

Getting To Know God Personally



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IS IT POSSIBLE TO KNOW GOD?

Is it possible for a man to know God? Is this a realistically achievable goal or is it a belief only shared by 'religious fanatics' and 'spiritual gurus'? Some would say they know God, others that it is merely a fanciful pursuit. Some speak God's name but their heart is far from Him, while others continue to quietly persist in showing God's love to the people they meet through their actions. Is there only one way to know God or do all paths lead to the same destination? These questions are valid and deserve to be answered, read below for more....

After writing recently on the title "Impressions Of Heaven" I have decided to take the heavenly theme one step further, and to introduce you to some concepts that may assist you in knowing God personally. Ultimately it will come down to a personal choice and decision as to whether or not you get to know God personally. If you are adamant that God can NOT be known then there is a very good chance that you won't meet Him, at least not while you are alive. But if you open up your heart to the POSSIBILITY that God can be known, then you have taken an important step forward to achieving that goal. Christian parenting is enabled by each member of the family having a willingness to accept the wisdom and authority found in parenting from the Bible.

Please consider the following reasons from scripture why God may be known:

Seeing God through His creation

(Romans 1:18-21) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

You already have a knowledge of God

The knowledge of God's reality is hard-wired into every human being, when we are born on this earth we arrive with the knowledge that we are a created being and we owe our lives to our Creator. This is both a wonderful encouragement and an awesome responsibility because we have to get through our lifetime both protecting that knowledge and fulfilling the destiny we have been given to achieve.

(John 1:9) That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world

You have already seen God at some level

God is clearly seen through the things that He has made. The divine order that holds our world in place is proof of His creative hand. Every day the sun comes up and goes down, every day the tides come in and go out again, gravity holds everything down on the earth so it doesn't fly away into space, clouds form that they may release life-giving water upon the earth, millions of different creatures flow together as part of a complex biological system of life. If we only took the time to ask Him to show us the truth of His reality we may begin to see His Hand in much of our daily life.

(Matthew 5:45) for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

You have already understood about God

The understanding of God's ways is perceived by the heart and not merely by the mind. Man however then has the responsibility to continue in that understanding and not allow it to be pushed out of our mind because of our propensity to live independently from God. If we allow this to happen then we will start to justify our actions through mentally discounting God's reality and the certainty of our lives and actions being judged by Him. The end result of this process is often a complete mental denial of God's existence, when man's thoughts become futile and hearts become darkened from the truth that surrounds them everywhere.

(Luke 10:16) He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."

You have a choice to make

We see from these scriptures that evidence for God's reality surrounds us everyday and yet many in the world continue to miss out on actually getting to know Him personally. For many it is because they refuse to open their hearts to even the possibility of His existence, and because God is a gentleman and will not force Himself upon anyone He allows them to exercise the free will that He gave them even if it is used to reject Him.

(Hebrews 11:6) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

God's ultimate revelation of Himself

If the hints that we find within creation and within our own hearts are pointers toward God's reality and the fact that He can be known, then the life of His Son Jesus Christ is the undeniable proof of His existence. Jesus came to earth and worked incredible miracles and spoke with amazing wisdom revealing God's purposes and plans for us. But all His lifetime achievements were over-shadowed by His resurrection from the dead after He allowed Himself to be crucified for the sins of all mankind. Jesus laid down His own life for us that we might find new life in Him as our saviour.

(John 14:9) Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

My main aim today is to open your mind to the possibility that maybe God is closer to you than you think. I encourage you to consider that the greatness of God's love as revealed through His Son is worthy to be trusted. Can God be known and is Jesus Christ the only way to achieve that goal of truly finding Him?

In my experience after many years of seeking truth in many different ways I have found that meeting Jesus Christ personally was the fulfillment of my greatest dreams and hopes, and knowing Him more each day is my motivation and passion. It is for this reason that I share my faith with you my readers that you also may share in the joy of knowing God personally.

(John 14:6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

THE POWER OF BELIEF

Henry Ford the famous inventor and maker of the Model T Ford stated " Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right!". What we believe is shaping our life today and will ultimately affect our tomorrow. Belief is often instigated in the realms of the mind and imagination although these are merely the pathways that release a very powerful tool into our individual lives.

Each of us has a picture of ourselves locked deep inside us, and we live and act out of that picture of who we believe we are, as Henry Ford said "if you believe you can, you're right!" If you have a strong self belief that you are able to overcome any challenge that comes your way in life then you will find that the strength required to do that will become available to you, but if you believe that you are weak and useless then you will live out of that image and fail in life. 'As a man thinks in his heart, so is he' is a scripture often used in describing the power of self-image.

