

Christ in the Psalms

Knowing God

How do you know?

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What is meant by 'Knowing God'?

Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 8:6-12

- ***An Internal, Heart-Level Knowledge*** (Jer. 31:33)
- ***A Personal Relationship mediated through Jesus Christ*** (John 14:6)
- ***Obedience as a Sign of Knowledge; a Practical Test*** (1 John 2:3-6)
- ***Love as the Outflow of Knowing God; a Practical Test*** (1 John 4:7-8)
- ***The Witness of the Holy Spirit*** (Romans 8:12-17)

You can know that you know the Lord when your heart has been changed by Him, when you have come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ, when your life exhibits loving obedience to His commands, and when the Holy Spirit is actively at work within you. This inward transformation, evidenced in loving God and others, marks the reality of the relationship promised in Jeremiah's prophecy of the new covenant.

'Knowing God' in the Psalms

Anticipating the promise of a new covenant

Key Themes in the Psalms That Resonate with the New Covenant

- Internalization of God's Law
- Intimate, Personal Knowledge of God
- Transformation and Steadfast Love

Psalm 40:8

Psalm 51:10-12

Psalm 25:4-5

Psalm 27:4-8

Psalm 63:1-8

Psalm 119:11,18,97

While the Psalms were written under the old covenant, they often express a longing that aligns with the new covenant's promises: an inward delight in God's law, personal intimacy with the Almighty, and the spiritual renewal that makes true knowledge of God possible. The psalmists foreshadow the very transformation - knowing God deeply and personally - that Jeremiah 31:31–34 prophesies.

Knowing God – Encouraging Self-Reflection

Leveraging the Nature of Man in Evangelism - Objectives

- 1. Establish the Reality of God's Existence and Moral Law.**
- 2. Convict the Conscience Through God's Law.**
- 3. Illustrate the Consequence of Sin (God's Justice).**
- 4. Present the Gospel of Grace.**
- 5. Call for Repentance, Faith, and a Covenant Relationship via Baptism.**

Knowing God – Encouraging Self-Reflection

Leveraging the Nature of Man in Evangelism - Procedure

- 1. Initiate a Friendly, Everyday Conversation**
- 2. Transition to Spiritual Topics**
- 3. Ask About Personal Goodness**
- 4. Use the Ten Commandments as a Moral Standard**
- 5. Reveal The Guilty Verdict**
- 6. Explain the Consequences of Sin**
- 7. Present Jesus Christ as the Solution**
- 8. Encourage Repentance, Faith, and Baptism**
- 9. Follow-up with Discipleship, Resources, and Encouragement**

Knowing God – Encouraging Self-Reflection

What do you believe about [...]?

How do you know?

What do you mean by [...]?

What difference does that make?

What if you are wrong?

What would you accept as evidence?

Knowing God – Encouraging Self-Reflection

Questions for the “Natural Man” of Romans 1

Focus: Creation as revelation of God’s existence and attributes.

- **“When you look at the vastness of the night sky, the order of the seasons, or the complexity of life, do you ever wonder if there is a purposeful Intelligence behind it all?”**
- **“You appreciate the beauty and intricacy of nature, but have you considered why beauty and order exist at all, and what their ultimate source might be?”**
- **“Our world follows laws - of physics, chemistry, biology - that never seem to change. Wouldn’t a timeless, intelligent Lawgiver best explain the consistent reliability of these laws?”**
- **“If the universe had a beginning, what or who do you think caused it to come into being, and how might that cause be greater than the universe itself?”**

Knowing God – Encouraging Self-Reflection

Questions for the “Moral Man” of Romans 2

Focus: Universal moral standards as inner testimony to God’s character.

- **“You have a sense of right and wrong; where do you think that sense originates, and why do you feel accountable to it?”**
- **“If moral standards were merely social constructs, why do you still feel guilt or shame for certain actions even if no one else finds out? Could that point to a moral Lawgiver?”**
- **“You believe justice is important. What is the ultimate source of this conviction if not a higher, objective moral authority?”**
- **“When you see injustice or cruelty, you believe it’s genuinely wrong; not just inconvenient. Could there be an absolute moral standard beyond human opinion?”**

Knowing God – Encouraging Self-Reflection

Questions for the “Religious Man” of Romans 2, 3

Focus: The innate desire for God and love for others as evidence of divine revelation.

- “You are seeking a relationship with the divine. Have you considered why this longing is universal across cultures and time, and what that might suggest about a God who designed us to know Him?”
- “Your heart tells you there must be more than what you see around you. Where do you think this spiritual hunger comes from, if not from a Creator who wants to be known?”
- “You believe in loving your neighbor, but why should love be a fundamental good unless there is a God who Himself is love and made us in His image?”
- “When you pray or meditate, do you sense that you’re reaching out to someone real and personal? Could that Someone be the God who spoke through the prophets and ultimately through Jesus Christ?”

Knowing God – Encouraging Self-Reflection

Questions for the “Just Man” of Romans 4

Focus: Faith as the channel through which we are made right with God, illustrated by Abraham and fulfilled in Christ.

- **“You trust that God keeps His promises, as Abraham did. Why would you believe that God is both faithful and true unless He has revealed Himself as unchanging, trustworthy, and righteous?”**
- **“Your faith points beyond your own goodness to something greater. If your moral efforts are never perfect, on what basis can you stand before a holy God, if not on the righteousness He provides by faith?”**
- **“Consider Abraham: he trusted God’s word before it was fulfilled. Has God’s faithfulness to Abraham and to countless believers since not shown that He is real and that we can be certain of His character?”**
- **“When you put your faith in Jesus Christ as the Just One, how does this confirm for you that God has revealed Himself in history, both through His written word and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?”**