

## KNOWING GOD

*A Study of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*

### Lesson Eight

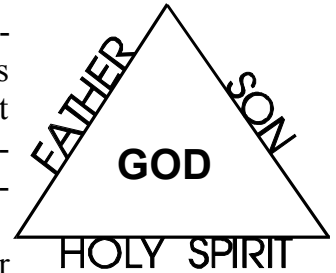
Memory Verse: *Hebrews 10:25*

Lesson Verse: *1 Peter 1:8*

**"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." 1 Peter 1:8**

#### I. Introduction

- A. What an awesome subject: THEOLOGY - *the study of God!* Theology has long been called the queen of the sciences because it is the very foundation of what mankind can know, and it is the limit of what mankind can experience. All other sciences are somewhere in between, and are all relative to how man views and understands God.
- B. This lesson will present a *brief* study of the one true God, in order for the new believer to personally know Who it is who created them, Who hears and answers their prayers, and Who it is that will be the final Judge in the future.



#### II. How Do We Know God?

The Bible says in **John 1:18**, "*No man hath seen God at any time...*" Yet, according to the Bible, God has revealed Himself to mankind in the following **three ways**: In His Creation, in His Word, and by His Son.

##### A. We Find that God Has revealed Himself **In His Creation**.

1. **Psalm 19:1-3**, tells us that God's creation is constantly teaching and instructing every person on this planet that there is a Creator, and that HE is worthy of worship - not that an idol should be worshipped.
2. According to **Romans 1:18-20**, "*That which may be \_\_\_\_\_ of God **is** manifest*" - it is not hidden. We don't know *everything* about God, but what can be known is revealed because, God has made sure that it is shown "clearly" to all people by His "*\_\_\_\_\_ of the world*".
3. **Romans 1:20** concludes that people are "*without \_\_\_\_\_*," because they simply reject the information God gave them to begin with, and come up with their own gods to worship in the place of the Creator!

##### B. Secondly, God has revealed Himself **In His word**. The Bible is our authority for knowing things about God for sure. Every time a prophet preached God's word, they were revealing more about God.

1. The gospel, the preaching of Jesus Christ, and the revelation of the mysteries are all made understood by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the prophets (**Rom 16:25,26**), which have been "*made known to \_\_\_\_\_ nations!*"
2. According to **Deuteronomy 29:29**, there are "*\_\_\_\_\_ things*" that simply belong to \_\_\_\_\_. But the rest is OURS to know so that we may DO them as recorded in "*all the \_\_\_\_\_ of this law.*"

### C. Thirdly, God Revealed Himself **In His Son** (Heb 1:1-3; Jn 14:7-9; Mt 11:27)

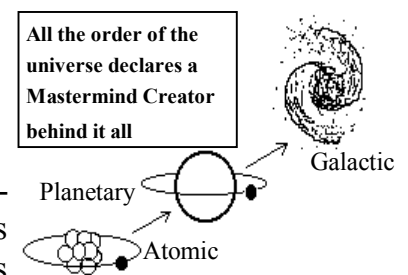
1. The greatest revelation about God was found in Jesus Christ. A person can know all about the Bible, and yet never know its Author. God had revealed Himself in a limited way through His prophets. But finished the job when He came and spoke for Himself (1 Tim 3:16).
2. Jesus came not only to pay for our sin-debt on the cross, but to reveal the **person** of the God who made each of us. Jesus told Philip in John 14:9 that “*he that hath seen me hath seen the \_\_\_\_\_*”

If God had not revealed Himself, man would not be able to know Him. But God *has* demonstrated that He is very interested in man knowing Him intimately! In John 17:3, Jesus says, “*and this is life eternal, that they might know \_\_\_\_\_ the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*”

## III. What Can Be Known About God?

### A. We Can Know that God Exists

1. Psalm 19:1-3 states that all of creation declares that an intelligent Being created everything that there is. There has to have been a Mastermind behind all of this universe! It is *insane* to believe it all came about by mere *chance*!
2. Only a \_\_\_\_\_ believes that there is *no God* (Ps 14:1). Did you ever notice how that every religion has a 'god'? Even *atheism* (the belief that there is no God) - their 'god' is themselves!



