



Knowing God | Colossians 1:9-12
Pastor Warren Mainard | September 20, 2015

Sermon Notes

1. Knowing God reveals the _____ of His will. (v. 9-10)

2. Knowing God reveals the _____ of His power. (v.11-12)

Journey Group Questions

1. In his classic text, *Knowing God*, J. I. Packer makes the following two claims about knowing God: a) One can know a great deal about God without much knowledge of him; b) One can know a great deal about godliness without much knowledge of God. How can this happen in a Christian's life?

2. Further in his work, Packer identifies four principles for knowing God: a) listening to God's Word and receiving it as the Holy Spirit interprets it, in application to oneself; b) noting God's nature and character, as his Word and works reveal it; c) accepting his invitations and doing what he commands; d) recognizing and rejoicing in the love that he has shown in thus approaching you and drawing you into this divine fellowship. How can we cultivate these principles into our own lives?

3. Now, read Colossians 1:9-11 and look at the following chart. In his prayer, Paul teaches us that knowing God produces these specific, lifestyle evidences. Considering Packer's teaching, why is knowing God and His will foundational for authentic discipleship?

Knowing God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding



Walking in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him



Bearing fruit in every good work



Increasing in the knowledge of God

4. Paul's prayer also reveals that we are powerless to know and obey God apart from the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit indwells all believers for the purpose of empowering us to know God. Read Colossians 1:11-12. Here, Paul teaches that the Holy Spirit equips us with the power we need to live with endurance, patience, joy, and thanksgiving. Why are these attitudes necessary for knowing and serving God?