

"TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM"

INTRODUCTION

Imagine if you saw an old man pushing a shopping cart in Walmart. His gray hair is uncombed. He is dressed in old clothes. Half of his wrinkled plaid shirt is untucked. His pants are faded, the cuffs are worn. The soles of his shoes are uneven and the tips are scuffed and worn. He walks with a slight limp. What would you think of this man?

What if you found out that he is a decorated war hero? That during the Viet Nam War he defied the orders of his superiors to abandon his comrades, and faced heavy enemy fire to aid his men? What if you learned that his bravery saved 12 men? Or that during the fight, a bullet severed some nerves? How would your perception of this man change when you discovered that after the war, though partially disabled, he gave most of his money to veterans who were worse off than himself? And finally to discover that after a lifetime of selfless service, he now found himself in need, and no one to help him?

What would you think of this man now?

"Our ability to worship God is limited by our knowledge of Him."

This is the basic premise of this Bible study series. Conversely, if we want to worship the Lord more deeply and more intimately, then we must learn more about Him. Our ability to worship the Lord will be greatest when we are with Him.

(NKJV, 1John 3:2), "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

There will be a time when "*we shall see Him as He is*". But right now we know so very little about Almighty God. We know far less about God than we initially did about that old man in Walmart. And just like the knowledge of that old man, we may start out with very little knowledge of God. Imagine how that image of God that we have will change as we learn more about Him.

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Bible Study: "To Know Him is to Love Him"

The ultimate goal of this study is to worship the Lord more deeply. But first we must attempt to expand our knowledge of who He is. Within the text of Scripture is man's attempt (guided by God's Holy Spirit) to describe the Almighty. Each session we will select an attribute of God, see what God's Word has to say about that attribute, and how that attribute is revealed to us in our daily lives. Then, having expanded our knowledge of God, we will study how the people described in the Bible worshiped Him, and use those lessons to increase our worship of Him.

During the course of this study, it is important to be in prayer daily and to read God's Word daily. While you are reading, keep in mind the attribute that we will be studying on the next study session. See how God's Holy Spirit reveals that attribute through your personal devotions. As you go about your daily activities, be mindful of that attribute. How did God reveal that attribute or demonstrate it in your life? You will find that the more you *know* about Him, the more you will *be aware* of His presence.