-3 *like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.*

**2. GOD’S WORD**

**TRUTH DOES NOT ORIGINATE FROM ME, OR FROM ANY OTHER HUMAN, BUT ONLY FROM GOD HIMSELF. THEREFORE, ALL “PERCEIVED TRUTH” MUST BE COMPARED TO, AND VERIFIED BY, GOD’S WORD – THE BIBLE.**

**a. One way God transforms me is through His Word. His Word is trustworthy.**

Psa. 119:89 Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.. (see also 1 Peter 1:25)  
Matt. 24:35 (Jesus said) “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.*”  
John 14:6 (Jesus said) I am the way, and the truth, and the life; ...  
John 17:17 (Jesus said) “*Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.* (See also Psa. 119:160)  
Rom. 15:4 *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*  
Eph. 4:21 ... truth is in Jesus,  
2 Tim. 3:16-17 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*  
1 John 5:6 ... *It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.*

**b. God’s Word should become as essential as food in my daily life.**

Deut. 6:5-9 “... *These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. ... “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates ... (See also Deut. 11:18-21)  
Job 23:12 (Job said) “*I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.*”  
Psa. 119:16 *I delight in Your decrees; I will not neglect Your word.*  
Psa. 119:103 *How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*  
Matt. 4:4 *But He (Jesus) answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’ ”**

**c. Memorization and meditation on His Word will help me to grow.**

Psa. 1:1-3 *How blessed is the man who ... his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he **meditates day and night**. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.*

Psa. 119:11 *Your word I have treasured **in my heart**, that I may not sin against You.*

Psa. 119:97 *O how I love Your law! It is my meditation **all the day**.*

Psa. 145: 5 **On the glorious splendor of Your majesty and on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.**

Prov. 22:17-18 *Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge; for it will be pleasant if you **keep them within you, that they may be ready on your lips.***

Col. 3:16 *Let the word of Christ richly **dwell within** you, with all wisdom **teaching** and **admonishing** one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

**Visible Reminders:** Memorize a verse of Scripture as you go to work.

Write a verse on a card, and tape it where it is visible.

Meditate on that verse during the day.

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**d. God's Word is like a light shining into my life, disclosing the secrets of my heart and helping me to see myself as God sees me.**

Psa. 119:105 *Your word is a **lamp** to my feet and a **light** to my path.*

Psa. 119:130 *The unfolding of Your words gives **light**; it gives **understanding** to the simple.*

Rom. 10:17 *So faith comes from **hearing**, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

Heb. 4:12-13 *... the word of God is living and active ... and able to **judge** the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ... all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

**e. God alone gives understanding of His Word. Even though many portions may appear difficult to understand, as I am honest and open to Him, He will reveal His Word to me as I have need.**

Deut. 29:29 *"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the **things revealed** belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.*

Luke 24:45 *Then He (Jesus) **opened their minds** to understand the Scriptures,*

1 Cor. 2:12-14 *... 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, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those **taught by the Spirit**, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he **cannot understand** them, ...*

2 Pet. 3:15-16 (Peter wrote) *... our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things **hard to understand**, ...*

### 3. PRAYER - CONVERSING WITH GOD

We should think of Prayer as an intimate conversation with our Creator and Master, who is majestic in His creation and control of the universe, while at the same time so loving and caring that he wants to be involved in the most minute details of my life.

I should approach God with a reverent awe, always conscious of the fact that His accessibility is only due to the merit of His Son, not a result of any goodness on my part. We should count it an extreme privilege to approach the God of all creation.

As in any conversation, listening is a major component. Occasionally my time with God will consist mostly or entirely of contemplating and listening to Him as He speaks to my heart or reveals to me something new. He wants me to look to Him with expectation.

One way of honoring God and giving Him His rightful recognition in my heart is by actively seeking and accepting His priorities. This will necessitate forming the habit of not giving Him the leftovers of my time, energy and possessions, but rather offering Him the best of my resources.

#### **a. Conversation with God will be enhanced by a heart preparation, an honest assessment of my priorities, and an awareness of His majesty.**

Psa. 5:3 *In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.*

Psa. 37:7 *Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; ...*

Psa. 119:147 *I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for Your words.*

Prov. 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

Isa. 50:4 *... He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.*

Matt. 6:31-34 *“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ ... for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Luke 10:38-42 *... He (Jesus) entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord’s feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”*

Eph. 2:18 *for through Him (Jesus) we ... have our access in one Spirit to the Father.*

Col. 3:2-3 *Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

Heb. 4:15-16 *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

1 Peter 5:6-7 *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

**b. Prayer includes adoration, thanksgiving (gratitude), and praise.**

Psa. 145:2-3 (David wrote) *Every day I will bless You, and **I will praise Your name forever and ever.** Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.*  
Psa. 146:1-2 *Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD while I live; **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.***  
Daniel 6:10 *... Daniel ... entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and **giving thanks** before his God, as he had been doing previously.*  
Eph. 5:19-20 *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and **making melody with your heart to the Lord;** always giving **thanks** for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;*  
Phil. 4:6-7 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*  
Col. 4:2-4 *Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an **attitude of thanksgiving;** ...*  
1 Thess. 5:16-18 *Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; **in everything** give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

