

God

We know what we know about because He has revealed Himself to us.

General Revelation & Special Revelation

Personal Experience

The desire to know God - Psalms 42:1-2, Matt. 5:6

Our Knowledge of Right and Wrong - Genesis 1,2,3

Personal relationship with God - Romans 8:16-17

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth. He created the garden and placed Adam and Eve in it. And then He would come and walk and talk with Adam and Eve in the garden. This shows that God is in relationship with his creation. He is not some distant being far off and away from us. He knows us. He knows our lives. And He wants to live in relationship with us.

In the Bible we see God in relationship with His creation. In that process, we see who God is. And so the nature and the characteristic of God is revealed to us. Just as we live in relationship with another person. We know who that person is by the things that they have said and the things that they have done. Their actions reveal their character. Their actions reveal who they truly are. So we know each other by the relationship we are in with them.

The same is true of God. We know who He is because of what He has done. And his actions reveal his true character and nature to us.

The Nature and Characteristics of God.

Basic Assumptions: 1. We know who is God his because of what He has done.

2. God always act consistent with His Nature.

Exp. Tree and Fruit.

Ref. 2 Timothy 2:13, Matt. 7:16-21

Jesus taught his disciples that they would know a tree by its fruit. That's very true of trees. And it helps us to see that it is also true of people. You have already had the experience of a person saying one thing but doing something different. Which one tells us who the person really is? Their words or their actions? It is always their actions that tell us who they truly are and what they truly want. We see this in people and sometimes we see it in ourselves.

But we do not see this in God. God always acts consistent with who He is. This is how we know God. We see his actions. And his actions tell us who He truly is.

3. In the study of God - God alone defines the terms of the study.

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| Exp. | Heavenly Father |
| Father | Father, creator of all that is including ourselves. |
| God so loved | John 3:16 |
| Love | The action of the giving of his own son, Himself. |

When we talk about God, we must allow God to redefine the terms that we use. We can use the same word in many different ways. "I love my child." "I love my wife." "I love ice cream." Is my love for my child equal to my love for ice cream? When I talk about loving my child, it's different when I talk about loving my wife. So sometimes we must let God redefine a term that we use when we're talking about Him. To say that God is love. Is to say that Jesus Christ came to die on the cross for us. Emmanuel. God with us, teaching us, telling us how much He loves us. And dying on the cross for our sins. When we say God is love. The word love takes on a completely different meaning.

A) God is Person

Name of God.

Ref. Exodus. 3:13-14, Matt:6:9, John 17:6,

When we say God is person, it is a way of saying that He is real, He is alive. He exists in relationship. God is not a big something out there somewhere. God is Person and He lives in relationship with His creation.

B) God is Spirit

God is a different order of reality. God/Man Creator/Created

Ref. Isaiah 31:1-3, John 4:21-24, Romans 8:14-15,
II Cor. 3:17-18, Colo. 1:15

When we say God is spirit, it's a way of saying God is different than we are. He is not like us. His existence is different than ours. This should be obvious in that God is the creator. We are the created.

C) God is Holy

God is different. God is set apart.

Ref. Exodus.15:11, Psalms 95:3-7, Ps. 99:3, Is. 6:1-9,
Hosea 11:9, 1 kings 8:22-24, Rev. 15:4

People, Places, and Things become Holy when God sets them apart for His particular use.

Ref. Exodus 3:3-5, Isaiah 6:1-9

When we say God is holy. We mean that God is completely different than anything else. There is no one else like Him. People may make idols and worship different gods. But they are not God.

People, places, and things can become holy when God sets them apart for His purpose and use. Holy means being set apart by and for God. In the Old Testament, vessels in the temple were holy because they were only used in the temple. They were used for the purpose of worshipping God. They had been a set apart for God. So they were called holy. We become holy by dedicating our lives to God. It's not because we're good. It's because as God gives us a new life in salvation, we live separated from everything else. Our purpose now is to serve God. And by that relationship, God sets us apart. He makes us holy.

D) God is Jealous

God's relationship to his creation is very important to Him.

He will not share the place of God.

Ref. Exodus 34:14, Deuteronomy 7:3-4, Joshua 24:19-20

The word jealous has started to take on different meanings in different cultures. When it is used, it often has a negative meaning. We must remember that we must allow God to redefine the term. When God says He is a jealous God. It is God saying that He recognizes that there is no one else who can save his people from their sins. Our only hope for life is God. And God recognizes that apart from Him there is only death and hell. So God says He is a jealous God. He does not want us to die in hell. And so He will do everything that He can to save us. He will not allow us to worship idols. He will punish us to bring us back to Himself. He knows our only hope of eternal life is Him. And since He is the only hope for our salvation. He is jealous of that position. He will discipline us in our life if we place anything in the position that should be his. God is a jealous God because He is the only hope for us to have eternal life.

