

How Firm is Your Foundation?



September 6, 2022

Lesson One

Introduction

Theology—the knowledge of God—is the foundation of our faith, so, the more theology you know, the firmer is your foundation.

Foundations are super important:

Matthew 7:24 – 27:

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

A Christian without a foundation of sound theology is vulnerable to temptation, to losing faith, to being wiped out by adverse circumstances. This knowledge of God drives us more and more to become like Jesus. It makes a real difference in our living.

The Knowledge of the Holy by A. W. Tozer:

“It is impossible to keep our moral practices sound and our inward attitudes right while our idea of God is erroneous or inadequate. If we would bring back spiritual power to our lives, we must begin to think of God more nearly as He is” (page 8).

“A right conception of God is basic not only to systematic theology but to practical Christian living as well” (page 12).

You can have an outward desire for God, but if it is not based on knowledge of the truth of God, it will cause you to worship a God of your own design:

Romans 10:1-2: Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.

You can have a knowledge of God for the wrong reasons.

1 Corinthians 13:2: If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

The enemy of your soul does not want you to get serious about knowing God.

2 Corinthians 10:5: We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.



christianworkingwoman.org | 630.462.0552

We are to grow in our knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:10: ...so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God

The knowledge of God leads to godly living.

2 Peter 1:3: His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

We need more than knowledge.

2 Peter 1:5 – 8:

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The purpose of this study is to help us all become better theologians, growing in our theology—our knowledge of God.

A. W. Pink writes: *“An unknown God can neither be trusted, served, nor worshipped”* (The Attributes of God, page 7).

This will be our theme verse for this study:

Jeremiah 9:23-24:

“Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord.

Can you “boast” that you understand God? Can you “boast” that getting to know God is your highest priority?

John 17:3: Now this is eternal life; that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

How do we get to know God?

Proverbs 2:1 – 5:

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

God has revealed himself through creation:

Psalms 19:1-2: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

Romans 1:20: For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

God has revealed himself through Jesus Christ:

Colossians 2:9: For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...

Hebrews 1:3: The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

God has revealed himself through his Holy Spirit:

1 Corinthians 2:10 – 12:

These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

God has revealed himself through the Bible:

2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

2 Peter 1:20 – 21:

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

In getting to know God, we must also understand the limitations of our ability to know him.

Romans 11:33: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

We possess divine revelation about God in Scripture, which is where we can turn to understand, even if imperfectly, the attributes of God.

1 Chronicles 29:11: Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

The Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer:

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. Worship is pure or base as the worshipper entertains high or low thoughts of God" (page 1).

Many people today have low thoughts of God if they have any at all. Can you identify some "low thoughts of God" that you have heard or are aware of?

If you don't understand what God is like, you can easily end up worshipping a god of our own imagination.

This will be the prayer that will start each lesson:

Psalms 42:1: As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.

God Is Solitary

We begin with the most basic attribute of God: There is one God, only one God, and there is no other like him.

Exodus 15:11: Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

Deuteronomy 4:39: Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.

Isaiah 45:5: I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me...

Psalms 89:6: For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord? Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings?

He needs nothing and is totally complete without anything else. He is self-contained, self-sufficient, self-satisfied, and in need of nothing.

God did not create because he needed to or had to. He created because he wanted to, simply for his own glory.

Ephesians 1:11 In him we were also chosen,^[e] having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will...

Ephesians 1:5-6: He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Romans 11:34 – 36: Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?"³⁶ For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

"Yet had God so pleased he might have continued alone for all eternity, without making known his glory unto creatures" (Pink page 12).

God does not need us.

Isaiah 40:15, 17-18:

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust. Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.¹⁸ With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken him?

Why is it important that you not only know this about God, but you continually remind yourself of this? What difference could it make in your life if you regularly thanked God because he is solitary—there is no other god?