



How Can You Know God?

“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” (Philippians 3:8, NLT)

Have you ever met someone that you immediately knew you wanted to get to know him/her better? The Apostle Paul did. After his dramatic meeting with Jesus on the Damascus Road, the burning desire of his heart was to know Jesus. Paul longed to see with his inner eyes the wonder of God, revealed in Christ Jesus. When compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus, he felt everything else was worthless. In fact, he counted it as garbage! (Philippians 3:7-9)

To know someone is to know his or her inner qualities or characteristics, which make them who they are. These qualities are called attributes. Can you think of an attribute of God? What about love? Because your Father loves you, he longs for you to know him, his Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. God reveals his attributes in Scripture. The following attributes will fill you with wonder, amazement and praise!

The Eternal God

God is Eternal. *“The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”* (Deuteronomy 33:27a, NIV) Eternal mean that God has always existed (Self-existent), even before he formed the earth and the world. He will always be, forever and ever. Why is this so important? If he has no beginning or ending, then he is the source of **all** life. Jesus is eternal life! (John 14:6) Years after Jesus went to heaven, he appeared to the Apostle John in a vision and said, *“I am the Alpha and Omega – the beginning and the end ... I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come, the Almighty One.”* (Revelation 1:8, NLT) He will always be there for you. You can trust him in all circumstances. Knowing him is your security.

The All-Knowing God

God is All-Knowing (Omniscient). *“You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.”* (Psalm 139:1, NIV) God knows everything – past, present and future. No one taught him anything. He knows every thought, work or thing going on in the universe. This means he knows everything about you. You may be able to hide things from your parents, teachers or friends, but you can’t hide anything from God. He even knows what you are thinking! Do you find that a little scary? Be thankful he does know everything. When he knows you are afraid, he will protect and comfort you. When he sees you about to give into temptation, he can give you strength to say, “No.”

Even though he knows everything you will ever do or think – good or bad, you can have confidence that he will never condemn or reject you. How does that motivate you to make choices that will please him?

The All-Wise God

God is All-Wise (Omniscience). He understands all things. The Bible says, “*In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*” (Colossians 2:3, NLT) He gives you wisdom when you ask for it. Wisdom is using facts and truths learned to make right decisions in life.

Imagine that the Lord appeared to you in a dream. He said, “Ask for anything you want and I will give it to you.” What would you request? Riches? Fame? God did appear in that manner to King Solomon. Do you know what King Solomon requested? He asked, “Give me an understanding mind (wisdom) so that I can govern my people well and know right from wrong.” God was so pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom that he gave him riches and fame, too! King Solomon became known as the wisest man who ever lived. Wisdom is also doing what is right, and Solomon failed in some cases and brought disaster on his kingdom. (1 Kings 3:1-15) The Bible tells us that if you need wisdom, ask God, and he will gladly tell you. (James 1:5) However, if you have the wrong attitude, he will not answer! Read James 1:6-8 and discover the right attitude. In what specific situations are you facing that you need to ask God for wisdom?

The All-powerful God

God is All-powerful (Omnipotent). “*Power, O God, belongs to you.*” (Psalm 62:11b, NIV) God can do anything he wants to do. You can see his power in creation, in Christ Jesus’ birth, and in his resurrection and ascension to heaven. The angel Gabriel told Mary, the mother of Jesus: “*With God all things are possible.*” (Luke 1:37, NLT) Jesus demonstrated the power of God by many physical miracles – healing the blind, making the lame walk, etc. However, did you know that one of his greatest miracles is what he did in you – a spiritual miracle? The moment you believed, God changed you into a new creation! You have a new identity. Paul told the Ephesians that the power that works in believers is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead – resurrection power! Think about it. What difference is his power making in your life?

The Faithful God

God is Faithful. The Bible says “*God, who calls you, is faithful; he will do this.*” (1 Thessalonians 5:24, NIV) Because his Word is truth, you can believe he will do what he says. Even when you are unfaithful, God will never fail you or break his promises to you. Because faithfulness is his very character, you can depend on him. There may be circumstances when you feel God has deserted you, but God has said, “*I will never fail you. I will never forsake you.*” (Hebrews 13:5b, NLT) Your part is to believe it and act upon that belief.

The Sovereign God

God is Sovereign (supreme power) over everyone and everything. He is King of kings and Lord of lords! *“On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: **King of kings and Lord of lords.**”* (Revelation 19:16) He has authority over all things and never loses control. No one tells God what to do. He is Lord of heaven and earth, ruling over all people, nations, angelic powers and even evil rulers. Sometimes bad things may happen to you, your family or friends. Even when trouble comes, you can believe that God is still in control and will use your troubles for good. How does this attribute affect the way you see God?

The Merciful God

God is Merciful. God is compassionate, willingly forgiving you when you do wrong instead of punishing you. God showed mercy when he chose you to be his child. *“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.”* (Ephesians 2:4-5, NIV) Praise him for his mercy!

How marvelous is our Lord God! Think about these attributes. Use them in worshiping him in your prayer time. Like Paul, desire to know him; desire to know how deeply he loves you! He longs to fellowship with you.

Attitude Check:

- In what ways does knowing God’s attributes help you to love him more?

Explore:

- Discover other attributes by reading the following scriptures: Truth: Titus 1:2, Unchanging: James 1:17, and Majestic: 2 Peter 1:16.
- What attribute means the most to you and why? Write this in your journal.

Talking with God:

- Father, thank you for who you are, and how I am secure in you.