

There are two aspects of our life we must look at in our lives to answer the question: “Do I know God?” We can use many different terms to describe those two facets: attitudes and actions, motivations and manifestations, or (the very Southern Baptist) faith and practice. For the purpose of our discussion I’ve chosen to label them beliefs and behavior.

Of those two, we tend to focus our attention on behavior; mainly because behavior can be observed. Beliefs must be discussed to be known and our discussions rarely delve so deep.

There are several problems with putting so much emphasis on a person’s behavior in regards to measuring their relationship with God. 1) Good behavior can be “faked.” A person can pretend to be good when it benefits them. 2) Good behavior can result from a simple knowledge about God. If I know the Ten Commandments, I can appear to obey them. 3) Good behavior is not always motivated by good beliefs. Many people live good lives in an effort to appease or appeal to God and man rather than as an act of appreciation for God.

Throughout the Old Testament, God makes it clear that good behavior is not necessarily a sign of having an intimate relationship with him. In the New Testament, Jesus teaches us our behavior is based upon our beliefs. So, next week we will look at how our behavior serves as an indicator of how intimately we know God; but, this morning we are going to see what the beliefs of someone who intimately knows God look like.

Scripture: Nehemiah 1:5-11

I. The Person Who Knows God (Belief)

A. **Has a Biblically High View of God**

1. God According to the World

a) Santa God

- (1) Exists solely to make your life better
- (2) Heaven serves as his north pole
- (3) Attendance and participation = leaving milk and cookies
- (4) Lax standards
- (5) Balance good with bad to be on list
- (6) Jolly and loving, just glosses over sins
- (7) Lack of shame and conviction

2. God According to the Word

a) Sovereign (Isaiah 48:11)

- (1) Self-governing, Supreme authority

b) Majestic (1 Chron. 11:29)

- (1) Splendor, Dignity, Power

- c) Morally Pure (Matt. 5:48)
 - (1) Sinless, Perfect
- B. Has a Biblically Accurate View of Oneself**
 - 1. Man According to the World
 - a) Self-sufficient
 - b) Highly Evolved
 - c) Inherently Good
 - d) The Solution
 - 2. Man According to the Word
 - a) Dependency (11)
 - (1) Come to terms with it
 - b) Lowliness (6, 8, 10-11)
 - (1) Constantly remember it
 - (2) Job 25:6 (maggot and worm)
 - c) Moral Depravity (6, 7)
 - (1) Confess it
 - d) The Problem
 - (1) Genesis 3:17-19
 - (2) Romans 1:18-32
- C. Real Life Application**
 - 1. Get in the Word
 - a) Let it be the canon
 - b) Names and adjectives used to describe God
 - c) Description of man and man's activities
 - 2. Get on Your Knees
 - d) Posture
 - e) Adoration
 - f) Silence

Isaiah 57:15 tells us that God dwells in two places; the heavens and the contrite heart. Those are the only two places where there is room for him. And the only time he can get all the space in your heart is when you realize you are desperately dependent upon him. There are two ways to come to that realization. The first is the school of hard knocks. The second is by developing a biblically high view of God.

This morning, I challenge you to allow the Bible to teach you about God and about man.