

How Well do You Know God?

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Have you gone to a person's house who has a dog?

Do you remember if you have put out your hand to pat the dog and had the growl at you from the depths of their throat?

The owner will say:-

He does not know you, if you come to us more often, he will get to know you!

Continuing from this example, let's ask us ourselves a question.

Where can you get everlasting life?

Can it be bought from the chemist shop, or obtained from the doctors at a hospital?

How can 'man' ever give this to us, and would we actually want it in this system of things?

Clearly it would be sensible if we turn to someone who can, this someone would be The Almighty God.

When you speak to religious people - what do they know about their 'God'?

What fruits of knowledge, understanding, wisdom, logic do they impart, when they speak about their 'God'?

John 17v3 And this life eternal, that they might know You, who is the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.

Everlasting life comes from Yahweh God via His beloved Son Jesus Christ.

Many people are taught to recite this, but do they really know what this means?

John 4v7,22 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water from a well; and Jesus said to her: Give me a drink?

Jesus said: You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, which is that salvation is through the Jews.

Jesus knew that Yahweh existed, but the woman did not understand.

This is the same today, many people know the words of the Bible but most just do not understand. We must go over old ground in talks and discussions to ensure that we do understand what The Bible means to us. This will bolster our strength to hold onto what we know is true.

What does knowing a person really mean?

When two people join hands and become married - do they really know each other?

They may know each other's name, the more obvious individual traits, and perhaps the family background.

But do they know each other's hearts?

Nowadays, things happen so fast - people are often married in months, if not, weeks, since they have first seen each other! But where has the old fashioned tradition of courtship gone? This was a process for people to get to know each other very well in all social events and problems that may arise in a marriage relationship. Clearly this courtship period may lead onto marriage if both partners considered that the relationship would work indefinitely. This is a very useful process and should also be applied to Christians around the world. They should get to know Yahweh God and Jesus Christ and then become baptised in the name of Jesus Christ to become 'married to Christ'.

However the:

Self-righteous person will often say: I do not need to know all this, I do not need to listen!

But the:

Righteous person would be the person who would be prepared to listen, reason and understand what Yahweh God required of them. This person would then go out and do what Yahweh Desired of them.

1Sam. 31v4 Then Saul said to his armour bearer: Draw your sword. and thrust me through quickly; otherwise these uncircumcised will come and kill me with a sword and abuse me. But his armour bearer would not do it; for he was very afraid. So Saul took a sword and fell upon it. And when his armour bearer saw that Saul was dead

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2Sam. 1v1-15 This passage talks about an Amalekite who claimed to put Saul out of his misery by killing him. This Amalekite took his crown and bracelet and brought them to David hoping that he may receive praise from the future king David. However David put this Amalekite to death.

This may be thought as a strange passage.

But think. This Amalekite must have 'known' David in the loose sense, because he would have known that David was next in line to be king. But clearly this Amalekite did not know David very well otherwise he would not have chosen the course of action that he did. He would have known that David respected the former king Saul and would not wish

any one to harm Saul (Saul's armour bearer respected this fact because he refused to kill his king). This Amalekite did not behave as a loyal Jew should behave to God's anointed king.

It is this kind of knowing that we are talking about!

Isaiah 55v8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. Clearly Yahweh was being quoted in this passage.

This is written to everyone who may be an apostate or backslider. But just before this Yahweh does say that if you do listen, reconsider your ways and then repent then:-

Isaiah 55v6-7 Seek you the Lord while he may be found, call you upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and let unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return to the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

We see how we should be willing to search for Him, for He will forgive in a large way. Consequently should difficulties arise between God and ourselves, and then IF we search for the right course back to God, then we will be satisfied.

We will always offend someone either a friend or family member, hence we have to ask for God to forgive us and obviously to help us to overcome these problems.

How do you get to know someone?

1. Imitate them.

Children will copy parents, clearly some of this is genetic but the rest is based upon what they see and experience from their parents.

Children will often copy, or use as role models leading characters in famous films. They would copy these role models when they left a cinema or after watching a video.

We too, are children of God, hence we should try and emulate our Father, Almighty God. The best example of God was his beloved son Jesus Christ. We should try and imitate Jesus, who was the perfect example of his Father in heaven, though in our present form we fall short by a long way!

Col. 3v10 And we have to be a new person, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of the One who created it. We must take up this new personality, we cannot achieve the perfect example of Jesus Christ, but in setting this as our target, our qualities should improve. These would be:-

1. Love for our fellow human beings.
2. Mercy to those who hurt us.
3. Wisdom to know and do what God wants us to do.
4. Power to resist Satan's attacks.

When we fail to reflect these qualities, then we fail to reflect these qualities from God.

Sin mars our reflection of God's qualities.

If we are supposed to be God's representatives then we should reflect these qualities, just as Jesus so perfectly did.

Do you think that the people around us like the image of our God reflected from us?

Are we behaving correctly - as Yahweh God would wish us to be?

The flip side of the coin could be:-

Is this reflection of someone in 'the eye of the beholder'?

Could it actually be that the person is behaving correctly, however we are biased, and we only see what we interpret as faults rather than the good qualities of that person?