### B. We Can Know that God has a Personality and Emotions

1. God *grieves* at sin. (feels remorse, Gen 6:5,6). The Lord is not “numb.”
2. God gets \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kings 11:9), and yet loves (John 3:16). These are two great contrasting emotions - and God possesses them to the fullest!
3. God can \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov 1:26), and even \_\_\_\_\_ (Zephaniah 3:17; Isa 62:5). There are some things that really excite God!
4. Our God is a \_\_\_\_\_ God (Deut 6:14,15). Look at the context - it is dealing with idolatry, and how that He is very jealous of His creation turning a blind eye to His love and work in their lives, and wasting their worship on idols, which really are satanic demons!
5. Therefore, all the emotions that a person experiences, God experiences - only in their purest form, because He is \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 99:9; 1 Pet 1:15,16).

### C. We Know God is *not* Human or Human-like - He is above His Creation

1. He is *Creator* and Sustainer of everything. Without Him we can't exist
  - a. Gen 1:1 says, “*In the beginning God \_\_\_\_\_ the heaven and earth.*” John 1:3 says, “*All things were \_\_\_\_\_ by him and without him was not anything made that was made.*”
  - b. Ephesians 3:9 declares that, “*God ... created all things by \_\_\_\_\_.*”

c. **Colossians 1:17** "And he is before all things, and by him all things \_\_\_\_\_" (are held together)! Jesus is the *glue* of the universe.

2. He is *Eternal*, "from everlasting," and "to everlasting" (**Ps 90:2**)
3. He is all powerful (*omnipotent*, **Matt 28:18**), all knowing (*omniscient*, **Mt 9:3,4**), all present (*omnipresent*, **Ps 139:7-10**), all at the same time!

#### D. God loves His creation - He is the *Author of Love* (**1 John 4:7-8**)

1. Everything that God created, was \_\_\_\_\_ in His sight (**Gen 1:4,10,12,18,21,25,31**).
2. God is not willing that any of His creation \_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Pet 3:9**) – to be lost forever in hell.
3. God showed His love toward us by giving His only \_\_\_\_\_, (**John 3:16**) who Himself took our place so that we could go free to heaven by faith in Him! Now, **that** is real love (**1 John 4:10**).

#### E. God is a *Three Part Being* - Three parts of One; not three different gods!

1. This is the concept of the God-head (Tri-unity, or Trinity). Notice how God said in **Genesis 1:26**, "Let \_\_\_\_\_ make man in \_\_\_\_\_ image, after \_\_\_\_\_ likeness." (Same in **Isa 6:8**). Let's find out who the 'us' is.
  - a. Notice the Trinity in Jesus' baptism (**Matt 3:13-17**).
  - b. Notice the Trinity in the Great Commission of **Matt 28:19**.
  - c. The Trinity is listed in Paul's prayer in **2 Cor 13:14**.
  - d. Jesus, the Father and the Holy Ghost are \_\_\_\_ (**1 John 5:7**).
  - e. All throughout creation, watch for God's triple signature: like the 3 states of water (ice, liquid, and vapour), the 3 dimensions, the 3 states of time (past, present, and future), 3 basic elements of matter (proton, neutron, and electron), man (**1Thes 5:23**), and so on.
2. The Godhead (the Trinity) then is made up of **the Father**, **the Word** (the Son), and **the Holy Ghost** (the Holy Spirit).
3. Let's First Examine **God The Father**
  - a. The Father is the authority of the Trinity. Jesus submitted to the will of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden of Gethsemane (**Mt 26:39**).
  - b. **John 1:18** says, \_\_\_\_\_ man has ever seen God the Father with their mortal eyes. This is because God is a \_\_\_\_\_ (**John 4:24**).
  - c. God is referred to as the Father because He first of all is the Father (the Begetter or Creator) of all things, and secondly because He is the personal Begetter of your salvation - you become His child by faith, and He becomes your Father, or "Abba," (means *Daddy*, **Gal 4:6**; **Mk 14:36**), who loves you and looks out for you as His child!
  - d. God the Father's true name is *Jehovah* (**Ex 6:1-3**) which means "the Lord, the promise keeper." Don't let the Jehovah Witnesses scare you away from that name. It truly IS His name! Every time you see the word LORD as all capital letters, it is the word JEHOVAH!

