Knowing GOD by HIS NAMES

DICK PURNELL



All Scripture quotations are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Cover by Lucas Art and Design

KNOWING GOD BY HIS NAMES

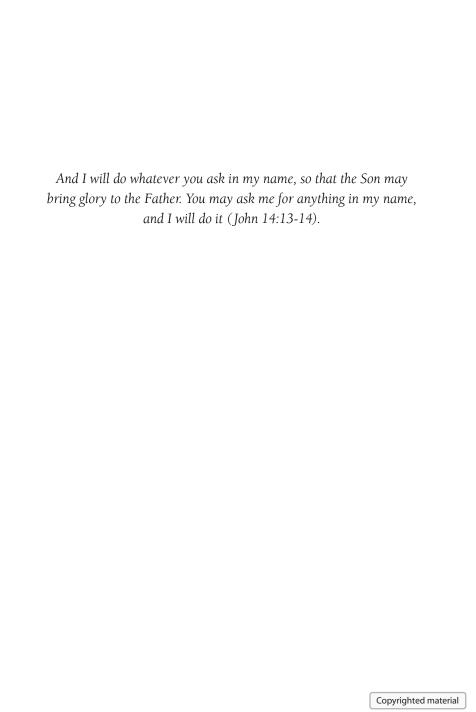
Copyright © 2005, 2015 by Dick Purnell Published by Harvest House Publishers Eugene, Oregon 97402 www.harvesthousepublishers.com

ISBN 978-0-7369-5857-8 (pbk.) ISBN 978-0-7369-5858-5 (eBook)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 / VP-CF / 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



To my wife, Paula

You are a good and perfect gift from the Father of the Heavenly Lights (James 1:17). May your light shine brilliantly for Him all the days of your life.

Contents

Knowing and Loving the One True God	7
My Prayer	13
My Covenant with God	15
Guidelines to Knowing God Better by His Names	17
The Experiment: 31 Days Focusing on Knowing God by His Names	23
How to Expand Your Knowledge of God Through His Names	87
List of God's Names	91
Chart of God's Names	109
My Prayer Journal	111
How to Lead a Group of People to Know God Better	
by His Names	115
Weekly Group Participation Outline	119
About the Author	126



Knowing and Loving the One True God

ele

Do you want to know what God is really like? Does your heart yearn to love Him more?

Love is built on knowledge—the more you understand His true character and ways, the more you will love Him.

Because God is way beyond human beings, the only way to know what God is really like is to know what He reveals about Himself. That is where the Bible comes in. The Bible is God's letter revealing Himself and His ways.

Have you wondered how to get something—anything—from the Bible? It seems so complicated, so big, so tough. So to know the true God seems like an impossibility.

I thought that way until...

One Sunday evening a man who was leading worship in my church service stopped the music and said, "The name of God we are singing about comes from Psalm 18. By understanding His name, you will have greater insight into who He really is. In fact, there are many more names for the Lord in the Psalms."

That caught my attention. I wanted to know God intimately, so I started a search for God's names revealed in the Bible. It

took me six years to study thoroughly every verse in the Old and New Testaments.

The wealth and richness of the titles God uses for Himself overwhelmed me.

The more I found, the more I wanted to know. And in the process my heart was being drawn closer to the Lord. Every spare minute I studied to discover additional information about my heavenly Father and how I could love Him more deeply.

It's key to remember that a name to the people in biblical times meant something entirely different from what it does to us today. In our culture a name rarely reflects hopes for a child's future or character. It is usually a reflection of ethnicity, culture, or parental preference.

A name in the Bible is rich with purpose and meaning. The giving of a name or the changing of a name was auspicious. A name encompassed the hopes and dreams for the person or offered a prophetic glance into the character of the one being named. A change of name signaled a new relationship or a new phase of life or new destiny. For example, the Lord gave Jacob the name Israel when he was a middle-aged man (Genesis 32:27-28). God was not trying to reidentify him. He desired to change his inner character from Jacob ("deceiver") to Israel ("one who interacts with God").

