

How can I know God?

Deep in each of our hearts, there is something that stirs which points us to the spiritual side of life. We live in a broken world, and it doesn't take long to realize life isn't what it should be. A historical Christian leader once said, "We will not be at rest until we find our rest in God." But how do we come to know God, the living God, the true God, the great I AM, our Creator? Where do we start?

Down through history, God has taken the initiative to reveal Himself to us. He then carefully guided those who had come to know Him to record the events of their lives. But the clearest way that God has made Himself known to us is when He sent His One and only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world 2000 years ago... "No one has ever seen God at any time; His only unique Son, the Lord Jesus, who has always been in the intimate presence of the Father, took on human form in order to make God known to us, so we could see exactly what God is like. To know the Lord Jesus is to know God." (Paraphrase of John 1:18 & John 14:9).

God ensured that all these events and the life of Christ would be written down for us and put into the Bible that we have today – over 2500 years of history recorded by more than 40 eyewitnesses. If you want to know God, or want to find out more about Him, let me encourage you to begin reading the Bible, asking God to reveal Himself to you as you read, as He did to the people you read about on its pages.

There are over 60 books in the Bible. They are laid out in shelves like a library. I've given you an ordered list on the next page of where I would recommend that you begin reading. Two suggestions: First, think about and focus on what you do understand as you read. Don't worry about what you don't understand at first...that will come later. Secondly, if you come across long genealogies or lists of some kind, skip or skim over them quickly at first...those, too, will fall into place later.

From experience, I would suggest asking four questions as you read:

1. What does this passage reveal to me about God?
2. What does this passage reveal to me about myself?
3. What does this passage reveal to me about how I should live?
4. What insights from this passage could I pass on to someone else?

Knowing God personally has been the greatest adventure of my life. I am experiencing day-by-day what one writer said in the Bible... "For in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) the whole fullness of deity (God) dwells bodily, and you have come to *fullness of life* in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority." (Colossians 2:9-10) May you come to experience the joy of intimately knowing God, our Creator and Sustainer and Savior, the One who loves us deeply and wants to share all of who He is with us for all eternity. For more resources to help in your desire to know God, go to my resource website at ***CreatedAndLoved.com***.

Denny Williams

Recommended reading list (read in order)

Use the table of contents in the front of the Bible to find the books

John – New Testament — Biography of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Genesis – Old Testament — Story of creation, including God creating a people through whom He would bless the world.

Luke – New Testament — Biography of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1st John – In the back of the New Testament — Understanding what God has done for us.

Philippians – New Testament — Understanding what God has done for us.

Mark – New Testament — Biography of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians – New Testament — Understanding what God has done for us.

James – New Testament — What faith in God is like in real life.

Colossians – New Testament — Understanding what God has done for us.

Matthew – New Testament — Biography of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms – Old Testament — Writings of David, someone known as “a man after God’s own heart”.

1st Peter – New Testament — What faith in God is like in real life.

Acts – New Testament — History of those who knew the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians – New Testament — Understanding what God has done for us.

Romans – New Testament — Understanding what God has done for us.

Hebrews – New Testament — Understanding what God did through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Exodus – Old Testament — Story of God saving His people.

Note...At first, read chapters 1-20 in Exodus and skip or skim chapters 21-40 which contain a very detailed account of how God wanted his tabernacle built.

Proverbs – Old Testament — Wisdom for life.

Rest of New Testament – One book at a time, reading those books you haven’t read so far.

Rest of the Old Testament – One book at a time from Joshua through Malachi, then come back and read Deuteronomy. **Note...**The first time you read the Bible, skip the books of Leviticus and Numbers in the front half of the Old Testament. You can skim them if you want, but they have a lot of detail as to God’s laws and commandments and the sacrificial instructions for the priests, to which you can come back later.