

# **KNOWING GOD VS KNOWING ABOUT GOD**

Signs and wonders don't always turn people to God; we live in a society where people are looking for handouts:

- The sympathetic touch
- A quick fix
- Someone to feel sorry for them THEY Believe THE WORLD OWES THEM SOMETHING
- Looking for a handout or sympathy all the time

## **1. These type of people don't know God, only about Him**

THEY HAVE NEVER GAZED INTO HIS FACE THEY ONLY KNOW HIS HAND OUT

- He is only someone to meet their wants
- They know the deeds not the ways of God But they don't know Him personally
- They chase signs
- Shopping bag Christians
- Give me - Give me - Give me

Jesus said "This idolatrous generation just seek a sign"

**PSALMS 78:15-20 He split the rocks in the desert and gave them water as abundant as the seas; He brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers. But they continued to sin against Him, rebelling in the desert against the Most High. They wilfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved. They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the desert? When He struck the rock, water gushed out and streams flowed abundantly. But can He also give us food? Can He supply meat for His people?"**

God had done so much for these Hebrews

**PSALMS 78:11 They forgot what He had done, the wonders He had shown them**

- They forgot what God had done
- They had no revelation of the father out of the miracle
- They put God to the test

This group of selfish people were only focussed on themselves and not relationship

- Woe is me - You don't know what I have been through, mentality
- They only sought the hand of God
- He was not a father to them
- Just someone who met a want

**PSALMS 23:1 The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not be in want**

- Not knowing Him as Lord

## 2. God works through people that are faithful to Him

- They put their hand to the plough and don't turn back
- They are like Paul in **ACTS 26:19** .....I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven
- Paul was obedient to the vision from God
- Not in it for himself
- Paul did it out of relationship

### **PSALMS 103:7 He made known His ways to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel**

- a. He made known His ways to Moses
- b. But His deeds to the people of Israel
- c. This whole Psalm is a challenge to us all
  - To know God
  - Not just His deeds

### **PSALMS 103:1 says Praise the Lord, O my soul; All my innermost being Praise His Holy Name**

- Praise Him!
- Not with your head
- But out of the well deep inside of you
- From your spirit
- The inner man
- We need to get out of our minds
- Be people of His Spirit

## 3. Continually be remindful of His Benefits and His deeds

### **PSALMS 103:2 Praise the LORD, my soul,**

**and forget not all his benefits—**

- **Not to forget His benefits**
- **To be a thankful people**
- **Acknowledge the goodness of Father**

## **His Deeds**

### **VERSES 3-6 talks about His deeds:**

who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all the oppressed.

- He forgives sins
- Heals diseases
- Redeems life
- Crowns us with love and compassion
- Satisfies our desires
  - (a) With good things
  - (b) Renewed youth
- Works righteousness and justice for the oppressed

All of the above are His deeds, His works for us

## **His Ways**

Are clearly shown in **PSALMS 103:8-18**

**The LORD is compassionate and gracious;  
slow to anger, abounding in love.**

<sup>9</sup> **He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;**

<sup>10</sup> **he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup> **For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;**

<sup>12</sup> **as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup> **As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;**

<sup>14</sup> **for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust.**

<sup>15</sup> **The life of mortals is like grass,  
they flourish like a flower of the field;**

<sup>16</sup> **the wind blows over it and it is gone,  
and its place remembers it no more.**

<sup>17</sup> **But from everlasting to everlasting  
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,  
and his righteousness with their children's children —**

<sup>18</sup> **with those who keep his covenant  
and remember to obey his precepts.**

- a. **Compassionate**
- b. **Gracious**
- c. **Slow to anger**
- d. **Abounding in love**
- e. **Not always accuse**
- f. **Not harbour His anger forever**
- g. **Does not treat us as our sin deserves**
- h. **Does not repay us**
- i. **Has removed our transgressions**
- j. **Acts as a Father**
- k. **Knows our frame**
- l. **Love abounds**
- m. **He is a covenant God**

Moses got to know His ways  
 Out of the ways come the deeds  
 Out of the heart comes the works  
 MIRACLES COME OUT OF RELATIONSHIP

The Israelites met the miracle (Power of God)

All great things with God come from His heart

Not just seeking a handout

But wanting to know the God who gives a hand up

David says in **PSALMS 100:3 Know that the Lord is God. It is He Who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture**

He shows us how we are to enter the presence of God in:

**PSALMS 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His Name**

- Be a thankful people
- A HEART OF GRATITUDE
- People who have a heart for relationship
- People who know the ways of God know Who to put their trust and hope in him

In **PSALMS 42:5 AND 43:5 why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God**

David challenges himself:

- a. He does not wait for a sympathetic handout
- b. But looks to God for a hand up
- c. Why are you downcast? Put your trust, hope in God

David knew the ways of God

- God is not into self-pity or pity parties
- But wants a victorious people who know Him
- A PEOPLE WHO TRUST HIM TO PULL THEM THROUGH
- And out of that knowing comes His deeds

## 4. Let's look at a man who knew the ways of God

### LUKE 10:25-37 THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

**25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”**

**26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”**

**27 He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”<sup>[a]</sup>; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>[b]</sup>”**

**28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”**

**29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”**

**30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii<sup>[c]</sup> and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’**

**36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”**

**37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”**

This a great story about a hand up and not a handout

- This guy went out of his way to do good
- It cost him something:
  - Money
  - Time
  - Energy
  - Inconvenience

In this story there are five different attitudes:

1. To the experts of the law the wounded man was a subject to discuss
2. To the robbers the wounded man was someone to use and exploit
3. To the religious men the wounded man was a problem to be avoided
4. To the innkeeper the wounded man was a customer to serve for a fee
5. To the Samaritan the wounded man was a human being worth being cared for and loved
  - The Samaritan knew God's ways
  - God did not feel sorry for mankind
  - His heart is to give us a hand up

### **Jesus on the Cross with outstretched hands forgave His accusers**

- Giving man a way back to Father God
- Not some religious attitude which does not change us but controls us
- We should chase and seek God's face
- Not His signs and wonders

There is a balance:

- Out of knowing God comes the signs and wonders
- Not just some charity of good works
- The Church at Ephesus had good works but had lost its first love
- A love for the Heart of God, not just His hand

### **David shows in PSALMS 51**

**10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

**<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

***David shows that God's Presence and Holy Spirit were more to him than his throne and wealth***

Paul had the same attitude in:

**PHILIPPIANS 3:10-11 (Amp) (For my determined purpose is) that I may know Him  
(that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him,**

**perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly), and that I may in that same way come to know the power out flowing from His resurrection(which it exerts over believers), and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed (in spirit into His likeness even) to His death, (in the hope)**

**That if possible I may attain to the (spiritual and moral) resurrection that lifts me) out from among the dead even while in the body)**

Paul's Attitude:

- To know Him
- Deeply acquainted with Him
- Understand His person
- Understand His suffering
- That he may flow in His resurrection power
- Paul talks here about knowing Him first
- Then the power will flow
- Then signs and wonders come

**KNOWING GOD NOT JUST KNOWING ABOUT HIM!**