

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE Knowing God More and More

SERIES

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KEY SCRIPTURE Ephesians 3:20; John 15:15

SYNOPSIS God is all-powerful and yet we can know him personally.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ Knowing God More and More

Just for fun... Word Definitions:

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

CANNIBAL: Someone who is fed up with people.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage.

INFLATION: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN: Grape with a sunburn.

SECRET: Something you tell to one person at a time.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labor-saving devices of today.

WRINKLES: Something other people have. I have character lines.

We've been talking about the name and character of the Lord the last couple of weeks. God is the source of all existence and reality. He always was, He is, and He always will be. We can personally know God by experience. God is kind and merciful but he is also just and he judges fairly because he sees and knows all things. Last week we saw that God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love.

--A.W. Tozer... The basic trouble with the church today is her unworthy conception of God. What I believe about God is the most important thing about me.

☞ God is Powerful

Genesis 17:1 (to Abraham)

I am God Almighty...

☞ Almighty = having **infinite power** (used only of God)

Matthew 19:26

with God all things are possible.

Possible = (this word is related to the word for power); ability to alter or control circumstances

Luke 1:37

nothing is impossible with God. (nothing)

Greek – double emphasis on “nothing” ...The old song: Nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing; nothing is too difficult for Thee.

☞ In Revelation 19:6 God is called omnipotent which means **all powerful; unlimited power**

Job 12:13

To God belong wisdom and power...



To God belong = “God is equated with power”

The Old Testament is filled with stories of his great power:

He brought plagues upon Egypt so that Israel would be freed.

He parted the Red Sea so that Israel could cross over on dry ground.

He fed millions of Israelis in the desert with manna and quail.

He gave Gideon victory with only 300 men against more than 120,000.

By God’s power, Samson killed a lion with his bare hands, and defeated 1,000 soldiers singlehandedly.

Elijah outran a chariot in a 14-mile sprint.

Then, there’s all the miracles that Jesus performed. He healed the crippled, made the deaf to hear, gave sight to the blind. And by God’s power he rose from the dead and lives forevermore.

He has infinite, unlimited power.

☞ Romans 1:20 talks about God’s **eternal power**

His power never runs out. Our minds can’t really comprehend unlimited, unending power. In my twenties, I did quite a lot of weight training. I went to the gym everyday doing bench presses; flies; squats; curls; etc. I know others that did far more than I ever did. But over the years, we have all faded. The strength is not what it once was. But God’s power is eternal – it never fades.

--A.W. Tozer... The great God Almighty... has now the same amount of power that he had when he made the heaven and the earth and called the stars into being. He will never have any less power than he has now, nor will he ever have any more since he has all the power there is. His is an effortless power, because effort means I’m expending energy, but when God works, he doesn’t expend energy. He is energy! With effortless power, God did and is doing his redeeming work.

Since God has the ability always to do anything he wills to do, then nothing is harder or easier with God. He can make a sun and a star and a galaxy just as easily as he can lift a robin off a nest. Nothing is too hard for God – nothing whatsoever. Nothing! In all God’s wisdom and power, he is able to do anything as easily as he is able to do anything else.

The story is told of a certain bunch of scientists who came to God one day. They said, “Well, God, we’ve finally done it. We truly have no use for you anymore. We have figured out how to make man out of the dirt, just like you did.” God said, “Really? What do you say we have a man-making contest, okay?” And the scientists said, “You’re on.” So one of the scientists bent over to grab some of the dirt, and God says, “Wait just a minute. You go make your own dirt.”

☞ **Ephesians 3:20**

Now to him who is **able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine**, according to his power that is at work within us



He's above and beyond all powers. Stronger than Superman; Faster than the Flash; Smarter than Batman. God is Powerful!

Table Talk: When have you seen God do something extraordinary?

☞ Start Timer

☞ God is Personal

John 17:3

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God

☞ We can know God!

Ephesians 1:17

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

☞ He is a loving father to the believer.

Luke 11:2

"When you pray, say: "Our Father in heaven..."

Romans 8:15-16

you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Abba is a word that kids would use to call their father; in English it would be Dad or Daddy.

God is like... [written by a 12-year-old]

- *tide- he cleans all our stains*
- *Snapple- He's the best stuff on Earth*
- *Coke- He's the real thing*
- *A car- He'll take you places you couldn't go*
- *daddy- he loves me...*

--Dennis Lawrence... "Grandpa walked into the family room and found his little grandson, Jeffy, standing up in his playpen, crying. "He looked so pitiful, standing there in his little baseball T-shirt and diaper. His face was red and tear-stained from crying. When Jeffy saw his grandpa, his face lit up in a way that smote the old man's heart. He immediately reached up his chubby little hands in supplication. "Out Papa, out!" "What grandpa could resist such a plea? Not this one! He walked over to the playpen and reached down to lift his little buddy out of captivity and distress. "Just then, however, Law and Order stepped into the room. "Jeffy's mother walked out of the kitchen with a dishtowel in her hand and spoke sternly. "No, Jeffy! You are being punished. You have to stay in bed! Leave him right there, Dad." "Oh, fine. Now



what's a grandpa to do?" His grandson's tears and reaching little hands tugged mightily at his heart- but he didn't want to interfere with a mother's discipline either. "He couldn't stand staying in the same room with the boy, reading his newspaper and pretending to be aloof. Nor could he turn around and walk out the door without feeling like a betrayer to his little pal. What could he do? "Love found a way. "Since Grandpa couldn't take Jeffy out of the playpen, he climbed in with him. "If you're in the playpen, Buddy, I'm in the playpen. What's your sentence? How long are you in for?" And finding a big, jolly grandpa suddenly filling his little prison cell, the little boy found comfort even in his captivity.

That's what God did for us through Christ. He had to find a way to redeem this fallen world so, he personally came to rescue us. He's our loving Father.

☞ **We can be friends with God.**

James 2:23 says that Abraham was called God's friend. And, Exodus 33:11 tells us that Moses spoke face to face with God like friends do.

☞ **John 15:15**

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, **I have called you friends**, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

--Bob Hartman...

*I don't know the Governor even though I'm a resident
I don't rub shoulders with the dignities or shake hands with the President
And I know I can be with you and I don't have to wait in line
You're the author and creator of all the world and a personal friend of mine
When I have a problem, I can always come to you
Regardless of the situation I know you know what to do
You put your arm around me and you speak so tenderly
And I feel better just to know you care and you took the time for me
Greater love has no man than this that a man lay his life down for his friends
But you laid it down for all the world to see and you proved your love for me
I'm no special person, I've got nothing to offer you
But you treat me like I'm the only one with whom you have to do
You're closer than a brother and you're with me every day
I love you 'cause you first loved me and I'm glad that I can say
I can be friends with you; there's no better friend that a man can know
I can be friends with you; and I feel so special 'cause it's you I know*

God is Powerful - Nothing is too hard; anything is possible

God is Personal - He loves you; he wants to draw near; he wants a friendship with you