

Knowing God

Exodus 33:12-23

A. The Greatest Pursuit

1. People spend their lives pursuing many things -success, security, fame etc.
2. Scripture reminds us that the greatest pursuit is not something we achieve.
3. Rather, it is someone we know.
4. Php 3:10, *"I want to know Christ."* has always been the cry of God's people.
5. Exodus 33 places us at a critical moment in Israel's history.
6. The golden calf had just been formed, & the nation had sinned greatly.
7. God said He would send an angel before them, but wouldn't go personally.
8. For Moses, that was unacceptable, as he knew what many still need to learn.
9. **God's presence is more valuable than God's promises.**

B. Knowing God Begins With Relationship (vv. 12–13)

1. Moses says: *"I know you by name... Teach me your ways so I may know you."*
2. Notice the language—this is not distant religion, but a personal relationship.
3. Something is always missing in life until we know Him.
 - a. **No God — no peace** (Isaiah 57:21)
 - b. **Know God — know peace** (John 14:27)

C. Knowing God Is the Heart's Greatest Desire

1. Knowing God surpassed every other desire of Moses
2. God desires to be known.
3. From the Garden of Eden onward, God has always moved toward humanity.
 - a. He walked with Adam.
 - b. He spoke with Abraham.
 - c. He wrestled with Jacob.
 - d. He called Moses His friend.
4. Christianity is not primarily about rules—it is about relationship.
5. Many people know facts about God but do not truly know Him.
6. Moses wanted more than information—he wanted revelation.
7. What is the supreme desire of your heart?

D. How Can We Know God?

1. Knowing God requires learning his ways
2. *"Teach me your ways..."*
3. We cannot know God while resisting His leadership.
4. Knowing God involves: obedience, surrender, humility, time in His presence.
5. You do not drift into intimacy with God. You pursue it.
6. **The deeper your obedience, the deeper your knowledge of Him.**

E. Knowing God Means Desiring His Presence Above All (vv. 14–15)

1. God responds: *"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*
2. But Moses presses further: essentially saying:
3. **"God, if You aren't going, neither am I."**

F. God's Presence Is What Makes Us Different

1. Moses asks, "What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"
2. The answer: **Nothing but God's presence.**
3. It is not, talent, programs, resources, charisma, or innovation,
4. The church is powerful because **God is with her.**
5. Remove God's presence, and we are just another organization.
6. God's presence is better than progress or promises.
7. But Moses knew success without God is failure.
8. Many today want what God can give but not God Himself - His presence.
9. **The greatest blessing is not what is in God's hand—but God Himself.**

G. Knowing God Produces Holy Boldness (vv. 17–18)

1. Moses pleaded with God that He would be with the people as they went.
2. Moses makes one of the boldest requests in Scripture: "*show me Your glory.*"
3. Moses had already seen many miracles (burning bush, plagues, parting the Red Sea, thunder on Sinai, God's power) yet still says, "**Show me more.**"
4. Those who know God want to know him more
5. Spiritual complacency is a sign we have settled for too little of God.
6. God does not rebuke Moses for asking, instead, He responds with grace.
7. Many believers pray safe prayers because they fear asking too much.
8. You will never offend God by desiring more of Him.

H. Knowing God Requires Reverence for His Holiness (vv. 19–23)

1. God agrees to reveal His glory—but with boundaries.
2. He only allows him to see a glimpse of His passing glory.
3. Our modern culture tries to shrink God into something manageable.
4. But the God of Scripture is overwhelming in majesty.
5. We approach Him with confidence—but also with reverence.
6. Notice—God equates His glory with His **goodness.**
7. The ultimate display of that goodness would come centuries later...
8. When humanity could not look upon God and live- in human form – Jesus.

I. Conclusion: What Is Your Greatest Desire?

1. Moses didn't ask for easier leadership, stronger armies, or personal comfort.
2. He asked to **know God, & to walk with Him.**
3. Because you can attend church and still miss His presence.
4. You can serve faithfully & lack intimacy, believe, & not truly know Him.
5. And that raises a searching question for us:
6. **What are you pursuing most?**
7. Today God still invites us closer, into deep relationship, to know Him better?
8. May our prayer become:
9. **"Lord, if Your presence does not go with me, I do not want to go."**
10. **"Show me Your glory."**