

THE WAY TO KNOW GOD BETTER

Colossians 1:9-14

- **During our 21 DAYS OF PRAYER/FASTING we are pursuing deepening our relationship with the Lord and asking Him for direction, help and provision for our lives, families and ministry throughout 2025.**
- **Today is LIFE GROUP CONNECTION Day, where we can get connected to other Christians so we can grow spiritually, relationally and in other ways.**
- ***Who do I know better than anyone else in life, and who knows me the best?***
- **God knows us better than anyone else (Psalm 139:1-7, Matthew 10:29-30), and He wants us to work on deepening our relationship with Him.**
- *"You will grow as you learn to know God better and better . . . You will be strengthened with His glorious power so that you will have all the patience and endurance you need.."* (Colossians 1:10-11)
- **The closer we get to the Lord the more we will experience His direction, peace, power, promises and purposes in our lives.**
- ***How can we know God better and why should we know God better in 2025?***

Knowing God Better In 2025 Will Come From:

FAITHFULLY <u>PRAYING</u> TO THE LORD

- **Paul knew the Lord well because he prayed frequently and fervently (Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:14-21; Philippians 1:3-11; Colossians 1:9-14).**
- **We won't have a strong relationship with the Lord without a consistent prayer life.**
- **Our best prayers are often the prayers we pray for others, because praying for others demonstrates our love for them.**
- **We should *Pray Continually* when praying for ourselves and others.**
    - *"We have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. . ."* (Colossians 1:9)

    - **We should have a constant communion with the Lord that can rise to the surface in conscious prayer at any time (1 Thessalonians 5:17).**
    - **We must avoid becoming a "prayer dropout" (Matthew 7:7).**
- **We should *Pray Specifically* when praying for ourselves and others*.***
    - *"We also pray that you will be strengthened with all His glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need."* (Colossians 1:11)
    - **It helps to keep a prayer list of names and needs we are praying for.**
- **PRAYER FORMULA –** "When my request is not right, God says 'no'; when the time is not right, God says 'slow'; when I am not right, God says 'grow'; but when everything is right, God says 'go'!"
- "They who cannot serve God by preaching need not regret. If a man can but pray, he can do anything. He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has Heaven and earth at his disposal." (Charles Spurgeon)
- ***What steps can I take to improve my prayer life in 2025?***

Knowing God Better In 2025 Come From:

FULLY <u>UNDERSTANDING</u> GOD'S WILL

- Paul – *"We ask God to give you a <u>complete understanding of what He wants to do in your lives</u>, and we ask Him to make you wise with spiritual wisdom."* (Colossians 1:9)
- **We should pray that we and others would have spiritual wisdom and a "complete understanding of what God wants us to do."**
- "The key to success in life is knowing and doing God's will." - Dennis Watson
- **Discovering the Lord's will requires *Studying God's Word.***
    - *"Your commandments give me understanding . . . Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path."* (Psalm 119:104-105)
    - **Much of God's will for us has already been revealed in His Word, which is why it's important to read God's Word daily and study it with others (i.e. Life Group).**
    - *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right."* (2 Timothy 3:16)
- **Discovering the Lord's will involves *Listening to God's Spirit.***
    - *"As these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.'"* (Acts 13:2)
    - **When praying it's important to take time to allow God's Spirit to speak to us (1 Samuel 3:1-10), and when we hear from Him He will give us direction for our lives (Acts 8:27-29).**
- **Discovering the Lord's will involves *Learning from God's People.***

    - *"Those who take advice are wise."* (Proverbs 13:10)
    - **It's important for every Christian to be in a small group *(Life Group)* so they can learn from mature Christians or mentor new Christians.**
    - *"Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others."* (2 Timothy 2:2)
- ***What steps can I take to better discern God's will in 2025?***

Knowing God Better In 2025 Will Come From:

FERVENTLY <u>LIVING</u> FOR THE LORD

- *"Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and you will continually do good, kind things for others. All the while, you will learn to know God better and better."* (Colossians 1:10)
- ***Godly Living* helps us to honor, please and know the Lord better.**
    - *"Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness . . ."* (2 Corinthians 7:1)
    - *"If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God."* (James 4:4)
- ***Gracious Living* helps us to honor, please and know the Lord better.**
    - *"You will continually do good, kind things for others."* (Colossians 1:10)
    - **Kindness is "love in action" (1 Corinthians 13:4).**
    - Jesus - *"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."* (John 13:35)
    - **Real love requires more than words or intentions, it requires action.**
    - *"Let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."* (1 John 3:18)
- ***What steps can I take to better live for the Lord and love others in 2025?***

- ***What will be the rewards of "knowing God better" in 2025?***
- *"You will be strengthened with His glorious power so that you will have all the patience and endurance you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father, who has enabled you to share the inheritance that belongs to God's holy people, who live in the light."* (Colossians 1:11-12)
- **"Knowing God better" brings supernatural power, patience, endurance, joy, provision and blessings to our lives (Philippians 3:10).**
- **We should also want to "know God better" because He has: 1) rescued us from darkness, 2) purchased our freedom, and 3) forgiven our sins (Colossians 1:13-14).**
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message?***