

GOD IS: DO YOU KNOW HIM ?

"What comes to mind when you think of God is the most important thing about you," said A.W. Tozer. What you believe about God affects every aspect of your life. But, is what you believe really true? How do you know? You can be sure, because God has revealed Himself. And He changes your life.

1- God IS. Open your Bible to the first page. What do you read? "*In the beginning, God.*" Genesis 1 begins, not with an explanation but a proclamation of God's existence. And His creative power, bringing into existence all that we know. The Bible assumes that God is. And it's obvious. Romans 1:19 says "*For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*"

God's written revelation explains what we cannot know of Him from creation itself. The Bible presupposes God, and it describes Him. We learn who He is and what He is like from history, as God interacts with real people. But God did even more. He revealed Himself in person. John 1:14 says the Son "*became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.*"

2- You can know Him. The Bible is a tool, like a magnifying glass, to bring specific aspects of His being into clearer focus. To better understand Him, know Him, worship Him, and live for Him. With all your heart and mind and will (Deuteronomy 6:5). Scripture describes what theologians call His "attributes," specific character qualities of His being. We can distinguish His attributes, but not divide them.

It's like the Trinity. The one and only true God exists in three co-equal persons, Father, Son, Spirit. All three share all divine attributes, equally, undivided, not independent. Every attribute is interconnected to all the others, and each one characterizes the rest. God is holy in His omnipotence, loving in His sovereignty, eternal in His immutability, etc. "Incommunicable" attributes belong to God alone, including His eternal power and divine nature, which describe only the one true God. But you can share aspects of His "communicable" attributes, because human beings are created "*imago deo*" in the image of God.

God says, "*Let not the wise man boast in His wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in His might, let not the rich man boast in His riches, but let Him who boasts boast in this, that He understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord*" (Jeremiah 9:23). Nothing compares to simply knowing God. "*As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'you shall be holy, for I am holy.'*" (1 Peter 1:15). Because you are derived from God, He has claims and expectations for you.

3- Who God IS defines who you are. And what you think about God defines you, because who you are depends on where you came from. You are derived from your Creator. And what you believe about God and yourself determines how you behave. 1 John 4:7 says, "*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*" This points to the fatal flaw of the human race. And explains what God has done about our deficiency. Because only He can solve our problem, our sin of rebellion.

"*In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation (payment) for our sins.*" Through Jesus, God has righted all the wrongs. Through Jesus, you can be re-created with His spiritual life, and become what He designed you to be.

John continues, "*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.*"

Jesus is God's ultimate revelation of Himself to the world. Jesus redeems you from all that makes you unlike God. So that you become more and more like Him, in His communicable attributes, as Jesus transforms your life, by His Spirit. To truly know God, you must be known by Him. Turn to Him today in repentance and faith. Receive His life!