

HOW WE BENEFIT FROM GOD'S WORD

1. We know God through His Word

One of the most vital teachings of Scripture is that **God can be known**. The highest knowledge to which men and women can attain is a personal knowledge of God.

(Jeremiah 9:24) *But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me; that I am the LORD, which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.*

A. People do not naturally possess this knowledge

(Romans 3: 10-11). *10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one: 11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

B. Even though they know that He exists

(Psalm 14: 1) *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*

(Romans 1: 19-20) *19) Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. 20) For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

Knowing God exists is not the same as knowing God personally, just as knowing about the President does not mean that you necessarily know him personally. This knowledge of God is crucial, however, since to know god personally is to be saved, and have eternal life.

(John 17:3) *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

People should rejoice in the fact that God earnestly wants them to attain this knowledge. That is why He has spoken to us in His Word, revealing Himself, and disclosing the means by which we may know Him.

While God surely can be known, **there is always more to be learned about Him**. There are many Scriptures which teach that our knowledge of God is partial. It is said to be "too wonderful" (Psalm 139:6) "unsearchable" (Psalm 145:3 and Romans 11:33) and "infinite" (Psalm 147:5).

Since our knowledge of God is incomplete, we must increase it through spiritual growth. Paul, for example, prays to know God better (Phil. 3:10). We are even commanded to grow in the knowledge of Christ (II Peter 3:18). The development of one's intimate knowledge of God constitutes one of the greatest delights of the Christian life.

C. God cannot be known personally apart from His word.

It contains the gospel which must be believed (Ephesians 1: 13), and the gospel brings forth saving faith in itself (Romans 10: 17). The gospel can therefore be called "the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1: 16). The part that the Scriptures and the gospel contained with them play in bringing men to God is described in three important illustrations:

1. The gospel is the agent of the **new birth** (James 1: 18) that is, it is like the implanted seed without which the conception of new life cannot occur;
2. The gospel is also a **cleansing agent** through which God gives the believing sinner a spiritual bath that results in salvation (Ephesians 5 :26).
3. The Scriptures are like an **educator** bringing the wisdom that leads to salvation. (II Timothy 3: 15).

2. We Know God's Will Through His word.

Knowing the will of God must not be thought of merely as finding a certain vocation in life. That aspect represents only a small part of God's will. Rather, the will of God is for everyone to live in conformity to His revealed will in His word.

- A. First of all, and most important, the will of God means believing in Christ.

(John 6:40) And this is the will of him that sent me that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

If we do not take this first step in doing God's will, we will not be saved from judgment (Matt, 7:21; 12:50)

7:21. *“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will army Father which is in heaven.”*

12:50 *“For whosoever shall do the will army Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother, “*

If we do this first step, we will live forever (1 John 2:17)

B. Second, there are clear statements of Scripture which teach that God's will for every Christian include:

1. **sanctification**

(to set apart to a sacred purpose or to religious use: consecrate; to free from sin; purify; to impart or impute sacredness, inviolability, or respect to; to give moral or social sanction to)

(1 Thess. 4:3) *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

2. **Giving thanks to God** (1 Thess. 5:18) *In everything thing give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

3. **Doing good.** (1 Peter 2: 15) *For so is the will of God, that with welldoing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.*

4. **Suffering for doing the right thing.** (1 Peter 3: 1 7) *For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.*

C. Thirdly, the Bible is God's will and must be applied to our lives (Deut. 29:29) This fact involves commands to be obeyed, principles to be followed, prohibitions of things to be avoided and living examples to be imitated or shunned.

D. An attitude of delight and

E.

F.

- G. desire should fill all attempts to do God's will (Psalm 40:8) God takes great joy in those who cheerfully do his will. Although the bible is a complete revelation of God's will, there are always decisions we must make that are not covered by specific statements of scripture.

In order to know God's will in such instances we must:

1. be in fellowship with the Lord (1 John 1 :6,7),
2. seek principles from the Word (1 Cor. 10:6),
3. obtain advice from godly counselors (Prov. 11: 14), 15 :22; 24:6),
4. use common sense,
5. and remember that God works through our own minds and desires to do His will. (Phil. 2: 13).

When none of these principles seem to work, we must simply make the best possible decision, realizing that God will shut the door if it is not His will.

Paul, for example, planned to go and see the Roman Christians although not knowing if god would actually permit it in His will (*Romans 15:22-32*). In most cases, however, the believer who thoroughly searches the Word will find the basis for an intelligent spirit led decision.