- e. Another name God goes by is the "I \_\_\_\_" (Ex 3:13-15). Jesus called Himself by this same name (John 8:56-59)!
- f. We are told to "call no man your \_\_\_\_" (Mt 23:8,9) - unless they really ARE your "father" (see Gen 2:24). We do have physical fathers - but only ONE spiritual Father!
- g. To see and know Jesus Christ is to see and know the \_\_\_\_ (John 14:6-9). This is a great mystery (Mt 1:23), but is understood by the fact that Jesus was really God contained in flesh like you and me (1 Tim 3:16).
- h. Amazingly, the great Architect of all creation, the Creator of "you," wants you to personally get to know Him! The greatest purpose in a person's life is to get to know God, start to love God, and always enjoy God as you serve Him in "\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_" (John 4:23).

#### 4. Let's Next Examine God The Son, Jesus Christ

- a. The name 'Je-sus' means, "*Jehovah Saves*" (Mt 1:21). His title "Christ" is the same as "\_\_\_\_" (Jn 1:40,41) the "chosen One". So, *Jesus* was really *Jehovah God* who had come in sinless flesh.
- b. Jesus has always existed. He was in Heaven before coming to earth
  - 1) John 1:1 "*In the beginning \_\_\_\_\_ the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.*" The "Word" is **Jesus**, and the Bible says that He was both *in* the beginning, and *was* God Himself (John 1:14; 8:56-59; 1 John 5:7; Ex 3:13-15).
  - 2) Jesus shared the glory of God His Father "*...before the world \_\_\_\_\_.*" (John 17:5). He was not created- He was *Creator*!
  - 3) How many things were created by Jesus (John 1:3)? \_\_\_\_\_. So Jesus could not have been created since "*without \_\_\_\_\_, was not anything made that was made.*"
  - 4) God talked with Jesus and the Holy Spirit when He made man in the beginning (Gen 1:26). God was not talking to angels, but to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Note the "*Spirit*" in Gen 1:2.
- c. Jesus **IS** God - The "Deity" (the *God-ness*) of Jesus Christ
  - 1) 1 Tim 3:16 says, "*\_\_\_\_\_ was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*" To be manifested means to be shown as real – He REALLY became flesh.
  - 2) John 1:1 "*...the Word was with God, and the Word was \_\_\_\_\_.*" Jesus was separate yet equal with God (Philp 2:5,6)
  - 3) In Jesus was ALL of God (Col 2:9). Godhead means trinity.
  - 4) Notice His name in Matt 1:23, "*...Emmanuel, which being interpreted is \_\_\_\_\_.*" (See Isaiah 44:6,8)!
  - 5) Heb 1:8 has God the Father talking to His Son, and says, "*But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne O \_\_\_\_\_.*"
  - 6) *Jesus* is the manifestation of *Jehovah* God of the Old Testament (Ex 6:3).
    - a) He is called *Lord of Lord's* in Deut 10:17 and Rev 19:16.

