



A Knowledge of God - 11

(1) WHAT IS AN EVER PRESENT SOURCE THAT REVEALS GOD AND HIS AMAZING GLORY?

Psalm 19:1

Related Texts: Romans 1:19, 20; Isaiah 40:22, 26; 44:24; 48:13; Psalm 8:3, 4; 33:6; Job 31:26-28; Genesis 1:1-20

There are many ways in which God is seeking to make Himself known to us and bring us closer to Him. Nature is always speaking to our senses. The open heart will be moved with the love and glory of God as we see it shown to

us through the works of His hands. The listening ear can hear and understand God speaking through nature. The green fields, the tall trees, the buds and flowers, the passing clouds, the falling rain, and the babbling brook declare the Creator's love. These glories of the heavens speak to our hearts and invite us to get to know Him who made them all.

Our Saviour tied together His precious lessons of love with the things of nature. The trees, the birds, the flowers of the valleys, the hills, the lakes, and the beautiful heavens, as well as the things that happen and the things around us in our daily life were all joined with the words of truth. These lessons can often be recalled to our mind, even in the middle of the busy cares of our life of labor.

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God wants His children to see the value in the things He has done, and delight in the simple and quiet beauty with which He has decorated our earthly home. God loves beautiful things, but even more than outward beauty He loves beauty of character. It is His desire that we become pure and simple like the quiet beauty of the flowers.

(2) IN THE MIDST OF OUR BUSY LIVES, HOW CAN WE SEE AND HEAR GOD SPEAKING TO US?

Psalm 4:4

Related Texts: Psalm 33:8, 9; 46:10; Habakkuk 2:20

If we will just listen, the things God has created will teach us very important lessons of how to obey and trust. We can see that the things of nature obey the will of God from the stars that, throughout time, travel in their appointed path, clear down to the smallest atom.

(3) HOW DOES GOD REVEAL HIS COMPASSION FOR EVERYTHING HE HAS CREATED?

Matthew 10:29, 30

Related Texts: Luke 12:24-28; Psalm 103:1-17; 104:27, 28; 139:1-18; 136:25; 145:15, 16; Lamentations 3:22, 23

God is the Creator who cares for everything. He who holds up the unnumbered worlds in space, and at the same time cares for the needs of the little brown sparrow that sings its humble song. When we go out to do our daily work, when we pray, when we lie down at night, when we get up in the morning, when the rich man feasts in his mansion, or when the poor man gathers his children around a humble table, each is tenderly watched over by our heavenly Father. There is no tear shed that He does not see and no smile that goes unnoticed.

(4) WHEN WE LOVE THE LORD, AND TRUST OUR LIVES INTO HIS HANDS, WHAT SECURITY DO WE HAVE?

Romans 8:28

Related Texts: Romans 8:35-39; Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 46:1, 2; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Zechariah 13:9; Hebrews 12:6-12; 1 Peter 1:7, 8

If we would just fully believe this, we would let go of all undue worry. If everything, whether great or small, were left in the hands of God, our lives would not be filled with so much disappointment. He is not puzzled by our many problems and He is not overwhelmed by their weight. When we realize this we can enjoy a peace in our heart which many do not know.

(5) WHAT WILL GOD DO TO "ALL THINGS" FOR THE BENEFIT OF HIS REDEEMED CHILDREN THAT WILL BE MORE GLORIOUS THAN WE CAN EVEN IMAGINE?

Revelation 21:5

Related Texts: Revelation 21:1-4; Isaiah 65:17; 43:18, 19; 42:9

When your senses are enjoying the pleasing and lovely things of this earth, think of the world that will come. The new world will never know the results of sin and death, and the face of nature will not wear the shadow of its curse. In your thoughts picture the home of the ones who are saved and remember that it will be more glorious than your dreams. In the different gifts that God has given us in nature we can only see the faintest gleaming of His glory. It is written, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9.

The poet and the naturalist have many things to say about nature, but it is the Christian who enjoys the beauty of the earth with the highest appreciation. He notices his Father's handiwork and sees His love in the flowers, shrubs and trees. No one can fully appreciate the meaning of a hill or a valley, a river or the sea, unless he sees them as a way God is showing His love to man.

(6) WHEN WE ARE IN TUNE WITH HIS SPIRIT, WHAT LESSONS ABOUT GOD ARE REVEALED?

Psalms 33:5

Related Texts: Psalm 104:24; 119:64, 68; 97:2; Revelation 15:3, 4

God speaks to us through the way He works in our lives and through the working of His Spirit upon our hearts. In our affairs and surroundings, in the changes that take place every day around us, we may find precious lessons if our hearts are just open to see them.

