

God Wants to be Known - Ron Stullenbarger -

The single greatest privilege in life is to know God. The God, who formed you, provides for you and sent His Son to die for you longs to have real relationship with you. He longs to be known by you. And through the powerful sacrifice of Jesus, we truly can know Him like any other person. And in fact, in some respects He is infinitely more knowable than any other person. Jeremiah 31:33-34 says, *"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

"From the least of them to the greatest," says the living God. No matter who you are, no matter what you've done, you can know the God of love. Knowing God is no longer reserved for those individually appointed as His leaders. Knowing God is no longer reserved for those like David, Isaiah, Peter, or the "clergy." All of us have equal access to the living God.

And from the place of knowing God, we are granted the ability to experience His incredible attributes and be blessed by a greater awareness of our union with Him. When we seek to know God, the Bible is clear that we begin to experience His love (Romans 5:5), hear His voice (John 10:27), and feel His peace (2 Thessalonians 3:16). We can partner in His purposes (1 Peter 2:9), experience His freedom (Romans 6:4), and rest in His presence (Psalm 16:11).

When we center our lives on knowing God, we gain experience with Him like we do any other person. I don't seek to hear my wife's voice, rather I seek to know her and have conversation with her as a byproduct of that. I don't seek just the emotion of love from my wife; rather, in getting to know her and walking in relationship with her, I experience her affections for me. So it is with God. When we simply seek to know Him we gain experience in return.

I pray that as we look at the individual aspects of experiencing God your heart is stirred to simply seek deeper relationship with your heavenly Father, whatever may come as the result. Your Father loves you enough to pay the ultimate price to have relationship with you. Seek Him and discover the wealth of His affections for you.