- b) Called *the Alpha and Omega* (the first and the last) in *Isa 44:6; 48:12*, and *Rev 1:17; 22:13*.
- c) Compare *Isa 44:8* with *John 20:28; 14:6-9*
- d) Compare *Psa 68:17-18* with *Eph 4:8-10*.
- e) Compare *Ex 3:13,14* with *Jn 8:56-59*, and see *Ps 90:1,2*.
- d. The supernatural Birth of Jesus was foretold **700 years** before He was born (*Isaiah 7:14*)!
- 1) Jesus was born of a \_\_\_\_\_ named Mary (*Matt 1:23*). She was not *just* a "young woman" like some of the Bibles say in *Isa 7:14*. God was doing something very supernatural!
  - 2) *Matt 1:18-20* tells us, "*for that which is conceived in her is of the \_\_\_\_\_*". Jesus was not conceived by **Joseph!**
- e. Jesus' Life on Earth was truly supernatural, and **sinless**.
- 1) *Luke 2:40* "*And the child grew and waxed \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, filled with \_\_\_\_\_: and the grace of God was upon Him.*"
  - 2) Jesus was "*\_\_\_\_\_ of the devil.*" (*Luke 4:1,2*), and yet never sinned, because "*...in him is no \_\_\_\_\_.*" (*1 John 3:5*)
  - 3) *1 Pet 2:22* says that Jesus "*... did no \_\_\_\_\_.*"
  - 4) *2 Cor 5:21* tells you that He even "*... **knew** no \_\_\_\_\_.*"
  - 5) With all of Jesus' sinlessness, He could have just STAYED separate from us, but instead, He came our way, and went all the way on the cross to bring us back to God (*Isaiah 53:4-6,10*)
- f. Jesus paid man's sin-debt Himself
- 1) Jesus was crucified, providing full forgiveness for our sins.
    - a) *Rom 5:8* "*But God commendeth his **love** toward us in that while we were yet \_\_\_\_\_ Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us.*"
    - b) *2 Cor 5:21* "*For \_\_\_\_\_ (God) hath made \_\_\_\_\_ (Jesus) to be \_\_\_\_\_ who knew no sin; that we might be made the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in him.*"
    - c) Only the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse sin. *Heb 9:22* says, "*...without shedding of \_\_\_\_\_ is no \_\_\_\_\_,*" and *1 John 1:7* states, "*...and the blood of \_\_\_\_\_ his Son \_\_\_\_\_ us from all sin.*"
  - 2) Jesus has the **victory** over death and hell giving us eternal life
    - a) All other religious founders are still in the grave: Islam (Mohammed), Buddhism (Buddha), Mormon (Joseph Smith), Jehovah Witness (their *Jesus* is still dead), etc.
    - b) After Jesus rose from the grave, He was seen by over \_\_\_\_\_ witnesses. (see *1 Cor 15:3-8*)
    - c) *Acts 2:32* "*This \_\_\_\_\_ hath God \_\_\_\_\_, whereof we are all witnesses.*" Jesus did NOT stay in the grave!

- d) Jesus is now living and is seated at God's right hand (Heb 10:12), as our ONLY mediator, "For there is one \_\_\_\_\_ and one \_\_\_\_\_ between God and men, the man \_\_\_\_\_," (1 Tim 2:5). He's our advocate/defence attorney!
- g. Take note that Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt 12:46-50; 13:55,56; Mk 6:3). They were actual half-brothers and sisters (Mary has more children after Jesus). Even though HE was not "normal," He grew up in a normal family.
- h. Jesus is everything the believer needs (Col 2:9,10; 1 Cor 1:30,31)!

### 5. God The Holy Spirit, (the Holy Ghost)

- a. The *Holy Spirit* is the Third Person of the Trinity. We say "person" because He is as much God as the Father and Jesus Christ. Just as He was active in creation, the Holy Spirit actively indwells the body of the Christian (1 Cor 6:19), and empowers him for God's service.
- b. The Holy Spirit was with God in the beginning. Gen 1:2 states, "...And the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ moved upon the face of the waters."
- c. The Holy Spirit is God, just as are the Father, and the Word.
- 1) 1 John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the \_\_\_\_\_, and **these three are \_\_\_\_\_.**"
  - 2) The Holy Spirit comes from the Father, and is referred to as a Person. John 15:26 "But when the **Comforter** is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the \_\_\_\_\_ of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **HE** shall testify of me."
  - 3) It was the power of the Holy Spirit that \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus from the dead (Rom 8:11; see again Acts 2:32).
- d. What the Holy Spirit does in the life of a person:
- 1) He **regenerates**. John 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be \_\_\_\_\_ of water and of the \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."
  - 2) He **indwells** the believer the moment he believes, therefore the believer's body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 6:19 "What? know ye not that your \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Ghost **which is in you...**?"
  - 3) He **fills** the yielding believer. Eph 5:18 "Be not drunk with \_\_\_\_\_ wherein is excess; but be \_\_\_\_\_ with the Spirit."
  - 4) He **seals** the believer - **once saved, always saved**. Eph 4:30 says, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby ye are \_\_\_\_\_ unto the day of redemption."
  - 5) He **instructs** the believer, guiding him or her to maturity (Jn 14:26) through \_\_\_\_\_ (2Tim 2:15) and under Bible preaching. The Christian cannot grow without the Bible being the priority in their life (Mt 4:4; Job 23:12)!
  - 6) He produces **fruits** in the life of the believer as well (Gal 5:22,23) – these counteract the "works of the flesh" that our old nature does "naturally" (Gal 5:19-21).
  - 7) He **bestows gifts** of ability to the Christian that enable him or her to serve Him effectively.

