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“Get  
wisdom,  
and  
whatever  
you get,  
get  
insight.”

Pro 4.7  
RSV

# A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS NOT ENOUGH

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# **A Knowledge of God Cannot Replace a Close Relationship with God**

We dare not rely solely on our knowledge of Greek or Hebrew or any other exotic language to “rightly divide” the Word of Truth. Our translation of a passage of Scripture may be flawless and our data correct, but what is God trying to say to us through these resources? In our efforts to understand the Bible, knowledge alone can never suffice. No doubt knowledge is very important, nevertheless it is a distant second to an intimate relationship with God. When we commune often and closely with our Lord, He can disclose to us truths that secular knowledge of itself cannot reveal.

Some Greek and Hebrew words have a wide range of possible translations, depending on the context and the circumstances obtaining when the words were delivered. Because of this some passages have as many translations as there are commentators pontificating on them. One fact is clear: It is not humanly possible to be always right on target when translating the huge amount of verses and passages in the Bible. Then, to add to the already considerable difficulties, there remains the matter of interpreting what the various translations (versions) of the Bible have laid before us. And all seem to think their version of the Scriptures is best.

The conclusion is this: Anyone who purports to bring a message from God **MUST** have a close relationship with Him. Without such a relationship, the preacher, teacher or any other person supposedly proclaiming the Word of God will be, at best, a failure, and, at worst, a destructive force.

I admire and greatly respect Bible scholars who not only have a technical knowledge of the Scriptures, but have also acquired a certain spiritual depth that enables them to change their opinions on matters of faith as they acquire a greater knowledge of God and His written Word. Note this: Faulty interpretations by sincere students of the Word do not in any manner change the Bible, which is the unchanging Word of God who declares, “For I am the LORD, I change not...” Mal 3:6. Rather, as the light of the Spirit floods their hearts, their understanding of the Bible changes. They see the words with better understanding.

I have used the following analogy more than once: A brilliant scholar's treatment of a scriptural passage may be perfect and his hermeneutics flawless, but without the Spirit of God breathing on the spoken or written word, the perfection and the flawlessness are nothing worth. The work the scholar has presented is as lifeless as an aesthetically exquisite sculpture. It is beautiful, but devoid of the ability to serve and to worship and to reach out a helping hand to people in need. The beautiful work of art cannot pray for hurting persons; it cannot feel their need. For the proclaimer of the Word of God nothing can substitute for close, intimate communion with his Lord. Nothing in all this world or beyond.

### **Being Amenable to God's Will**

As we draw closer to the Lord, His will becomes the focal point of our existence. If we care about what our earthly friends want, why would we not be fervent in seeking to know God's will and desirous to implement it in our lives? We should be bold, unabashed yes-men for the Lord who made us, watches over us and continually forgives us of our many failings.

At times the Lord will enact His will in my life without my knowing it. But He never does it without my first having prayed that His will might be done in my affairs – even when I may not be aware of a specific part of that will being carried out. God never bowls me over and does what I do not want Him to do. He accedes to my will. That is because I pray often, “Lord, have your way with me even when I don't know at a particular moment that you are leading me.” It should not depend on what I know as long as I am fully yielded to His will.

There is a hymn that says in part,

“Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
The distant scene; one step enough for me.”

In the same way, I do not ask that He always let me see the immediate scene. If He chooses not to let me know what He is doing in any specific time or circumstance, it is all right: I have prayed in faith that He would lead me, and I know He will, whether I am aware of it at

the time or not. What God does with me is only what I want Him to do. He is a gentle giant who never intrudes on my will.

### **One Day We Will Be Perfect Disciples of Christ**

In the final disposition of all things, we will not have to wonder, “Am I doing the right thing – is this God’s will?” Never will we breathe this prayer, “Lord, your will be done.” No. After all the years of praying for the will of God to be done on earth and in heaven, we will finally have burst through our cocoon and emerged into a new life where the divine will has become the normal way of life. We will not have to be careful that we are adhering to God’s purpose for us. Striving for perfection and consciously keeping alert to what God wants will be a thing of the past. We will always, effortlessly be in the flow of the eternal purpose of God. Then, and only then, will we have come to the perfect unity of the faith. Until that time we are brothers and sisters who differ in minor points of theology, but who are nonetheless brothers and sisters in the body of Christ, the Church.

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