

Experience the Joy of knowing God

Sermon Schedule

- Show video clip (SLIDE 2) 3 min
- Transition statement "So that was my Friday Night" 3 min
- Intro & Meaning 3 min
- Attributes of God 20 min
 - God is
 - Eternal
 - Immutable
 - Infinite
 - Omniscient
 - Omnipotent
 - Omnipresent
 - Infinitely Wise
 - Supremely Sovereign
 - Absolutely Holy
- YouTube Video 7 way king (as they depart) 2.5 min
- Prayer 1 min
- Next Time
 - Trinity
 - Fiercely Faithful
 - Agape Love
 - Self Sufficient
 - Just
 - Merciful
 - Good
 - Gracious

Intro: (SLIDE 3) There is a verse in Exodus where God is speaking... and any time The Lord of heaven speaks the people on Earth should? _____ (listen). This is what God says (SLIDE 4 Ex. 9:16) I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. Jesus speaks something similar when giving the “great commission”, Go... teach...speak. Most Christians would agree that we have an objective; it’s our meaning of life, our purpose; to know God’s power and proclaim it. This is “how to” of the greatest of all commandments; Love God and love others. We love God by knowledge of Him, which leads us to obedience, which is the evidence of our love. We love others by sharing the power and Love of God. It’s That Simple! On paper it may look like this (SLIDE 5) someone first loved us enough to share the knowledge of God with us. In fact one Atheist said to Katie Man just this week, “If Christians really believe they have the answer to hell they must really hate people not to share it.” With knowledge comes trust, faith, repentance, hope .. all the stuff that leads us to fall in Love with God. Because of that love we can’t help but pursue obedience, that is the natural response to his love. It’s evidence of our love. The natural reward we receive, which is steeped in the knowledge we are pleasing in His sight only promotes are further love and adoration. This inspires us to want more. The cycle continues. But if we remain here where it is safe (because God always loves us back) we will most certainly become discontent. Why? Because we are not meant to horde the love of God. We are meant to share it. YES, in the land of uncertainty where other may not love us back. But many don’t, why? I believe it’s because we are missing something about knowing God. And I believe e can do something about that today.

The Meaning

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” So says A.W. Tozer in his classic book, *The Knowledge of the Holy*. Why would he make such an extreme pronouncement? Tozer goes on to say, “Man’s spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God.”

In our hearts we know that statement is true. It is not enough to follow “god”. That word has come to mean so many different things today that it actually means very little. If we just make up our own minds concerning what He is like, then we are just creating an idol in our heads. How can we follow God if we don’t know Him? And how can we

know God if we don't first know about Him. First we must learn the awesome nature of God then our relationship with Him will adjust, mature and deepen. As we grow we know God in more intimately because we knew about him intellectually.

III. It's like a Fruitcake. (SLIDE 6 bear with me hear) The expiration date on this thing is 9/30/06. It was given to me as a Christmas gift some years before that. I don't believe I like fruitcake but I've saved it in a box of objects I keep in my office as possible illustrations. This is the first time I've pulled it out in over 5 years, and it looks exactly the same! Now I know what this tastes like because it has pecans in it and I know what they taste like. (Read other ingredients off the box) I know how this tastes... accept I don't... I've never tried it. I'm too afraid. I've eaten worms, raw fish eggs even a scorpion but I won't try this. So I know about the fruitcake but fear keeps me from knowing the fruitcake. But I promise you (and you can quote me on this SLIDE 7), —*"If I take the time to know about God (read the ingredients) and meditate on His Attributes' I will see fantastic changes in my life, character and identity. My fears will melt in His presence and I will be left awestruck."*

Then I can say, I am beginning to know God not merely about Him!

For this reason we have included some space in your bulletin to write notes that I hope you will meditate on daily for a duration The Spirit of God leads you.

Ok here we go...

Attributes of God – The Basis

Jesus revealed the God of the Bible. And God has revealed Himself in His book. Any deviation from that insight from Him is a made-up god. Tozer in *Knowledge of the Holy* finds 18 characteristics of God in the Bible. Today I happily share them with you.

The Bible says to praise God for who He is, especially in prayer. Much of Psalms is a good example of this. Most people concentrate their praise in just a few areas, such as God's love, and then spend the rest of their prayers asking Him for things.