Often what we believe about ourselves is shaped by those things we have experienced in life and the words that people have spoken over us. If you grew up in a family where you were abused or belittled constantly by your parents or other family members then your self-image will have been imprinted with at least some of that image, and you may struggle to live a life other than that you have known. But if you grew up in a home of loving support and encouragement where you were told that you could do anything and be anything you wanted in life, then you have a far greater opportunity to achieve highly in your life, for you also will live out of your self-image.

The good news is that we are all able to change the picture that we have of ourselves and by doing that we are able to change our destiny in life. By the correct use of imagination we can begin to re-program those things we believe about ourselves, and by changing the picture we change our future. Filling our mind with positive and encouraging thoughts daily goes a long way toward bringing about a change in our self-image. But there is an even more powerful way to alter our self-image that is not merely relying upon the self-discipline of imagination.

The words that others speak over our life have a deep and abiding impact upon us, they often seem to carry a credibility and weight beyond that which we can build ourselves. The most powerful element of belief is based not merely upon what we believe about ourselves and the world, but who we believe in. The negative words that have been spoken over us in life by imperfect men are most easily dispelled when they are replaced by far more powerful words spoken by the only perfect being, God.

The life and encouragement that is to be found in daily reading of the scriptures in the Bible imprints powerfully upon our self-image and imparts wisdom and hope to a believing heart. Jesus Christ once spoke these wonderful words and changed a man's life forever "If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes!" Fathers have a wonderful opportunity to build a strong and positive future for their children by passing on the wisdom and hope they receive in reading many of the parenting bible verses. By constantly speaking words of encouragement and faith over our child we will enable them to succeed in life by building resilience and a respect and love for God.

A LIFE OF REPENTANCE

One of the topics I don't hear much of these days around many church circles, is the word 'repentance'. Many 'modern' or 'contemporary' churches no longer use this scriptural word, in the fear that it might offend someone, or stop them coming forward on an altar call for those wanting to receive Jesus Christ. As a strategic thinker and Christian parent I find this method of presenting the gospel disturbing.

Although I appreciate that the gospel needs to be preached in different ways to reach different people, yet I am left with a sense of foreboding as to the spiritual state of these 'converts'. It seems that often these days the gospel is presented more like 'joining a club' than laying your own life down and following Jesus.

The foundation of any building will ultimately effect whether it stands or falls in the years ahead. If the foundation is laid well and all the correct procedures are followed, the building will be strong and stable, and able to withstand the pressures that will naturally come against it. But if the builder 'cuts corners' or 'takes the easy way out', there is little doubt that a disaster will eventually occur.

When I was converted to Christianity many years ago now, those witnessing to me were wise enough and trusted God enough, to let the Holy Spirit have 'His' way in my life. They simply preached the uncompromising 'Word of God' and prayed a lot for a lost soul, that desperately needed saving. They made sure they told me the parable of the man who set out to build a house, got half way through and could not finish, as they wanted me to 'count the cost' of following Christ.

Jesus also spoke of the danger of those 'hearing the word' without having their heart prepared to receive it, that they are like seeds that fall on stony ground, they endure for a time, but then when difficulties arise they lose their faith.

One of the main problems I perceive with the 'soft' approach of preaching the gospel is that those who have been only partly challenged with the requirements of living for Jesus and then fall away, think they have 'already heard it all' and are then twice as hard to convert the second time. I believe we are not doing these people any favours by withholding vital information from them.

We need to allow them to soberly face the prerequisites that Jesus spoke of, so they have every opportunity of laying a solid foundation for their own Christian walk.

Both Jesus Christ and John The Baptist began their ministry saying the same thing, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". Repentance is a crucial foundation stone in every Christian believer's life, and without it Christianity is just a religion, and not an intimate relationship with our creator.

But what then is Repentance?

To repent is to acknowledge that the way you were going was wrong and to choose to turn around and follow Jesus Christ and His teachings, forsaking your old worldly ways.

Repentance is a daily lifestyle for those desiring to walk close to God. Repentance makes the room in our hearts, for the Holy Spirit to come and fill daily. The foundation for each days living is "repentance from dead works" and "faith toward God".

Suggested Scriptures

(Luke 14 v 27) And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it" lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

(Matthew 4 v 17) From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

(Matthew 3 v 1-12) In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'" Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father;" For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

(Matthew 13 v 3-9) Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

(Matthew 13 v 20-21) But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

(Hebrews 6 v 1-2) Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

THE ELEMENT OF FAITH

To build a strong family unit we must first lay a firm foundation, to ensure that it can stand the test of time and survive through the difficulties that life inevitably brings. Many modern parenting styles are flawed, as they are more focused upon ensuring the children freedom to do whatever they want without interference rather than offering guidance and direction.

