

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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**SERMON TITLE** Getting to Know God

**SERIES**

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**KEY SCRIPTURE** Proverbs 2:1-5

**SYNOPSIS** God is knowable, and there are steps we can take to get to know him better.

**HIGHLIGHTS**



## ☞ Getting to Know God

We've been talking about the name and character of the Lord the last few weeks. God is the source of all existence and reality. He always was, He is, and He always will be. God is kind and merciful, but he is also just and he judges fairly because he sees and knows all things. God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love. God is all-powerful and yet can be known personally. We can be friends with God. So, how can we go about getting to know him better?

☞ **Proverbs 2:1-5** gives us some suggestions. Here's what it says: **My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.**

This is the classic "if-then" conditional promise. The "then" is what we are after – to find the knowledge of God. We want to know him more and more. He is knowable, but to really know him, there are conditions to which we must adhere.

☞ If you really want to know God, start by **reading your bible**. The writer here says "accept my words and store up my commands." In today's world that means read your bible. God has revealed himself a lot in the Scriptures, so start there. I know this is very basic, but so many have misconceptions about who God really is because they haven't spent much time in the Word.

Psalms 1:1-2 talks about delighting in God's word and meditating on it day and night. That's a commitment to the word of God.

*A Bible in the hand is worth two in the bookcase.*

Psalms 119:103

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...

Read your bible. This is very doable in today's world. There's an app for that. One of the ways I get the word into my heart and mind is with the YouVersion bible app. It reads to me while I'm getting ready in the mornings. There are daily devotionals as well as bible reading plans. If you commute to work, it can read scripture while you drive.

*An unknown writer said, "This Book is the mind of God... It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Christ is its grand subject, our good*



its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. **Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully.**

And I add: read it to get to know God better. Read your bible. This seems like a no-brainer, yet many Christians barely read the bible. So, dust it off and read.

Then do whatever you can to develop wisdom and grow in understanding. This means **studying the bible**. Don't just take my word or someone else's word for it, dig in and find out for yourself. Go for the truth, not just the "feel-good" stuff. Study in-depth in the Bible.

*A Bible that's falling apart probably belongs to someone who isn't.*

We need to know the truth! How do we learn the truth? By carefully studying God's Word and allowing the Spirit to teach us; by listening to others who are true to the faith; and then by **practicing what we learn**.

False teaching often has an aura of glamour and special insight about it. Kind of... "We have figured something out that others have overlooked." It has an appeal to it. But in reality, false teaching will take something away. Be careful of the latest, greatest thing going around. God can and does do new things, but the foundation of the truth never changes! Sometimes, the basics of our faith can seem repetitive and even become a bit boring. But, these things are the truth that will save us and keep us for all eternity. We must firmly **hold on to the truth** and not lose what we already have.

*Many believers remain weak because they fail to store up in their minds helpful passages from the Word of God. Apparently, they do not realize that in times of stress, sorrow, or temptation, the Holy Spirit can bring those portions to their remembrance to comfort, warn, and direct them.*

*The followers of some religions are often required to saturate their minds with their sacred writings. For instance, no one can teach in a Muslim mosque until he has first memorized the entire Koran! One missionary tells that for 21 hours she heard a group of Buddhist priests quoting their devotional literature from memory, seldom if ever making a mistake.*

*Michael Billester once gave a Bible to a humble villager in eastern Poland. Returning a few years later, he learned that 200 people had become believers through using it. When the group gathered to hear him preach, he suggested that before he spoke he would like each person to quote some verses of Scripture. One man rose and said, "Perhaps, Brother, we've misunderstood you. Did you mean verses or chapters?" Billester was astonished. "Are you saying there are people here who could recite complete chapters of the Bible?" That was precisely the case. In fact, 13 of them knew half of Genesis and the books of Matthew and Luke. Another had committed all the psalms to memory. Combined, the 200 knew virtually the entire Bible.*

*Are you constantly hiding the Word of God in your heart? If not, begin today!*

Read your bible and study your bible. It tells us who God is.



☞ I also think this challenge to grow in wisdom and understanding involves **prayer**. James 1:5 says, “if any you lacks wisdom, you should ask God.” That’s prayer, and prayer is ultimately ☞ **having conversation with God**. How do you get to know new people? One of the primary ways that happens is through conversation. So, talk to God. Get to know him.

*Martin Luther... As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.*

*Corrie ten Boom... Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.*

### ☞ **Jude 20**

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and **pray in the Holy Spirit**.

*R. A. Torrey lamented the average believer's indifference to prayer by writing: How little time the average Christian spends in prayer! We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little... the power of God is lacking in our lives and in our work. We have not because we ask not.*

### 1 Peter 3:12

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer

*A man without prayer is like a tree without roots.*

☞ Finally, if you really want to know God, you need to **make this pursuit a strong priority**. The writer in Proverbs 2 uses phrases like “call out;” “cry aloud;” “look;” and “search.” Those are not casual efforts, but earnest, intense efforts.

*Paul J. Fritz... In order to seek first the kingdom, we must begin by seeking first the King.*

God should be our number one priority. We’re Christians first, then Americans. Christian, then career. Christian, then family. Christian, then friends. We should be concerned about the things of God before we are concerned about other issues.

What’s important to us is actually reflected in how we use our resources: time, money, effort and talent! It’s been said, “Show me your calendar and your checkbook, and I will know what your priorities are.” Does your use of time reflect a priority for God? What about your use of money? Your efforts and talent?

The natural tendency is to take care of ourselves first. Once we achieve and acquire all that we want, then we’ll give our time and efforts to things that concern God. Once we pay all the bills and buy all that we want, then we’ll give God what’s left. Once we satisfy all our own cravings, then we’ll surrender completely to God. This is not God’s way. He says if we **put him first, then** ☞ **those other things we are concerned about will also be given to us**. (Matthew 6:33) God will take care of the rest!



If you sincerely want to know God more and more, then you have to make him a priority in your life. Actually, you should think of it as giving your life to him. God, himself said it this way ☞ in **Jeremiah 29:13... "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."**

Psalm 27:4

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

*A.W. Tozer said, "We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God."*

God, the LORD, creator and sustainer of all things is knowable in a personal way. Let's be people who grow in our knowledge of God. Not just knowledge about him, but knowing him in a personal way, that we could be called friends of God. Let's read and study our bibles; let's pray and have conversations with God; let's make God our number one priority on a daily basis.

Give your life to him and you will come to know him more and more.