Attributes of God (Characteristics) - GOD IS...

- 1) **(SLIDE 8) The great I Am!** He just is. The scholars call it **Self-existence:** (exodus 3:14) When Moses asked who he was talking to in the burning bush, God said, "I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS." God has no beginning or end. He just exists. Nothing else in all the universe is self-caused. Only God. In fact, if anything else had created Him, **that** thing would be God. This is a difficult concept for our minds since everything else we will ever encounter comes from something other than itself. The Bible says, "In the beginning, God..." He was already there.
 - a) Then I am ... not, or the great am not (this is enough for today. But we get more! Let's continue :)
- 2) **Eternal:** In some ways, this fact about God is similar to His self-existence. God always has been and will forever be, because God dwells in eternity. Time is His creation, He invented it. This is why God can see the end from the beginning, and why He is never surprised by anything. If He were not eternal, God's promise of eternal life for those who follow Jesus would have little value.
- 3) **Immutable:** This simply means that God never changes. It is why the Bible says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Can you say SECURITY?) said, the loner to the alarm system salesman, "I need some security... I'm very insecure." The truth is we are all insecure to some degree and that's why we need an immutable God.
- 4) **(SLIDE 9) Infinite:** God knows no boundaries. He is without measure. This attribute by definition impacts all of the others. Since God is infinite, everything else about Him must also be infinite. God's infinite nature corresponds with what I'll call the big "Os". God is Omniscient, Omnipotent and Omnipresent.
- 5) **(SLIDE 10) Omniscient:** "God possesses perfect knowledge and therefore has no need to learn. God has not the need to learn. Omniscience means all-knowing. God knows everything, and His knowledge is infinite. It is impossible to hide anything from God.
- 6) **Omnipotent:** Literally this word means all-powerful. Since God is infinite and since He possesses power, He possesses infinite power. He does allow His creatures to have some power, but this in no way diminishes His own. "He expends no energy that must be replenished." When the Bible says God rested on the seventh day, it was to set an example for us and our need for rest, not because He was tired.

7) Omnipresent: This theological term means “always present.” Since God is infinite, His being knows no boundaries. So, clearly He is everywhere. This truth is taught throughout the Bible as the phrase “I am with you always” is repeated 22 times in both the Old and New Testaments. These were even Jesus’ words of assurance just after giving the challenge to His disciples to take His message to the entire world. This is certainly a comforting truth for all who follow Jesus.

III. Ps. 139:1-14 AMP O LORD, you have searched me [thoroughly] and have known me.² You know my downsitting and my uprising; You understand my thought afar off. ³ You sift *and* search out my path and my lying down, and You are acquainted with all my ways.⁴ For there is not a word in my tongue [still unuttered], but, behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. ⁵ You have beset me *and* shut me in--behind and before, and You have laid Your hand upon me.⁶ Your [infinite] knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high above me, I cannot reach it.⁷ Where could I go from Your Spirit? Or where could I flee from Your presence?⁸ If I ascend up into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol (the place of the dead), behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,¹⁰ Even there shall Your hand lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.¹¹ If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me and the night shall be [the only] light about me,¹² Even the darkness hides nothing from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You. ¹³ For You did form my inward parts; You did knit me together in my mother’s womb.¹⁴ I will confess *and* praise You *for You are fearful and wonderful and* for the awful wonder of my birth! Wonderful are Your works, and that my inner self knows right well.

8) Infinitely Wise: (SLIDE 11) “Wisdom is the ability to devise perfect ends and to achieve these ends by the most perfect means.” In other words, God makes no mistakes. He is the Father who truly knows best, as Paul explains in Romans 11:33: “Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His ways!”

