

Get Your "Know Bigger Than Your "No"!

2 Timothy 1:12

(12) For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

A. Paul found himself in a tough situation

- a. Paul found himself sitting in a dungeon
- b. Nothing like the solitude and trials of a dungeon to make you question your faith.
- c. Paul declared "I know..."
- d. eido – Surety

B. I recently had a moment of awakening –

C. Your "Know" must be bigger than your "No"

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D. The question is do you know the God you believe in?

I. A Brief Theology Lesson

A. Who is God? What is God?

- a. These are questions we all struggle with
- b. Unfortunately, we tend to answer them from our point of view – and not God's point of view

Isaiah 46:5

"To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal And compare Me, that we should be alike?"

Isaiah 46:9-10

(9) Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,

(10) Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

B. We are well warned here not to compare God to ourselves

- a. There is no other like Him

C. He also does not think like us

Isaiah 55:8-9

(8) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.

(9) "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

D. Our thinking of God is always from the bottom up

- a. In doing this we end up with a God created in our image
- b. It causes us to define God according to our limitations
- c. **The first step in understanding God, is to think of Him as One who is not like us.**

E. We must start at the top and work down.

- a. It must be from Creator to creature – not the other way around

Psalm 36:9

(9) For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

F. Modern Christian thought prefers a God who is like us rather than distinct from us

- a. As a result God has been domesticated

G. We take the idea of being created in His image the wrong way.

- a. God is different from us – A different kind of being
- b. He is the creator, not the created
- c. We are in His hands He is not in ours

Isaiah 40:28

(28) Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

H. He is unsearchable...

"To obtain some slight knowledge of God is a blessing:

To comprehend Him however is impossible."

Augustine

I. God is Infinite – We are finite

- a. **We must not make the mistake of thinking the difference between the Creator and the created is simply a difference in size.**
- b. To do this is to assume God can be measured as though He were just a bigger version of us.
- c. **This is what I call the "Superhero Syndrome"**
- d. He is like us with superhero powers
- e. **He is not a god who simply possesses our powers in greater measure.**

J. God doesn't need us

- a. His greatness is in no way dependent on what He does for us!

God doesn't depend on the world for His existence
God doesn't depend on the world for His happiness
God doesn't depend on the world for His self-fulfillment

- b. He is life in and of himself
- c. This is the difference between him and us
 - He has life within himself. He is life
 - We depend on Him for life

II. God is whole and cannot be divided

A. We cannot say God is part love, part mercy, part just

- a. He is whole
- b. His attributes are not part of the whole they are the whole
- c. He did not choose to be certain attributes
- d. He is

Cheesecake Illustration

B. With God, there is no difference in what He is and what He has

- a. If He were divisible he would not be perfect

C. That is why God does not change

- a. Change indicates imperfection
- b. **God has no potential** – That would indicate the need for change

D. And what about time?

- a. God is outside of time...
- b. If He were bound by time He would change

E. We however are bound by time

- a. What we see as immediate gratification here blocks us from seeing the eternal gratification of God.

F. All of this leads us to the Question

- a. If God is so great...**
- b. How can we know Him?**

H. Through His names...

- a. We are given a list of descriptive names of God throughout the Bible
- b. These names help us understand some of His attributes

III. His Names

A. Adonai – The Lord or Master

- a. It denotes dominion, rulership and ownership

Psalms 97:5

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord (Adonai) of the whole earth.

B. Jehovah Jireh – The Lord my Provider

Genesis 22:14

And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said *to* this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

- a. This is the one we all like – We all have needs
- b. Paul was thinking of this in Phillipians 4:19 (all your need)

C. Jehovah Rapha – The Lord that Heals

Exodus 15:26

"If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the LORD who heals you."

- a. Next to Jireh this is the most called on attribute of God
- c. Our world is full of sickness
- d. He is our healer

D. Jehovah – Nissi – The Lord our Banner/Miracle

Exodus 17:15

And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner;

- a. Moses had to have help holding his hands up
- b. Helpers held them up for him
- c. Israel prevailed against Amelek

E. Jehovah Tsidkenu – The Lord our Righteousness

Jeremiah 23:6

In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this *is* His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- a. Jeremiah prophesied of a day to come when the people would stand under God's own righteousness

F. Jehovah Roah – The Lord Our Shepherd

Psalms 23:1

The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

- a. If this is the only name we had it would be enough
- b. I shall not want
- c. Why? The shepherd knows what is best for the sheep

G. Jehovah Shalom – The Lord our Peace

Judges 6:23-24

(23) Then the LORD said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die."
(24) So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

- a. Gideon found peace in God's presence
- b. He was hiding out of fear...but in the presence of the Lord he found peace

Conclusion

- A. Remember the cheesecake
- B. When you need Jehovah Jireh, you get all the rest
- C. God never comes to you in part for He cannot be separated
 - a. He always comes as a whole

So: When you realize He is Adonai – Lord of All you cry out to Him

You need Jehovah Jireh because the need is greater than you can fulfill

Jehovah Jireh comes and supplies all your needs

But wait, You can't get Jehovah Jireh without Jehovah Nissi

Jehovah Nissi steps in and plants His banner over you proclaiming to all that you are His!

And when the devil starts to complain because the Lord's banner has been planted Jehovah Tsidkenu steps in and says "Back Off" this one stands under my righteousness!

You can't get Tsidkenu without Jehovah Roah the Shepherd. He steps in and says "Not only am I going to meet your need but I am going to lead you through this to a place of Green pastures" I going to give you rest

But you can't get Jehovah Roah without Jehovah Shalom. Jehovah Shalom steps in and says "My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

What I'm trying to tell you is that when God shows up in your situation you don't just get part of Him you get Him all! You get the whole Cheesecake!