

Insight For Knowing God

“What makes life worth while is having a big enough objective, something which catches our imagination and lays hold of our allegiance... for what higher, more exalted, and more compelling goal can there be than to know God?”

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 30

Knowing God is...

“a matter of
*personal
dealing*”

“a matter of
*personal
involvement*”

“a matter of
grace”

Ephesians 1:15-17 - Message

Believers develop their personal relationship with God by the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit who enables them to expand their knowledge of God.

What we
should leave
with...

A burning desire to know God better

A renewed commitment to pursue knowing God more faithfully

A better understanding of how the Holy Spirit helps us to know God more deeply

Outline of Ephesians

Discover the vastness of God's love in calling you (1-3)

Greetings (1:1-2)

Paul praised God for the riches of His glory (1:3-14)

Paul thanked God and prayed for them to know the value of their blessings (1:15-23).

Thanks to God and prayer for them to grow in knowing God (15-17)

Praise God the Spirit because...

- I. Paul commended the saints for their growing faith and love (15).
- II. Paul gave thanks whenever he prayed for them (16).
- III. Paul prayed for the Spirit to give them insight for knowing God (17).

“Love” (*Agapé*)



- It is not driven by impulse.
- It deliberately chooses to act as a free choice.
- It arises from the love that resides inside. (It can love the unworthy)
- It seeks the highest good of the other person (give, serve).

Paul prayed “that they may appreciate to the fullest possible extent the implications of the blessing they have already received”

(John Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*, pp. 53-54)

Why did Paul
pray for
them?

“Wisdom”



- Includes:
 - Theoretical knowledge
 - Skill to properly understand and use it
- It is insight into the use of knowledge

“Revelation”



- The disclosing of previously hidden facts

The Holy Spirit does the work of revelation enabling believers to examine and discern Biblical truths about God.

“Knowledge”



- *Epignosis*
- *“Knowledge directed towards a particular object, perceiving, discerning, recognizing”*
 - J. Armitage Robinson, *Ephesians*, p. 254
- *A growing and intimate knowledge in a personal relationship with God.*

How the Holy Spirit helps expand our knowledge of God

He gives us insight into truth about God.

He reveals aspects of God's character and works.

He enables us to better understand God, in more and more profound ways.

Knowledge of God ranges from knowing through understanding to knowing by experience.