The Bible helps us to come to terms with this. If you know The Bible very well then one is able to scroll through the various sections to the relevant subject / problem / enquiry to obtain a balanced and reasoned answer to the question.

Do not act as some people, and take one line out of context and try to apply that biased view to the question.

This will clearly lead to human interpretation errors!

Yahweh in The Bible is a supernatural Spirit, but is shown having 'human' attributes to help us to understand Him.

These are given in poetical metaphors as shown:-

1Pt. 3v12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

God does not have literally eyes, ears or a face, but these are written such so that we can understand.

How can you explain to a blind person a rainbow?

It is very difficult to explain colour if a blind person cannot see colour. They cannot touch, feel or hear a rainbow. Similarly, if we are blind to God, then likewise we cannot understand His ways! Should this be the case, then it is incumbent upon us to turn back to the Bible with prayer and thus meditate (= think/consider/reason) deeply upon His word for this necessary understanding.

Abraham from the Ur of the Chaldeans had much luxury here. But he left all this to live in tents because of his great faith in Yahweh. There are examples of this great luxury stored in museums, wonderful golden bracelets and head-dress adorned with beautiful jewels. There are records in the bible where people actually throw these items in a pot to make a 'golden calf' or other idols. The point of this script is that people thought so highly of these idols (over and above Yahweh) that they gave their best (which obviously hurt them the most)!

With Abraham at 100 years and Sarah at 90 years a child was promised within the year.

Did this sound believable?

While Sarah was sceptical, Abraham believed/entrusted/committed/{had faith/fidelity/assurance/conviction}.

We must get into this prayerful condition where we rely on Yahweh for our critical needs, do not forge out in our own strength following our own worldly desires – often to merely pamper self-indulgence to the hurt of our neighbour. This prayerful condition should extend to trying to understand the position of other people, just like parents trying to understand the wants of our children, not leading to abuse but love and assistance. Yahweh similarly operated with the Israelite nation; they had to get to understand God. On some occasions the kings that 'walked with God' did not know what to do. They prayed fervently and pleaded with Yahweh to understand what he required them to do. When they did this God never let them down, and saved them in a miraculous way. All these things came, not on our own terms or in our own way but Yahweh may answer in a very indirect way that may be only obvious to us many months or years later - we clearly miss the point if we cannot understand. While God may be manipulating the situation, our faith must be strong even though we may feel the hunger of desire for things to happen much more quickly! We need more head knowledge to understand what is going on, rather than rely on the desires of the heart that may be easily influenced by distractions.

2. Examine Ourselves.

This may be through instruction, thought or reminded to have this desire to learn the criteria required to follow Yahweh's exacting standards of perfection. Then we should try and act upon it.

A question of Approval.

Amos 3v1-3 Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying: I have only known you out of all the families of the earth, therefore I will punish you for your iniquities. Can two walk together unless they agree with each other.

Even when the Israelites saw God working with them by the various miracles scattered throughout their history, they clearly still had something to learn because regularly they rejected him through their idolatry. God's power was used to support the Israelites and this gave them vast privileges over the heathen nations, similarly this relationship has now been passed onto the true Christians during this last 2000 years, We have a marvellous privilege passed upon us and a wonderful gift awaiting each one of us. We know what is required and hence more is expected of us!

Matt. 7v21-23 Not every one who says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? And in your name have cast out devils? And in your name done many wonderful things? And then I will confess to them, I never knew you: Depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.

For if we reach out to know Yahweh, then He will reach out to know and support us. He will recognise us when the time arrives. Conversely, if we do things boastfully, for self-gratification in this world, even if we say that it is in Jesus' or God's name, we will be rejected at the end. The reason being, that our motives were wrong - Yahweh can see into our heart and knows the truth; we cannot hide!

Gal. 4v8-9 How is it then, when you did not know God, you slaved after those who by nature are no gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known of God, why do you turn again back into weak and beggarly elements again and want to slave for them again?

If we have dedicated ourselves to serve Yahweh, then we must not backslide. These sacrifices that Christians make should not be taken lightly; they are not vagrant alternatives just to renege upon when the going gets tough. We must have the correct mental attitude to face the problems knowing that we have the greatest aid by our side - Yahweh for our support.

Things always go better in families if things are discussed, and while it is true for earthly families, so it is true with the family of Yahweh and Jesus.

Ask yourself:-

How do you feel about God?

How does this relate us to God?

Can we impart with understanding these events in Biblical history?

Would you do it this way or another?

Are we just uttering words or do we speak from our heart?

Psalm 9v3-9, 19-20

When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at your presence. For you have maintained my right and my cause; You sit in the throne judging with righteousness. You have rebuked the heathen, You have destroyed the wicked, You have put out their name for ever and ever. O you enemy, destructions have come to a perpetual end; and you have destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them. But the Lord shall endure for ever: He has prepared his throne for judgement. And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgement to the people in uprightness. The Lord will also be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Arise, O Lord; let no man prevail; let the heathen be judged in your sight. Put them in fear, O Lord; that the nations may know themselves to be only men.

Let us think deeply about these things as we live our lives to become True Christians imitating Jesus in our lifestyle.