I believe this is one of the reasons why many young people lack vision and hope in their lives and often act out of frustration and anger. God did not create us then just leave us to work out the meaning of life ourselves. He has clearly laid down a path for us to travel. This path is available freely for all and is based on the truth that is found in the Holy Bible.

Jesus told a story of 2 men who were builders, one chose to build his house on sand, while the other chose to build his house on rock. When the adversities of life began to beat upon those houses, only the house that was built on the rock was able to stand.

Jesus went on to teach that hearing God's word and doing it was like building your house on the rock, it has a strength that accompanies it, a strength that can make your house stand. The strength that we draw upon is God's unfailing love and faithfulness in fulfilling the promises in 'His' Word, The Bible.

For those who have made a Christian commitment and entered God's family, all the promises of God are available to access. These promises must be drawn upon by using the elements of faith, trust, and patience.

Faith is the ability to honestly see/perceive and believe things that are invisible to the naked eye. It is an ability that we all have, but like most things in life starts in seed form and must grow to fruition.

Many of us start with a dream in life, a goal, or an aim, that we want to achieve as a man. If we keep that dream or goal alive within us, and do not let the fire be snuffed out by circumstances, then we will draw the fulfilment of that dream to ourselves. This is the element of faith working in us. If we can grasp the element of faith, then to us nothing shall be impossible.

Dads' Call to Action:

Read the Bible daily to find out what the promises of God are for you and your family. Once you have found a promise in the scriptures, spend time meditating or pondering that promise, and allow it to begin to grow inside you. Be patient and continue to believe that promise even if circumstances may seem to be contrary, and in time you will see a fulfilment of the promise.

(Hebrews 11 v 6) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

(Matthew 7 v 24-27) "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

GOD'S HEART

All that we do upon this earth, especially those things that relate to our role as a parent and father, should be a reflection of what our 'Heavenly Father' does in heaven. It is comforting to know that we are not limited to merely our own natural wisdom when it comes to raising children, but have access to the divine wisdom of God in the Bible.

When Jesus was walking the earth, He came with a tremendous revelation about God, which completely changed the way mankind should see God. Before Jesus Christ came God was seen as a 'Lawgiver and Judge', and people responded accordingly by attempting to keep all the rules and regulations given. Unfortunately, man in his natural state was never able to keep the Law of God and was ultimately destined for failure in his attempts.

God allowed men to try and graciously overlooked their failings, as He was really teaching them an important and life changing lesson. The lesson was that man must 'live by faith in God' and not by a religious observance of rites or religious rules. In this revelation Christianity was to stand separately from the religious world, as it revealed that true biblical Christianity was not merely another religion, but a very real personal relationship with God.

When Jesus Christ taught us that God was 'our Father in Heaven', and loved us dearly as His children, the religious world was turned on its head. Jesus revealed that God was not some lifeless idol or mythical representation made up by man, but that He was 'the living God' who hears prayer and answers. He showed us that God is aware of even our smallest need, and desires for all men to come to Him believing in His care and provision.

We as fathers on the earth develop 'The Fathers' Heart' through getting to know Him more, and by allowing His 'Holy Spirit' access in our hearts to transform us each day more and more into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was the physical representation of God on this earth, and it is through Him that we have access to all the wisdom and mercy of Heaven.

There are many times in life and in our interpersonal relationships when we will need to draw upon the wisdom of God, which can be found in the scriptures of the Bible, and they are a sure and steady foundation to build our lives upon. But a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ opens the wonderful possibility of being able to receive answers in prayer and being able to hear from God Himself, as to how to apply those scriptures in our particular circumstances.

The closer we can get to 'Our Heavenly Father' the more wisdom and grace we will have to overcome every obstacle we face in life, and ultimately a wonderful entrance into heaven for ourselves and all whom we are able to lead there.

Dads' Call to Action:

Begin to read the Bible daily and to seek 'Him' who wrote it for us. Ask for 'His' wisdom and love to flow into your heart.

(James 1 v 5-8) If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The Ministry Of Dads' UNI

Dads' UNI is an Online Ministry based in Australia and is focused on providing simple biblical teaching to assist young men in Growing Families God's Way.

All Dads' UNI resources are provided free of charge, and we encourage those who enjoy our teachings to share them freely among family and friends.

Dads' UNI can be found online in the following locations:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Dadsuni/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dadsuni/>

You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV1vuth1FMmKxiJw_xQZpQg

Website: <https://www.dadsuni.com/>

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We would also like to thank the Photographer for our wonderful Cover Photo

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