**When We Know God**

A.W. Tozer once said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”1 Just by observing what people think of God, you can tell quite a bit about them. By examining what someone thinks of God, you can tell the spiritual future of that person. And you can tell the future of the church by looking at what our spiritual leaders think of God.2 Our view of God is extremely important. I find it interesting that what you would call all of this is theology. A simple definition of theology is the study of God – His character, His attributes, and things like that. So what you think about God would be your theology.

This is interesting because the typical churchgoer doesn’t really give that much effort to the study of God. We live in a place where we have access to all kinds of books and Bibles, yet most of us hardly ever think about what the almighty God of the universe is like. We tend to put all of our effort into “more important things.” You know… things like T.V., sports, the internet, money, and making sure we have, and look, the best. We spend hours going to sports games, watching T.V., doing stuff on the internet, and even doing work around our houses that, in the long run, may not even matter. And then you contrast that with the amount of time we spend studying God… It’s a pretty pitiful sight.3

I believe the church has blown it in this area. We say that we love God and we say that we are Christians, but really, what god do we love? Do we truly love the God of the Bible that in Luke 9:23-24 says, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.”? Or do we love our imaginary god that says that all he wants us to do is go to church, do a few nice things, abstain from the really immoral things and live in comfort like the rest of the world?... I have a feeling that the American church is worshipping the wrong god… We need to turn our eyes back to the one true God.

So, how do we fix this? I believe that the only real solution to the problem in our church is to get to the heart of the issue. And the heart of the issue is our wrong view of God… We need some sound theology… Our view of God is the most important thing about us because how we view God shapes the way we think and live. As Joshua Harris put it, “What you believe about God’s nature – what he is like, what he wants from you, and whether or not you will answer to him – affects every part of your life.”4

I know, a lot of churchgoers would say they think their theology is good. They know God is loving, He’s all powerful, He’s omnipresent, He’s omniscient, and all of those things, but my question is, “Do you really understand what those things mean?”… I’m convinced that if we really did, we wouldn’t be where we are today.

Let’s take a look at some of God’s attributes just to show you what I mean.

So, we know that God is omnipresent, but what does that really mean? “Omni” means “all.” So omni-present means “all present.” God is present everywhere. But the thing is, when most people think about God’s omnipresence we think about a cloud or something hovering in all places. But that can’t be what God’s omnipresence is. If that was true then you could take a part of the cloud and have a part of God. But God is infinite and whole in all that He is, and He is also immaterial… *Every* part of God is everywhere... Every part of God is with you. You don’t just have a part of God with you. You have all of God’s infiniteness with you individually. As Tozer said, “An infinite God can give all of Himself to each of His children. He does not distribute Himself that each may have a part, but to each one He gives all of Himself as fully as if there were no others.”5 Now that is an amazing truth! In a sense, we, individually, are God’s only project... So *all* of God’s *infinite* love, for example, is directed to us individually… This will completely transform your view of God’s love.

Now, let’s look at some of those attributes in a different light. As I’ve already mentioned, God is infinite and He is omnipresent... Now throw in the fact that God hates sin… God is omnipresent so all of Him is there when we sin. And God is infinite and hates sin so He has an *infinite* amount of hatred toward *every single sin* that we commit.

Oh, how our lives would change if we hated sin like that… Most of the time when we sin we don’t think it’s that big of a deal. The reason why we think this is because we don’t know who God really is.

Joshua Harris wrote in his book *Dug Down Deep* that “Being a Christian means being a person who labors to establish his beliefs, his dreams, his choices, his very view of the world on the truth of who Jesus is and what he has accomplished – a Christian who cares about truth, who cares about [theology].”6 My challenge to you is to dig in. Labor to establish your beliefs on the Word of God. Yes, it’s going to take some work. It’s going to take some deep thinking. It’s going to involve reading some thick books and learning some big words. But sound theology drives our passion to pursue Jesus. And that is our goal as Christians – to desperately pursue Jesus.

If we really dug in and tried to understand who God is our lives would be totally different. As David Platt put it, “When we know God: Routine religion is no longer tolerable. Casual worship is no longer possible. Total surrender is no longer optional. Global mission is no longer negotiable.”7 When we truly know God we won’t be able to just *do* Christianity, we’ll want to desperately pursue the completely worthy Christ. When we know God we’ll realize that our casual worship experiences are not fitting for the one true almighty Creator. When we know God our entire lives will be the least that we’ll want to give. And when we know God we’ll realize that everyone else desperately needs to know Him too.

Endnotes

1. A.W Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (San Francisco: Harper-San Francisco, 1992), 1.
2. Thought adapted from – Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, 2
3. Thought adapted from Tozer quote taken from Brook Hills’ “Secret Church: Who is God?”
4. Joshua Harris, *Dug Down Deep* (Colorado Springs, Colorado: Multnomah, 2010), 10
5. A.W. Tozer quote taken from Brook Hills’ “Secret Church: Who is God?”
6. Joshua Harris, *Dug Down Deep* (Colorado Springs, Colorado: Multnomah, 2010), 19
7. Taken from Brook Hills’ “Secret Church: Who is God?”