

HOW CAN GOD
BE KNOWN?

**Why Is It
Difficult For Man
To Comprehend
God?**

How Can The Finite Person Comprehend The Infinite God?

Job 26:14 ¹⁴Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?”

Isaiah 55:9 ⁹“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

How Can The Visible Person Comprehend The Invisible God?

John 1:18 No man has seen God at any time.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible,

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

How Can The Material Being Comprehend The Spiritual God?

John 4:23-24 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

1 Corinthians 2:11

- Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God

How Can A Sinful Person Comprehend The Holy God?

Romans 8:7 “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”

Romans 1:21,28

- “Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened....And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting”

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

¹⁴But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. ¹⁶For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

How Can A Simple Person Comprehend The Transcendent God?

Psalm 145:3 Great is the LORD,
and greatly to be praised; and
His greatness is unsearchable.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of
the riches both of the wisdom
and knowledge of God! How
unsearchable are His judgments
and His ways past finding out!

How Can A Temporal Person Comprehend The Eternal God?

- **Psalm 90:1-2** 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

How Can A Distracted Person Comprehend A God Who Wants To Be Known?

- **Psalm 46:10** Be still, and know that I am God.

A. W. Tozer

- “With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence. Modern Christianity is simply not producing the kind of Christian who can appreciate or experience the life in the Spirit. The words, ‘Be still, and know that I am God,’ mean next to nothing to the self-confident, bustling worshipper in this middle period of the twentieth century.” (*Knowledge Of The Holy*)

How Can A Created Person Comprehend A God Who Is Self-Existent?

- R. C. Sproul: “... the most important ability we need is the ability to exist. Without that ability, that power, all other abilities would be meaningless. The grand difference between a human being and a Supreme is precisely this: Apart from God I cannot exist; apart from me God does exist. God does not need me in order for Him to be. I do need God in order for me to be. This is the difference between what we call self-existent Being and dependent being.” (*One Holy Passion*, pp. 17-18)

II. How Does God Reveal Himself?

- **General Revelation (Natural)**

B. Special Revelation

- **Guiding Special:** Casting Lots, Urim & Thummim
- **Spoken Special:** Dreams, Visions, Theophanies, Direct Communication, Angels, Prophets
- **Circumstantial Special:** Judgments, Miracles
- **Eternal Special:** The Decrees
- **Written Special:** The Scriptures (2 Tim 3:15-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21)
- **Personal Special:** Jesus Christ, God Incarnate (Jn 1:1,14; 14:9; Heb 1:1-3)

2 Timothy 3:15-17

¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

III. Who Can Know God?

The Unbeliever Does Not Seek After God

- **Psalm 10:4** The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.
- **Psalm 14:2** The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.

Romans 3:11-12

- ¹¹There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹²They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.

The Unbeliever Needs Enablement From The Spirit Of God To Comprehend God's Revelation

- **John 14:17** ¹⁷the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.
- **John 15:26** ²⁶“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the **Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

The Believer Pursues The Knowledge Of God To Explore The Richness And Beauty Of Our Relationship With Him

- **Ephesians 1:17-18** 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Knowing God Is More Than Knowing He Exists, Knowing Him Is Transformational

- **Psalm 139:6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Charles Spurgeon:

- “I believe ... that the proper study of God’s elect is God; the proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.”

Knowing God Is More Than Knowing About Him, Knowing Him Is Intimate

- **Philippians 3:10** that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

Knowing God Is More Than Being Religious, Knowing Him Is Relational

- **Exodus 33:13** Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.”

J.I. Packer

- What were we made for? *To know God.*
- What aim should we set ourselves in life? *To know God.*
- What is the best thing in life? *Knowledge of God.*
- What in a man gives God most pleasure? *Knowledge of Himself.*