E) God is Righteous

God will always punish sin, and work towards redemption.

Ref. Psalms 145:17-20, Isaiah 5:16, Rev. 15:4,

When we say God is righteous, we are saying that God will never give up his creation without a fight. He will always punish us in our sins. He will always seek to correct our behavior. His Holy Spirit will struggle in our hearts about doing His will, not our own will. Because God knows that our obedience is our only hope for salvation, He will always punish us for our sins. Like a father correcting his child. He does it to save the child's life. So we say God is righteous. He will always work to save us from our sins and move us towards relationship with Him.

F) God is Present

There is no place where God is not. Where God is He is in his whole being.

Ref. 1 Kings 8:27, Jeremiah 23:23-24, Isaiah 66:1-2, Acts 17:24-25

The Presence of God:

: comforts, and destroys Psalms 139:1-6
: directs and guides Matt. 28:18-20

God is present. It is our way of saying that there is no place you can go. God will be there. There is no place you can hide. God will be there. Every day of your life and every place of your life, God is there. God has chosen to be present with us to guide us, to help us, to save us from our sins and to correct us when we need it. All the actions of your life and the thoughts of your heart, God is there.

G) God is Able

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| Ref. Psalms 33:9 | Power .. spoke and it was. |
| Psalms 115:3 | Will do what He pleases. |
| Isaiah 59:1 | Power to Save |
| Matt. 19:26 | But with God it is Possible. |
| Rev. 1:8 | I am the A and The O... The Almighty. |

God's power does not function apart from His will.

God wills to give relative independence and responsibility.

Ref: Matt.10:28 Fear not kill the body...

The power of God in redemption is the using of the weak to overcome the mighty.

Ref. 1st Corinthians 1:25-29

When we say God is able, we are talking about His power. God's power is limitless. But it is controlled by God's will. God always uses his power to do something that He wants to do in his knowledge and wisdom. His power is not arbitrary because His will is not arbitrary. God wants to save his creation from its sin and destruction. So His power is always used with His will to save us. There are things God has the power to do that He

will not do. God has the power to lie. But His nature and His will is opposed to that, so He will not use His power for deception. God's power is always used consistently with His will.

H) God knows

General Nothing in creation is hidden from Him.

Ref. Hebrews 4:12-13, Job 37:14-16,

Particular God gives Himself personally expressed in relationship.

Ref. Matt. 6:31-32, II Tim. 2:13, Amos 3:1-2, John 10:27,

I Cor. 8:3, Matt 25:10-12

When we say God knows, we mean that there's nothing in creation that is hidden from Him. His knowledge covers our universe, the world that we live in, and our personal lives. So His knowledge is general in that He knows all of our world and creation. But His knowledge is also personal. Because He personally gives Himself in relationship with his creation. He personally knows you as a child of God. He wants to be personally involved in your life. So He personally knows your thoughts and your actions. So God's knowledge is personal and complete.

I) God is Love/Wrath

Ref. Romans 5:6-10 *emph.vs.8*, John 3:16-19, Amos 3:1-2

God is Love: Universal: For all men.

Unconditional

Faithful

Costly, Self-giving Love

God is Wrath

God's opposition to sin and everything that resists His will.

We like to talk about God's love. But the truth is, we cannot talk about God's love without also talking about his wrath. If God loves us, then He will discipline us when we do wrong. Because our sin is leading us into destruction, God will discipline us because He loves us. So God's wrath and punishment is driven by His love for us. Because of his love, He will not sit by and let us destroy ourselves and lead ourselves to hell. He will punish our sin. He will discipline us and call us back to Himself. So just as God's love is personal, His wrath is personal. So it's very accurate to say if I do that, knowing it's wrong, God will punish me. He should punish me because He loves me. And if He loves me, He wants to save me from my sin and self destruction. So we cannot talk about God loving me. Unless we also say that God personally punishes me. God's

love and His wrath are driven by the same motivation. That motivation is God's love for us and His desire to save us from our own self destruction.

Summary - God

1. We know who is God his because of what He has done.
2. God always act consistent with His Nature.

In summary, we know who God is because He personally reveals Himself to us. We see Him personally in his words and his actions. And his words and his actions are always consistent with each other. He always seeks for us to know Him better. So that we can follow Him in greater obedience. All that He does is to seek to save us from our sins and our own self destruction.