God revealed each of His names in a specific situation where one of His people had a special need. The name that was revealed related directly to the aspect of His character that would provide the solution to the problem that person was facing.

For example, when little David faced huge Goliath, he proclaimed, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied" (1 Samuel 17:45). The name "LORD Almighty" reveals He is all-powerful, and "God of the armies of Israel" means He is the Supreme General leading His army into battle. How could Goliath possibly win against those odds?

Our great Lord has over 200 names! God has so many names because no one name could tell you everything there is to know about His transcendent character. Each name puts the spotlight on one of His marvelous attributes. The more you know about His names, the more you will understand His complex character—and the more you will love Him. As you grow in your knowledge and love of God, your faith will grow as you place greater confidence in the Sovereign Lord.

Try this experiment to develop intimacy with the true, revealed God. It won't take you six years—just 31 days. For one month, dig for the glorious riches found in God's names. You will find yourself on an adventure into the supernatural ways of the Most High God.

Get ready for a life-transforming experience. At the end of a month you may be so excited about your growing relationship with our Lord that you will want to continue to enhance your faith. In the back of this book is a list of 210 names of God. Find one of them that interests you and search the Bible to discover all that it reveals about the Almighty God.

Although this book is small in size, what you learn as you study the names of God will continue to affect you for the rest of your life. You will become passionate to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).

"Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you" (Psalm 9:10). Notice how the Lord's actions are tied to His names and, then,

how His names reflect His attributes. When you know that He always acts consistently with His character, your faith will not be weakened by difficult circumstances or troubling times. The King of Kings will give you strength and peace.

"'Because he loves me,' says the LORD, 'I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name'" (Psalm 91:14). Your prayer life will be transformed. Right now you may close your prayers with a casual "in Jesus' name, amen." But you will learn that praying in Jesus' name means to pray according to His attributes and promises. You will come to appreciate that your faith-filled prayers relate to things that are in the heart of God and based on the character of His Beloved Son.

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it" (John 14:13-14). When you have a need, or when you want to praise Him, address God using the name that deals with that situation.

Praying this way will challenge your thinking about who the Lord really is, and it will deepen your relationship with Him. When you become fearful and insecure, look to the King of Kings. In an atmosphere of turmoil and stress, depend on the Prince of Peace.

When you are hurt, come to Jehovah-Rophe (the Lord Who Heals). If you have sinned, find forgiveness from the Lamb of God. As you enter dark times, follow the Light of the World.

These names do not refer to many gods: there is only one God—the triune God—but three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit. They are equal in nature and attributes, but they are distinct in personality and function. Therefore, some of the names are used interchangeably for all three, such as God or LORD. But others refer to a specific person

of the Godhead, such as heavenly Father, Savior, or Holy Spirit.

According to the Bible, the goal of your life is to glorify God through faith in Him and obedience to His Word. As you increase your understanding of the triune God and deepen your love for Him, He will reveal more of who He is and His ways to you. Your heart will sing praise to our wonderful King. The psalmist put it this way: "But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you" (Psalm 5:11).



My Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

I want to know You as intimately as a human being is able. In my busy life filled with pressures and hectic activities, it is often difficult for me to think about You. My relationship with You frequently fluctuates between genuine love and cold neglect.

I want to love You more consistently and experience Your presence daily. Please strengthen my faith in You. Give me the discipline to daily spend time in the Bible and prayer for the next 31 days—and for the rest of my life.

King of Glory, open my mind to Your spectacular majesty. My precious Savior, draw my heart closer to You with Your infinite love and marvelous grace. Spirit of Truth, guide me to understand more clearly the complexity of the triune God.