(7) WHY ARE THE EXPERIENCES OF THE PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE?

Romans 15:4

Related Texts: 1 Corinthians 9:10; 10:6, 11; 2 Timothy 3:16; Romans 4:23, 24

God speaks to us in His Word. In it we are clearly told what His character is like. We are shown how He deals with men, and about His great plan to redeem us. In it we are shown the history of the patriarchs and prophets and other holy men of long ago. They were men "subject to like passions as we are." James 5:17. We see how they struggled through tough times like our own, and how they fell under temptation as we have done. We also can see how they took heart again and won the victories through the grace of God. By seeing, we are encouraged in our search after righteousness. We read of the valuable experiences they were given, of the light, love and blessing that they were able to enjoy, and of the work they were able to do through the grace they were given. When we see these things the spirit that inspired them kindles a flame of holy envy in our hearts. We will desire to be like them in character and to walk with God as they did.

(8) WHAT ARE TWO SPECIAL BLESSINGS THAT ARE REVEALED BY STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES?

John 5:39

Related Texts: Luke 24:27; Matthew 22:29; Proverbs 6:23; 8:33, 34

Jesus said of the Old Testament Scriptures, "They are they which testify of Me," and it is even more so of the New. Yes, the whole Bible tells of Christ the Redeemer; He in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. From the first record of creation, for "without Him was not anything made that was made," to the closing promise, "Behold, I come quickly," we are reading of His works and listening to His voice. John 1:3; Revelation 22:12. If you want to get to know the Saviour, study the Holy Scriptures.

(9) WHY IS GETTING TO KNOW GOD THROUGH STUDY AND MEDIATION ON HIS WORD VERY IMPORTANT?

John 6:63

Related Texts: Psalm 119:103-105; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2:15

Fill your whole heart with the words of God. This is the living Water that can satisfy your burning thirst. This is the living Bread from heaven. Jesus says, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son

of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you." John 6:53. Our bodies are made from what we eat and drink, so what we put into them affects our physical health. It is the same way with our spiritual health. It is what we dwell upon that will give tone and strength to our spiritual life.

(10) LIKE PAUL, ON WHAT MAGNIFICENT THEME OF THE BIBLE SHOULD WE DWELL AND SHARE?

1 Corinthians 2:2

Related Texts: Galatians 6:14; Philippians 3:8-10; 1 Corinthians 1:17, 18, 23

The story of salvation is one that the angels desire to look into. It will be the study and the song of those who have been saved throughout the endless ages of eternity. Isn't it important enough for our careful thought and study now? The endless mercy and love of Jesus, the sacrifice made for us; these themes deserve the most serious and earnest thought. We should think about the character of our dear Redeemer and Advocate. We should think about the purpose of the One who came to save His people from their sins. As we think about these heavenly truths, our faith and love will grow stronger. Our prayers will be more and more favorable to God; they will become more and more mixed with faith and love; they will be intelligent and earnest. There will be more constant trust in Jesus, and a real daily experience in His power to "save to the uttermost" all who come unto God by Him.

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(11) WHAT TYPE OF INFLUENCES DOES SCRIPTURE INSTRUCT US TO DWELL UPON TO STRENGTHEN OUR CHARACTER?

Philippians 4:8

Related Texts: Romans 12:9, 10; 13:14; Galatians 5:22-26; Psalm 119:11, 37, 40

(12) AS WE GAIN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD BY MEDITATION ON HIS WORD AND HIS HOLINESS, WHAT EFFECT WILL THAT HAVE ON US AND ULTIMATELY OUR WITNESS TO OTHERS?

2 Corinthians 3:18

Related Texts: 1 Corinthians 15:48, 49; Genesis 30:37-39; 1 Kings 11:2, 4; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23, 24; Psalm 106:35

As we think about how perfect Jesus is, we will want to be totally changed and made new in His pure image. There will be a hunger and thirst in us to become like Jesus, the One whom we adore. The more our thoughts are focused on Jesus, the greater our desire will be to tell others about Him and to reflect His character to the world.

(13) WHOM WILL THE WORD OF GOD ENLIGHTEN AND MAKE WISE?

Psalm 19:7

Related Texts: 1 Corinthians 2:9-16; 1:18-31; Romans 8:5, 6; 1 John 4:5, 6; John 16:13; 14:17; 1 Timothy 6:19-21

The Bible was not written only for the scholar, in fact, it is just the opposite; it was written for the common people. The great truths are made as clear as day. No one will make the mistake and lose their way except those who follow their own judgment instead of the plain will of God which is evident in His Word.

