



DEFENDING
THE + FAITH

I. We cannot fully understand God
on this side of Heaven.

1. A finite mind cannot grasp an infinite being.

Psalm 139:6 (ESV)

6Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

2. Our comprehension of God is limited by sin.

A humanistic worldview doesn't accept the spiritual truth of sin.



1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 8:7–8 (ESV)

7For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

8Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

John 7:16–17 (ESV)

16 So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.

17 If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

3. The fullness of the knowledge of God has not been revealed to us.

Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV)


29“**The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.**

Humanistic world will not accept the reality that we cannot comprehend God because in that view we are gods.

II. Our greatest pursuit should be knowing God.

80% OFF

ONCE YOU SEE RESULTS, IT BECOMES AN ADDICTION

A shirtless, muscular man is shown from the waist up, holding two dumbbells. He is looking towards the camera with a focused expression. The background is dark and moody.

What do we pursue?



Jeremiah 9:23–24 (ESV)

23 Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,
24 but let him who boasts boast in this,

*that he understands and knows me, that I am
the LORD who practices steadfast love,
justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in
these things I delight, declares the LORD.”*

1. What greater adventure could there be than pursuing God?

2 Chronicles 16:9 (ESV)

9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.

2. The goal of pursuing God
is the transformation by God.

I am powerless and useless apart from the grace
and glory of God.

III. Transformation over Conformation

Romans 12:1–2 (ESV)

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed [molded] to this world, but be transformed [metamorphosis] by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Matthew 17:1–3 (NASB95)

1 Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

1. Transformation reveals the Glory of God

Philippians 3:7–11 (ESV)

7But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

8Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness
of my own that comes from the law, but that which
comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness
from God that depends on faith—

10 that I may know him and the power of his
resurrection, and may share his sufferings,
becoming like him in his death,

11 that by any means possible I may attain the
resurrection from the dead.

2. Transformation moves us toward Jesus.

Philippians 3:12–16 (ESV)

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because

Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

3. Transformation reveals truth of sin

Romans 7:18–20 (ESV)

18For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

19For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

20Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

Romans 7:21–25 (ESV)

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right,
evil lies close at hand.

22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,
23 but I see in my members another law waging war
against the law of my mind and making me captive to
the law of sin that dwells in my members.

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from
this body of death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind,
but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

4. Transformation brings knowledge

Romans 1:21–23 (ESV)

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,
23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

5. Transformation brings discernment.

John 7:24 (ESV)

24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”

6. Transformation brings peace.

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

10The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

7. Transformation brings power.

2 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV)

3His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

4by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Isaiah 26:3–4 (ESV)

3You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

4Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

8. Transformation brings meaning to life.

Colossians 1:9–14 (ESV)

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

9. Transformation brings peace.

Romans 5:1–5 (ESV)

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

4and endurance produces character, and
character produces hope,
5and hope does not put us to shame, because
God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

10. Transformation brings eternal life.

John 17:1–5 (ESV)

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify

you,

2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

4I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the
work that you gave me to do.

5And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence
with the glory that I had with you before the world
existed.



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