May this experiment change my life permanently! In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Signed .			
Date			



My Covenant with God

I promise the Lord Jesus Christ that I will do this Experiment in Knowing God by His Names. During the next 31 days I will do the following:

- 1. Spend 10 to 20 minutes each day in Bible study, prayer, and writing out my thoughts and plans.
- 2. Ask at least one other Christian to pray daily for me that I will be consistent in doing this experiment (that person may want to do the experiment along with me so we can share together what we are learning).
- 3. Attend a church each week where the people enthusiastically worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Signed	 	 		
Date				



Guidelines to Knowing God Better by His Names



Preparation for Each Day

- 1. Equipment. Obtain a translation of the Bible that you enjoy reading. If you want to use the same translation used in this book, look at the *New International Version* (NIV). Get a pen to record in this book. Journal your thoughts, answers to prayers, and plans.
- Time. Pick the time of day when your heart will be the most receptive to meeting with God. Try to make a habit of meeting with the Lord at a specific half-hour each day.
- 3. Place. Find a particular spot where you can clear your mind of distractions and focus your full attention on God's Word. Suggestions: bedroom, office, school library, living room, outdoors.

Read

- 1. Pray earnestly before you begin. Ask the Spirit of Truth to teach you what He desires you to learn.
- 2. Read the entire passage that is the selection for the day.

- 3. Look for God's names that are revealed. There may be several. Notice what kind of response He wants from you.
- 4. Make written notes on the following:
 - A and B—Study the passage thoroughly to answer the questions. Focus your attention on the attributes and actions of our great God. The more you know about Him, the more you will be able to trust Him to work in and through your life.
 - C—Write out your personal responses and specifically apply the lessons you have learned.
- 5. Choose a verse from the passage you just read that is especially meaningful to you. Read it several times during the day. Think about its meaning and impact on your life. Memorize it when you have free mental time; for example, when you are getting ready in the morning, while you are standing in line, during lunch, taking a coffee break, waiting for class to begin, or walking somewhere.

Need

- 1. Choose your most pressing personal need of the day.
- 2. Write down your request. The more specific you are, the more specific the answer will be.
- 3. Faithfully pray each day for the provision of the Sovereign LORD. Trust Him for big things.
- 4. When the heavenly Father meets your need, record the date and how He did it. Periodically review the wonderful provisions of the Son of God and thank Him often for His faithfulness. This will greatly increase your faith.

5. At the end of the month, review all the answers to your prayers. Rejoice in the Living God's goodness to you. Keep praying for the requests that still need answers.

Deed

- 1. Pray for the Great Shepherd's guidance to help another person during the day. Try to apply the particular passage you have just studied.
- 2. Take the initiative to express Messiah's wonderful love to someone. Be a servant. Behind every face there is a drama going on. Tap into at least one person's drama each day. Serve that person and share about what you are learning.
- 3. As you help a needy person, tell him or her about your faith in Christ. Here are some suggestions for helping someone:
 - a. Provide a meal.
 - b. Show someone an app you really like.
 - c. Help a friend study for a school test.
 - d. Do yard work with a neighbor.
 - e. Tweet something encouraging.
 - f. Start a Bible study.
 - g. Teach someone a sports activity or a mechanical skill.
 - h. Share what you're learning on Facebook.
 - Take someone out to lunch and listen to the needs expressed.
 - j. Help a friend with a computer problem.
 - k. Show interest in another's interests.

- 1. Give an honest compliment.
- m. Pray with a friend about a need.
- n. Contribute money to a missions cause.
- o. Visit someone in the hospital or at a retirement home.
- 4. Later, record the details of how the Holy Spirit used you this day. This will increase your confidence to reach out to others. Thank the Lord Jesus for expressing His love and compassion to others through you.

Application

- 1. Write down your thoughts about how you can put into practice specific instructions and ideas found in the passage.
- 2. Devise a plan to implement your ideas.

Last Thing in the Evening

- 1. **Read**—Look at the passage again, searching for additional ideas about Jehovah's character.
- 2. **Need**—Pray again for your concerns. Thank the Lord that He will answer in His way and in His time. Expect the Spirit of the Living God to strengthen you in your walk with Him. Write your prayer requests and answers in the prayer journal in the back of this book.
- 3. **Deed**—Record how God guided you to accomplish something for Him.
- 4. **Application**—Review what you learned today. Look for further biblical insight to help you apply the passage to your life.

