

PASTOR'S BLOG APRIL 29, 2020 DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GOD OR DO YOU KNOW GOD?

If asked how one may know God, we can at once produce the right formula: that we come to know God through Jesus Christ the Lord, in virtue of his cross and mediation, on the basis of his word of promise, by the power of the Holy Spirit, via a personal exercise of faith. J.I.Packer
Knowing God

Right theology contributes to and is the first step in KNOWLEDGE OF GOD but it is not the same as KNOWING GOD. J.I. Packer in his book Knowing God gives us four characteristics of those who know their God.

1. These who know God have great energy for God.

145 A SONG OF PRAISE OF DAVID.

1 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

4 One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

David has tremendous energy for God. He blesses God and lifts His name up high. He is eager to teach the next generation about the greatness of His God. His thoughts are turned towards God. He is fervent to make the righteousness of God known to all.

IS YOUR FAITH ENERGETIC OR HAS IT BEEN DULLED BY THE STRUGGLES OF YOUR LIFE?

2. Those who know God have great thoughts of God.

Isaiah 40:12-18 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.

All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compares with him?

HOW OFTEN DOES GOD ENTER YOUR THINKING ON A DAILY BASIS?

WHEN YOU THINK OF GOD WHAT IMAGES COMES TO MIND?

DO YOU SEE GOD AS TRUSTWORTHY WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF THOSE YOU LOVE?

3. Those who know God show great boldness for God.

Daniel Ch 3: 12-18

There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

be brought. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

ARE YOU LOVINGLY BOLD WHEN IT COMES SPEAKING OUT FOR YOUR FAITH IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION?

ARE YOU ABLE TO DEFEND THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL?

4. Those who know God have great contentment in God.

Philippians 4:10–13

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

We live in a time when there are so many things we wish were different we can hardly name them all. There are so many things we can't control that we can feel frustrated, scared and angry all at the same time. Paul writes by the spirit that we can learn to be content ... contentment is defined as self-sufficient, the ability to find ones resources in self, to be able to manage whatever one has.

Paul said our ability to manage what we have is not due to our own power or ability but the strength of the Holy Spirit that comes to us through Jesus living in us.

WHERE ARE YOU STRUGGLING TODAY? WHERE FO YOU NEED TO LEARN CONTENTMENT?

Jesus,

Give me the grace today to know you more deeply. Open my eyes to the truth from your word and calm down all the noise in me so that I can hear the powerful but still small voice of you Spirit as you direct me and correct me each day. Amen.