

Developing A Personal Relationship With God

How Do you Know God exists?

Revelation: God must reveal Himself: (man is finite - God is infinite)

General Revelation: God's communication of Himself to **all persons at all times** and in **all places** (knowledge about God)

1. **Nature:** God left evidence of himself in the world he created (Ps. 19:1, Rom. 1:20)
2. **History:** God moving course of history, controlling destiny of nations, ie preservation of Israel (Job 12:23, Ps. 47:7-8, 66:7, Isa. 10:5-13, Dan. 2:21, Ac. 17:26)
3. **Constitution of humanity:** less physical/mental, more moral/spiritual capacity Rom. 2:11-16. In all cultures, at all times and places humans believed in the existence of a higher reality than themselves and even something higher than human race collectively.

How do you know God Desires to have a relationship with you?

Specific Revelation: God's manifestation of himself to particular persons at specific times and places, enabling those persons to enter into a redemptive relationship with him. The object was relational Why? (Knowledge of God)

1. **Sin:** Humans lost the relationship of favor after the fall. We needed to come to know God in a fuller way.
2. **Limitations:** finiteness and moral limitations. Insufficient to simply know of God's existence; and something of what he is like.
3. **Personal:** Name (Ex. 3:14), Covenants w/individuals (Noah/Abraham/Israel), Phil. 3:10, Dreams: Daniel, Speech-Adam/Eve, Gen 3:9-10, Prophets (Jer. 18:1, Ez. 12:1, 8,17,21,26, Hos. 1:1, Joel 1:1, Amos 3:1 Jesus Heb. 1:1-2, Incarnation of Christ, and Scripture. All scripture is personal in nature.

Scriptures

Psalms 24:1

The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

Psalms 33:8

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

Psalms 49:1

Hear this, all peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

Isaiah 13:11

"I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

John 3:16-17

16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 4:42

Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

John 6:33

"For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

John 6:51

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

John 8:26

"I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him."

John 9:5

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

John 12:47

"And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

John 14:19-20

19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

20 "At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 14:31

"But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

John 17:1-26

- 1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,
- 2 "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.
- 3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
- 4 "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.
- 5 "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
- 6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.
- 7 "Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.
- 8 "For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.
- 9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.
- 10 "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.
- 11 "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.
- 12 "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.
- 13 "But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.
- 14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
- 15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.
- 16 "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
- 17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
- 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.
- 19 "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.
- 20 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;
- 21 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.
- 22 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just

as We are one:

- 23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.
- 24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.
- 25 "O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.
- 26 "And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

2 Corinthians 5:19

that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Ephesians 1:4

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

YOU

Matthew 5:11-12

- 11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
- 12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:13-14

- 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.
- 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Ephesians 1:4

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

1 Pet 5:7

casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.