**c. Prayer includes confession, reconciliation and forgiveness of others.**

Psa. 32:5 *I **acknowledged** my sin to You, and my iniquity I did **not hide**; I said, "I will **confess** my transgressions to the Lord"; and You forgave the guilt of my sin. ... (See Psa. 66:18)*  
Prov. 28:13 *He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who **confesses** and **forsakes** them will find compassion.*  
Matt. 5:23-24 *"... if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something **against you**, leave your offering there before the altar and **go; first be reconciled** to your brother, and then come and present your offering.*  
Mark 11:25 *"whenever you stand praying, **forgive, if you have anything against anyone;** so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions.*  
Rom. 12:18 *If possible, so far as it depends on **you**, be at peace with **all** men.*  
1 John 1:9-10 *If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.*

**d. Prayer includes supplications, requests for my personal needs.**

Prov. 2:6 *For the Lord gives **wisdom**; from His mouth come **knowledge** and **understanding**.*  
Matt. 6:5-8 *"... But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is **in secret**, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. ... for your Father knows what you need **before** you ask Him.*  
Matt. 6:25-34 *... "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and **all** these things will be added to you. ...*  
James 1:5 *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him **ask** of God, who gives to all **generously** and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

e. ***Prayer—Battle in "The Secret Place"***

*When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly*

—Matthew 6:6

Jesus did not say, "Dream about your Father who is in the secret place," but He said, ". . . pray to your Father who is in the secret place. . . ." Prayer is an effort of the will. After we have entered our secret place and shut the door, the most difficult thing to do is to pray. We cannot seem to get our minds into good working order, and the first thing we have to fight is wandering thoughts. The great battle in private prayer is overcoming this problem of our idle and wandering thinking. We have to learn to discipline our minds and concentrate on willful, deliberate prayer.

We must have a specially selected place for prayer, but once we get there this plague of wandering thoughts begins, as we begin to think to ourselves, "This needs to be done, and I have to do that today." Jesus says to "shut your door." Having a secret stillness before God means deliberately shutting the door on our emotions and remembering Him. God is in secret, and He sees us from "the secret place"—He does not see us as other people do, or as we see ourselves. When we truly live in "the secret place," it becomes impossible for us to doubt God. We become more sure of Him than of anyone or anything else. Enter into "the secret place," and you will find that God was right in the middle of your everyday circumstances all the time. Get into the habit of dealing with God about everything. Unless you learn to open the door of your life completely and let God in from your first waking moment of each new day, you will be working on the wrong level throughout the day. But if you will swing the door of your life fully open and "pray to your Father who is in the secret place," every public thing in your life will be marked with the lasting imprint of the presence of God.

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**Suggestion: To minimize distractions when you meet alone with the Lord, have a notepad handy to write down any thoughts that you may need to act upon later.**

f. **Prayer includes intercession, requests for the needs of others.**

2 Cor. 1:8-11 (Paul wrote of his afflictions in Asia) ... *we despaired even of life; ... God ... who delivered us from so great a peril of death, ... And He will yet deliver us, you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.*

Eph. 6:18-20 (Paul wrote) *With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

Col. 4:12 (Paul wrote of Epaphras) ... *always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.*

**g. Prayer is continual, anytime; but should also include special times set apart. It pleases God when we seek His direction for appropriate times and places.**

Psa. 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, and He will hear my voice.

Psa. 119:62 At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You ...

Psa. 119:164 Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous ordinances.

Daniel 6:10 ... Daniel ... continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

Rom. 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

1 Thess. 5:17 pray without ceasing;

**Note on 1 Thess. 5:17** “Continual prayer is not prayer that prevails without any interruption, but prayer that continues whenever possible. Paul was speaking of maintaining continuous fellowship with God as much as possible in the midst of daily living in which concentration is frequently broken.” (Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.)

**4. [Our Daily Bread](#) – (September 19, 2004)**

## ***Informing God***

We cannot tell God anything He doesn't already know. When we pray, we simply put into words what He's been aware of all along.

That doesn't make prayer unnecessary; rather, it encourages us to pray. We find relief in talking to Someone who knows us and our situation fully. It's a comfort to know that God's response arises not from information we give Him, but from His perfect knowledge of our circumstances. He knows all conditions—past, present, future—that bear on our well-being.

"Your Father knows," Jesus said in Matthew 6:8. He knows our thoughts, our intentions, our desires; He is intimately acquainted with all our ways (Psalm 139:3). He knows the anguish of our heart, the strain of continual frustration, the enemies inside and outside that war against our souls.

So, can we presume to dictate the time and terms of our deliverance from trials or adversity? Can we say our way is better, more likely to develop our soul? No, we cannot teach God anything. He alone knows the way to bring us to glory. Out of all possible paths, He has chosen the best, the route most adapted to who we are and what He has in store for us.

We cannot teach God knowledge, but we can love and trust Him. That's all He asks of us. —David Roper

*The answer God may choose for me  
Is sure to be the best,  
So may I always thankful be,  
And in His goodness rest. —D. De Haan*

**God knows the end from the beginning, so we can trust Him with everything between.**

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**5. CONCLUSION: As I trust God, I can always be assured of His love, knowing He will only act toward me in my best interest, even though at times it may appear otherwise. For Him to do otherwise would be contrary to His character.**

Psa. 34:15 *The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry;*

Psa. 37:4-5 *Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

*Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it.*

Psa. 86:5 *You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to You.*

Psa. 145:18-19 *The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them.*

Jer. 10:23 *I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.*

1 John 5:14-15 *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us -- whatever we ask -- we know that we have what we asked of Him.*

*... I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand. With Your counsel You will guide me, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

(Psalm 73:23-26)