



### Three different kinds of knowing God

Having God simply as an acquaintance in your life will not substantiate a relationship or fellowship with Him. You will never enter into a meaningful fellowship with the Lord by staying at the acquaintance level. To get to know His character, you must get to know Him intimately. To know God – really know God - does not mean having a mentality that looks to God merely for benefits, but puts God in His rightful place in your life.

In getting to know a person in the natural--there are three different kinds of knowing.

#### 1. **Casual**-----*Being aware of someone*

Most people who believe in God have only a casual relationship with Him. They are aware that He exists, and they may have a religious type of faith. They may or may not have come to their own personal belief in Jesus for themselves. This is not what God wants - it is not why He created us. This kind of casual relationship with God will only bring prayers of “help” in times of need, or simple religious rote prayers that mean nothing to them or to God.

#### 2. **Familiar**-----*Like a friend, or family member*

This kind of relationship with God consists of people who are probably born-again, but fleshly or worldly Christians. If you saw them, you would not even be aware that they were Christians. They may talk to the Lord occasionally, even read their Bible once in a while, but nothing much happens in the realm of godly changes. Their prayer life consists of shallow conversation with God, lacking the discovery of the rich treasures that God wants to share with them. They also have no idea what their destiny in God is. Sadly, most Christians fall in this category.

#### 3. **Close**-----*Not a surface relationship, but a close fellowship that takes place – similar to a husband or wife. It's intimate, transparent, and vulnerable.*

With God, the relationship and fellowship is even closer than a husband and wife. It far exceeds any kind of human fellowship. In God you learn that the deep things of Him are cultivated within you during those private times alone with Him. You thrive to be with Him alone, and in those private times you learn His ways, and He knows yours. You take on some of His mannerisms, becoming like Him. The weaknesses in you slowly are replaced by the strengths of God. You take on some of His characteristics. You become changed from what you were into what God created you to be.

You learn the deep things of God in fellowship. This kind of fellowship, however, takes time. Your destiny in Him becomes an adventurous walk of faith, and this kind of fellowship brings on the greatest of blessings.

### God has a character and personality

If a believer has a wrong concept of God, it can affect his or her whole concept of prayer. It is vital then that all Christians believe that God loves His children deeply and wants the very best for each one of them. To get to understand God more deeply, we need to know how He works in any given situation.

God has a character and personality, having a method to everything He does. He is not so sovereign that a believer has to guess how He is going to operate. God is predictable. In His predictability, God wants each one to know how He operates in any given situation. He wants us to know His ways - to learn His method of operation.

***Job 22:21 Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.***

### The character of man

Everyone is predisposed to do things in a certain way in any given situations. Your character is like a blueprint created by God, designed to bring you to the fullness of what God created you to become. Your personality, on the other hand, has been programmed into you to act in certain ways, depending on the experiences and circumstances in life. Some things we like and others we wish we could change about ourselves. Combine then your character that comes from God and your personality – the two become who you are, and you will act accordingly.

### God's character

Many people see God as a punishing God. Some have grown up with a fear of God and have come to believe He is out to get them. They see Him as a judgmental God Who looks down from the sky, ready to punish at the slightest act of disobedience. This “learned response” teaches that if we do something wrong, God will punish us – the wrath of God will come down. Others have read or heard of certain Old Testament passages where God killed many of His people, and have drawn their own conclusions. By reading the Old Testament, however, in the context that it is written in, you would see that God is a loving God who loves His people. He set isn't that God is punishing, but that man removed himself from the protection of God. Under the umbrella of God's protection, there is life, abundance, and blessings. down laws to be followed; however, those laws were designed for the order and protection of man. When man steps out of God's laws, he loses his protection and falls prey to the ways of the devil.

Think about this: What kind of God would He be if we thought our Heavenly Father would put horrible things on the children that He loves? If our earthly fathers did to us what most people think God does to us, it would be considered abuse. The court system puts people in prison for the kind of abuses many people think God does to His people.

## Example:

- What if a person is suddenly struck by a car and seriously hurt and confined in the hospital for months? This person, in all sincerity, then tells others that God is teaching him a lesson. The question then arises - What kind of earthly father would cause this kind of harm to his child, and then say "I'm teaching you a lesson - this is my discipline upon you." A father like that would probably be sent to prison for abuse.
- What if a person is diagnosed with cancer and thinks that God gave it to him. The question to you is, would you put something like that on your child? Of course you wouldn't.

We must put blame where blame is due. It is the devil who is to blame. He loves to put sickness on people. He loves to rob, kill, and destroy, sending them to an eternity in hell. That is his job. Sad to say, people blame God for what the devil has done. Again, we need to place blame where it is due.

*John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. KJV*

It must always be remembered that God brings good things in your life. Satan brings on the bad. Our God is in the "blessing" business. God wants to bless His children. God wants to teach His children many different things that will cause their lives to prosper. Blessings are God's job.

### Jesus – the perfect example of the character of a human being

When God sent His Son Jesus down to earth as a man, He put within Himself the perfect character and personality of a human being. Jesus' life then is the ultimate possibility of our human character and personality. In our human spirit lies the ultimate possibility of what God desires for our life. The example of Jesus is what we are to strive for because God lives in our human spirit, and His character and personality is perfect.

The fullness of God is love, and He reaches out to our human spirit to produce His fruit to be dwelling within us. (Gal 5:22-23)

1. Love	2. Joy	3. Peace
4. Patience	5. Kindness	6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness	8. Gentleness	9. Self-control

### Developing the character of God

Developing this fruit of the Spirit (of God) and the development of the fullness of our human spirit comes by meditating on the Word and spending time in prayer with the Lord.

As mentioned above, our character is like a blueprint of our life. That is the way God created you to be. Our personality, based on our experiences in life, molds us to behave a certain way in circumstances in life. If our experiences in life do not line up with the fruit of the Spirit, as listed above, our personality will be flawed, lacking in what God's perfect will for our lives will be. That is where

spending time in God's presence will change us as we seek to change those things in our lives that flaw our personality.

God so desires to mold and change our personality to match the character He created you to be. The important thing is that we do not allow those negative experiences to keep molding us into the person that the world created us to be.

How do we change that? You know the flaws that so easily beset you. This is where you cry out to God to change you. Spend quality time in God's presences, supported by the meditating on the Word of God will bring about those changes. A favorite simple repetitive prayer can be "God change me to be the person YOU created me to be." Then spend time just resting in His presence and listening for the sound of His voice in your spirit. As you then submit to what He is telling you, being strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit within you, you will find yourself thinking differently and becoming a new person in Christ. Old habits will be replaced by new ones. Very shortly, you will discover that you are a completely different person – where the old has past and the new you has come forth.

***1 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***

Then let these wonderful experiences in God become the norm for you. Keep practicing the presence of the Lord regularly as God keeps changing you to become more like Jesus. You will discover that your favorite place in the world to be is dwelling in the presence of the Lord, listening to the sound of His voice, feeling His anointing presence upon you as you rest in the peaceful place getting to know the deep things of God as He continually changes you to become more like Him.

---



Pastor Joyce Erickson  
Believers Bible School  
www.believersbibleschool.com