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## Getting To Know God - Part 1

### Introduction

It is now 74 years since the musical, “The King and I” was produced. One of the songs was, “Getting to know you, getting to know all about you”. It is a delightful piece of music and while it was never deemed to be spiritual, it carried a theme which we can lift to a spiritual level. In His High Priestly prayer, our Lord prayed, saying: “And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (Jn. 17:3). The Greek gnōsis is one of five verbs related to knowing. This word means, “to get to know” (in this case, God) by gaining knowledge of living with Him, sharing His interests, loves and hates. It is used in 1 John 5:20.

- a) Paul wrote this to the saints at Philippi about when he penned the words, “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death” (Phil. 3:10).
- b) It is used as a noun when Peter wrote, “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge (gnōsis) of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (2 Pet. 3:18)

When the atom was discovered, man sought to find a word to describe its tininess. He discovered that every word he knew, diminutive, minute, etc., all failed, for they knew of no word to describe its tinniness. When considering the Person of God, every distinguishing feature, every attribute, every manifestation of power or wisdom, every declaration on any subject, every prerogative being exercised, they are all far beyond our understanding and comprehension. We may well experience something akin to Ezekiel when he stood by the river (Ezek. 47:3-5). It seems so shallow at first, and then as one ponders the glory of His magnificence, it becomes depths far beyond ones comprehension.

In the meditation of the Names of God, we have scarcely gone to the edge of the river when there bursts from our lips, “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it” (Psa. 139:6).

### Points of observation

We never study God. We may study things, humans, animals etc., to gain information. In contrast to all earthly studies, we read about God and then meditate on what has been read. As we are enlightened by the Holy Spirit, we are led to see the glories of His person etc. and knowing Him personally, which results in worship. Therefore, the unveiling of God by the Holy Spirit is not for intellectualism but for worship and the modification of spiritual life. It is impossible to have an appreciation of God and to speak of Him lightly, behave before Him casually, or treat His word with indifference. An appreciation of the awesomeness of God will result in great care in presenting oneself before God, in representing God in speech, both secular and spiritual, as in preaching, and in behaviour. A casual off-handed toss of the head attitude to God is a display of spiritual deadness or dwarfishness. Carefulness in these matters will be seen as sin; consequently, there will be an increasing awareness of personal sin in the life.

### God’s desire to communicate with His creatures

It has ever been the purpose of God to make Himself known, which He does through creation, self-revelation, and providential activities. His Names:

- a) He makes Himself known: To His People Israel (Ex. 19:11-25); The unsaved (Rom. 1:19-21); By His liberating power (Ex. 12:51; 14:1-31); also in the exercising of His judgments (Num. 6:21).
- b) God also manifested His glory through individuals: Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3); Moses (Ex. 3:1-10); Ezekiel (Ezek. 1:1-28); Isaiah (Isa. 6:1-3); Pharaoh (Ex. 1, 5, 6-12); Sennacherib (2 Kgs. 18-19; 2 Chron. 32:21) .
- c) Job asked the questions (Job 11:7), “Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?” The glory of God’s immensity automatically blocks man from ever seeing Him as anything other than the incomprehensible God.

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### How can I get to know God?

- a) Not by only knowing His names, though they are descriptive of Him. My name is Rowan and it means red head, but I have never had a red hair in my life. My name does not reveal anything of myself.
- b) If I want to know an individual, in this case God, then I must:
  - i) Enter the sphere of practicum as distinct from classroom theory and data. This means:
    - 1. Spend time with God, learning in practical ways His characteristics.
    - 2. Saturate my mind and heart with the acceptance of His unchanging ways and accept unquestioningly His moral judicial criteria for life with Him.
    - 3. See God through Christ:
      - (a) How did He respond to situations opposite to His nature? (Jn. 14:25)
      - (b) In attitudes foreign to what He deserves. (Matt. 27:31)
      - (c) In close contact with people or fallen spirits who oppose every blessing He seeks to bestow, by mockery, lies, and belittling all he does. (Matt. 12:24)
      - (d) To do this all with righteous observation and not via rose coloured glasses.

Getting to know God will not happen in a minute. Even after a lifetime, one will only have touched the hem of His garment, but what glorious garment. In that purified, uncontaminated sphere, there is serenity of peace, quietness of mind and heart, and perfect rest, no matter what is happening in the world.

*. . . . Rowan Jennings*