## e. The Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- 1) Notice the seven **SERVICE** gifts of **Romans 12:6-8**. These enable Christians to do something of value for God with their life.
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of preaching. It is prophetic because you KNOW the future from the Bible!
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of serving
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of teaching God's word
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of encouragement
  - e) \_\_\_\_\_ - giving above normal, as the Lord gives you extra money because He knows you will give it away!
  - f) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of management
  - g) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of comfort

Take a moment and note which one(s) you might have.

- 2) Notice the nine **SIGN** gifts of **1Cor 12:1,8-11**. Most of them have passed away (**1Cor 13:8-10**) because they were special **miracles** to turn Israel's heart back to God (**Mk 16:15-20**)- they are not for all Christians, nor for all time (**1Cor 1:22; 14:22**).
  - a) **Word of \_\_\_\_\_** - ability to know what people ought to do (wise actions) in tough situations (**1Cor 12:8**).
  - b) **Word of \_\_\_\_\_** - the ability to know something that is hidden in others (**Mt 9:4**).
  - c) **Faith** - The ability to believe God for others even when they themselves just can't believe (**Mt 17:20**).
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_ - The ability to miraculously cure diseases (**Mt 10:1**), and raise the dead back to life (**Mt 10:8**).
  - e) **Miracles** - a supernatural ability to prove what you are saying is from God (**Mark 16:20**).
  - f) \_\_\_\_\_ - the ability to foretell the future and tell what the Scriptures say.
  - g) **Discerning of spirits** - the ability to sense demonic activity in other people (**Mt 16:21-23**).
  - h) **Tongues** - miraculously preaching the Gospel in foreign languages (**Act 2:1-12; 1Cor 14:21,22; Isa 28:11**).
  - i) **Interpretation of tongues** - ability to translate what someone is saying in a foreign language so others can hear what is being spoken (**1Cor 14:27,28**).

Now, some of these are available to us today in an obviously limited way, but not like in the first Century.

- 3) The Holy Spirit plants **nine** different fruits in the believer's life (**Gal 5:22,23**). These are far more important than any gift of miracles you may wish you had! Discuss what each fruit means, and develop each to its full maturity in your life!
- 4) God in **Galatians 5:22,23** says that "*The fruit of the Spirit is...*"
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ - unconditional love (**1 Cor 13:1-8**) that only God produces in and through the life of the believer. It is the ability to love all that God loves!

- b) \_\_\_\_\_ - unending, always present. It is an attitude of the mind that over-rides circumstances and feelings.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ - being at rest even in a storm (Mk 4:36-40)
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ - endurance, ability to put up with trouble
- e) \_\_\_\_\_ - compassion, even when you want revenge
- f) \_\_\_\_\_ - ability to do right when hard to do so
- g) \_\_\_\_\_ - ability to always believe God
- h) \_\_\_\_\_ - not drawing attention to yourself
- i) \_\_\_\_\_ - being under control; Holy Spirit-control

#### IV. How To Know God Better

- A. **Know His Son.** You can go to church, be baptized, become head deacon, or even a pastor, and yet, if you do not know Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour, you cannot ever know God - you can only fake it (John 3:3)!
- B. **Know His Word.** Once you are born again, and know God's Son Jesus Christ, you only know His saving power. The next step involves studying His word He left for you to read, love, memorize, and live in (2Tim 2:15)!
- C. **Know His Will for Your Life.** A life without purpose is the most miserable of experiences! When God saved you, He had a plan for your life. Your task now is to find it, and then live it until your dying day (Rom 12:1,2 says, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your \_\_\_\_\_ service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye \_\_\_\_\_ by the renewing of your mind, that ye may **prove** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, \_\_\_\_\_ of God.*"). There will be more about this subject in **Lesson Twelve**. But briefly, for you to know God's will for your life involves first, to **live** what you currently know and understand (like, if a person knows that they need to be saved, then they need to do THAT, not something bigger). If you won't obey what God has already shown you, why do you think that He will show you something more? God's will has a way of finding *you* more often than you finding it. But suffice it to say that God's will is not some big task for you to do, but a daily life that you should be living each and every day!

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