Doing This Experiment with Others

Ask a friend or a group of friends to do the experiment with you. Read in the back of this book "How to Lead a Group of People to Know God Better by His Names" for practical suggestions.

Pray frequently for one another that you will learn more about the God of Glory and how to live for Him. Encourage one another to be disciplined and faithful in completing the experiment. Share what you are learning and how the heavenly Father is working in your lives.







GENESIS 1:1-31



Key Verse:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

Today's Focus:

Before there was anything, there was God. The English name "God" in the Old Testament is usually a translation of the Hebrew name "Elohim," meaning "omnipotent power." It refers to the Lord's absolute dominion over the whole universe. It is used 3,393 times from Genesis to Malachi. God's power goes beyond any situation that bothers you.

Read: Pray to understand the magnitude of God's power and how He can change your life.

- A. Study the creation events. Describe what God created on each day of creation.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- B. For what purposes did God create humans?
- C. Because God is the Creator of the universe and all that it contains, He is my Maker. I am so grateful to Him for:

Need: Praise God for the beautiful world He made.

My greatest need today is:

Today _____ (date) God answered my need by:

Deed: Pray for courage and boldness to serve Him.

God, do Your powerful work through me to:

Application:

Make a list of all the attributes God displayed when He created the universe and everything in it. (For example, the stars and vastness of space show that God has infinite wisdom.)



God Almighty (El-Shaddai)

GENESIS 17:1-27

elle .

Key Verse:

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless" (Genesis 17:1).

Today's Focus:

God Almighty is a translation of the Hebrew name "El-Shaddai." El is the root of Elohim and refers to His mighty power. The word *shaddai* means breast and refers to God's nourishing and sustaining us. Thus, El-Shaddai is all-powerful to meet our needs and fulfill His promises, according to His will and His timetable.

Read: Pray for greater faith in God Almighty.

A. When Abraham was 75 years old, God promised to give him descendants who would become a great nation (Genesis 12:1-9). But at the age of 99, he still did not have a son. What did God Almighty promise this old man?

- B. How did Abraham show that he believed Him?
- C. When God Almighty promises me through His Word to do "impossible" things, I will:

Need: Thank God Almighty that He always keeps His promises. My greatest need today is:

God Almighty showed Himself sufficient to answer my need today _____ (date) by:

Deed: Pray that you will experience El-Shaddai's power in your life.

God Almighty, do Your will through me today by:

Application:

What is one significant promise God Almighty has made in His Word that applies to your situation? Have you done your part by obeying? How has He fulfilled His promise?



Exodus 3:1-22

ele

Key Verse:

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:14).

Today's Focus:

"I AM" is actually the Hebrew word *Yahweh*. The ancient Hebrews changed the pronunciation of the letters to Jehovah. This name has been translated into the English word *LORD* with the last three letters in small capitals. It appears over 6,000 times in the Old Testament and is the most frequently used name. LORD refers to His eternal nature and supremacy (sovereignty) over all heaven and earth. He is always present with His people.

Read: Pray for a deeper knowledge of the LORD's character.

A. The Hebrew people had been enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years. God chose Moses, an 80-year-old shepherd, to lead more than 500,000 Hebrews out of slavery. In the process He revealed His name "I AM" (Jehovah),

which assures His people that He is in control of all things. What characteristics does the LORD reveal about Himself in this passage?

- B. What was Moses' reaction to the LORD's command?
- C. When the LORD asks me to do something difficult, I will:

Need: Pray for freedom from any sinful attitude or action that you know displeases the Lord.

My greatest need today is:

The LORD answered my prayer today ____ (date). Here's how:

Deed: Thank Jehovah that He is with you right now—and always.

Eternal LORD, lead me to:

Application:

Jehovah is written as LORD to distinguish it from another Hebrew name, Adonai, which is also translated Lord but rendered in uppercase L and lowercase "ord" (see Day 9). In the New Testament the Greek word kurios is translated as Lord. Jesus claimed to be "I AM" (Jehovah) in John 8:48-59. Study how the religious leaders reacted to Christ's astonishing statement.