9) Sovereign: (SLIDE 12) This is “the attribute by which He rules His entire creation.” It is the application of His other attributes of being all-knowing and all-powerful. It makes Him absolutely free to do what He knows to be best. God is in control of everything that happens. Man still has a free will, and is responsible for his choices in life. Isaiah 40:10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and his arm rules for him.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

- 10) Absolutely Holy:** (SLIDE 13) This is the attribute that sets God apart from all other created beings. It refers to His majesty and His perfect moral purity. There is absolutely no sin or evil thought in God at all. His holiness is the definition of that which is pure and righteous in above the entire universe. Wherever God has appeared, such as to Moses at the burning bush, that place becomes holy just for God having been there. [Exodus 3:5](#)
"Do not come any closer," **God** said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing **is holy** ground."
a) Where as God been in your life? Your family, Home...Your heart?
This is HOLY ground.
b) Because God is absolutely Holy, He absolutely deserves my humble adoration, my attention, my worship... my Life.

III. That's My King, Dr. S.M. Lockridge (SLIDE 14&15)

Lest you think we have only been talking about God the Father this whole time; Jn. 8:58

- 11) Revealed in three persons - Trinity:** Though the actual word is not used in the Bible, the truth of God revealing Himself in three persons is included. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all called God, given worship as God, exist eternally, and are involved in doing things only God could do. Although, God reveals Himself in three persons, God is One and cannot be divided. All are involved completely whenever One of the Three is active. (Baptism of Jesus)
- 12) Fiercely Faithful:** Everything that God has promised will come to pass. His faithfulness guarantees this fact. He does not lie. What He has said in the Bible about Himself is true. Jesus even said that He is the Truth. This is extremely important for the followers of Jesus because it is on His faithfulness that our hope of eternal life rests. He will honor His promise that our sins will be forgiven and that we will live forever with Him.
- 13) Agape Love:** Love is such an important part of God's character that the apostle John wrote, "God is love." This means that God holds the well-being of others as His primary concern. For a full definition of love, read [1 Corinthians 13](#). To see love in action, study the life of [Jesus](#). His sacrifice on the cross for the sins of others is the ultimate act of love. God's love is not a love of emotion but of action. His love

gives freely to the object of its affection, those who choose to follow His son Jesus.

14) Self-sufficient: The Bible says that God has life in Himself (see [John 5:26](#)). All other life in the universe is a gift from God. He has no needs and there is no way He can improve. To God, nothing else is necessary. He does not need our help with anything, but because of His grace and love, He allows us to be a part of advancing His plan on earth and being a blessing to others. We are the ones who change, but never God. He is self-sufficient.

15) Just: The Bible says that God is just, but it is His character that defines what being just really is. He does not conform to some outside criteria. He doesn't bend to others standards or rationalize truth. He doesn't just set the standard He is the standard. Being just brings moral equity to everyone. When there are evil acts, justice demands there be a penalty. Since God is perfect and has never done evil, no penalty would ever be necessary; however, because of His love, God paid the penalty for our evil deeds by going to the cross Himself. His justice needed to be satisfied, but He took care of it for all who will believe in Jesus.

Ill. My son Matthew asked me the other day, "Teacher said I was bought by God, How much did he pay for me?"

"Son, you were more costly than anything in the world. You cost Jesus."

16) Merciful: "Mercy is the attribute of God which disposes Him to be actively compassionate." Since God's justice is satisfied in Jesus, He is free to show mercy to all those who have chosen to follow Him. It will never end since it is a part of God's nature. Mercy is the way He desires to relate to mankind, and He does so unless the person chooses to despise or ignore God at which time His justice becomes the prominent attribute.

17) Good: "The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men." This attribute of God is why He bestows all the blessing He does on His followers. God's actions define what goodness is, and we can easily see it in the way Jesus related to the people around Him.

18) Gracious: God enjoys giving great gifts to those who love Him, even when they do not deserve it. Grace is the way we describe that inclination. Jesus Christ is the channel through which His grace moves. The Bible says, "The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

Attributes of God – The Conclusion

This is the description of the God of the Bible. All other ideas about God are, according to the Bible, false gods. They are from the imagination of mankind. By learning the attributes of God, you may praise God for who He really is and experience joy in knowing Him.

Joy Beyond Imagination

Ill. Roberts rendition of “That’s My King”- “That’s my Jesus” Just as men confuse the attributes and character of God with something that is not Biblical so mankind has blurred the character of Jesus. Jesus is not an angel, Satans brother, just a good man nor a prophet. May I share with you the Biblical Jesus who continues to love my in spite of my wrongdoing?

My Jesus is...