

Can I Know God Personally?

Proverbs 2:1-5

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Pastor Gary Hollinger

Everyone is invited to have a personal relationship with God but it will be both the easiest and most difficult thing you will ever do.

I. You must come to treasure the Word of God. (v. 1)

My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes. (Psalms 19:7-8)

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

“There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.” (John 12:48-50)

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. (1 John 3:23)

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. (James 1:21)

II. You must listen to it and accept what He says to you. (v. 2)

turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—

For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. (1 Corinthians 1:19-21)

To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the Lord is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it. (Jeremiah 6:10)

“Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people. (Ezekiel 12:2)

Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” (Mark 4:9)

The fool says in his heart,
“There is no God.”
They are corrupt, and their ways are vile;
there is no one who does good.
God looks down from heaven on all mankind
to see if there are any who understand,
any who seek God.
Everyone has turned away, all have become corrupt;
there is no one who does good,
not even one. (Psalms 53:1-3)

For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’ (Matthew 13:15)

Ears that hear and eyes that see— the Lord has made them both. (Proverbs 20:12)

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (James 1:22)

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. (James 2:19)

III. You must admit that you need His assistance in this process. (v. 3)

indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives... (Colossians 1:9)

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26)

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: (John 16:8)

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. (John 16:13a)

Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

“Lord, who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

“He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts,
so they can neither see with their eyes,
nor understand with their hearts,
nor turn—and I would heal them.”

Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him. (John 12:37-41)

Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me; LORD, be my help.” (Psalms 30:10)

IV. You must come to prize this knowledge most highly. (v. 4)

and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,

The words of the LORD are flawless,
like silver purified in a crucible,
like gold refined seven times. (Psalms 12:6)

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men. (Acts 17:11-12)

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3)

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:2-3)

V. For it will teach you how to have a right and real relationship with God. (v. 5)

then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.

1) The Bible reveals that God is holy and righteous.

But the Lord Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts. (Isaiah 5:16)

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. (Romans 2:5)

2) The Bible reveals that we are all rebellious and sinful.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... (Romans 3:23)

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)

For the wages of sin is death, (Romans 6:23a)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins... Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. (Ephesians 2:1, 3b)

3) The Bible reveals that God is loving and merciful.

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 2:4-5)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23a)

4) The Bible reveals that we are incapable of earning our salvation.

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

5) The Bible reveals that God must radically transform us so that we can be saved.

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” (John 3:3)

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)

6) The Bible reveals that we must believe and receive God’s gift in order to become His child.

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. (John 1:12-13)

7) The Bible reveals this free gift may cost one dearly, but is more than worth it.

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted (2 Timothy 3:12)

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.” (Luke 18:29-30)