(14) WHY IS PERSONAL STUDY OF GOD'S WORD SO ESSENTIAL?

2 Timothy 2:15

Related Texts: 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:5, 10, 15; Psalm 119:24, 41, 105, 130; 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11; Romans 15:4; John 17:17

We should not just listen to what other men say the Bible teaches, but we should study the words of God for ourselves. If we allow others to do our thinking, we will have weak desires and limited abilities. The high powers of our mind may be so stunted by lack of exercise on thoughts that are worthy, that we lose our ability to grasp the deeper meaning of the Word of God. The mind will be made stronger if it is used to study

out the subjects of the Bible, comparing Scripture with Scripture and spiritual things with spiritual things.

There is nothing that works better to strengthen the mind than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so powerful to raise the thoughts, and to give energy to our abilities as the broad, uplifting truths of the Bible. If we would study God's Word as we should, we would have a fullness of mind, a greatness of character, and a very stable purpose which is rarely seen in these times.

(15) WHAT TYPE OF STUDY WILL BENEFIT US THE MOST?

Psalm 119:11

Related Texts: Psalm 119:97; 1:2; 37:31; 40:8; Job 22:22; Jeremiah 15:16; Colossians 3:16

If we read the Scriptures in a hurry there isn't much good that will come from reading them. One may read the whole Bible through and still fail to see its beauty or understand its deep and hidden meaning. One verse studied until its importance is clear to our mind and until we understand how it relates to the plan to save us, is worth more than reading many chapters with no exact purpose in mind and no positive wisdom gained. Keep your Bible with you and any time you have the chance read and memorize Scripture. Even while you are walking down the street you may read a verse and think about it and in this way fix it in your mind.

(16) HOW SHOULD OUR STUDY OF THE BIBLE BE APPROACHED IF WE ARE TO CORRECTLY DISCOVER ITS DEEPEST TRUTHS?

Isaiah 28:10

Related Texts: Isaiah 28:13; 2 Timothy 4:15, 16; John 14:26; 16:13; Jeremiah 29:13; John 5:39; Acts 17:11

We cannot gain wisdom without strong efforts and prayerful study. Some parts of Scripture are very plain and can't be misunderstood, but there are others where the meaning does not lie on the surface to be seen at a glance. Scripture must be compared with Scripture. We should study each text carefully and prayerfully think about it. When this is done we will be richly blessed. Just like the miner who finds veins of precious metal hidden under the surface of the earth, the one who keeps on searching the Word of God, as if searching for hidden treasure, will find truths of the greatest value. They will find great truths that are not found by the careless seeker. These inspired words when meditated upon will be like streams flowing from the fountain of life.

(17) WHY IS PRAYER, ASKING FOR ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, IMPORTANT BEFORE WE STUDY THE SCRIPTURES?

Jeremiah 33:3

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Related Texts: Jeremiah 29:12; John 14:26; 16:13; Psalm 145:18; 1 Corinthians 2:9-11

The Bible should never be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the Holy Spirit to open our minds to be able to understand and it will be done. When Nathanael came to Jesus, the Saviour said, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said, "Whence knowest Thou me?" Jesus answered, "Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." John 1:47, 48. Jesus will see us also in the secret places of prayer if we will ask for wisdom so that we may know what truth is. Angels from heaven will be with those who humbly seek the Lord for guidance.

(18) BY WHOM IS DIVINE TRUTH REVEALED?

John 16:13

Related Texts: John 16:8; 14:17; 26; 15:26; Galatians 5:16; Zechariah 12:10; 2 Peter 1:21

The Holy Spirit lifts up and brings glory to the Saviour. It is His goal to show us Jesus, the purity of His goodness, and the great gift of life that we have through Him. Jesus says, "He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you." John 16:14. The Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Truth is the only effective Teacher of heavenly truth. God must really love us to give His Son to die for us and to send His Spirit to be our Teacher and our continual Guide!

In God's Word I find learning, patience, comfort, and hope. I ask Him for a burning desire to study it so that I may hide His truth in my heart and not sin against Him.

Circle: Yes Undecided

I pray for the Holy Spirit to be my Teacher and to give me a humble heart. I pray for wisdom so that I may correctly put line upon line

and precept upon precept and understand truth.

Circle: Yes Undecided

It is my goal to seek the Lord with all my heart, mind and soul. It is the desire of my heart to understand the leading of the Holy Spirit so that I may follow the light that the Scriptures shed on the path of eternal life.

Circle: Yes Undecided