

When You Pray

There is no **greater** thing in life than **knowing God**. Not only knowing of Him or about Him, but truly knowing Him deeply. Unfortunately, not many people ever find this intimacy with God to truly know Him, but we can know today because God has made a way.

We can see a memorable example of this lack of personal knowledge of God in Isaiah's vision in chapter 6 of his writings. He saw the Lord high and lifted-up, His majesty and His might on full display. The angels, however, surrounded God's throne and they used their six wings, two to fly, two to cover their feet, and two to cover their eyes so as not to look upon the Lord. In addition to not looking upon the Lord, the angels also cried "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts."

We often speak of holiness as a primary attribute of God. We even use it as a substitute for "godliness" or "good" at times. However, what the word "holy" really means, when it is used in the Bible, is "separate." What these angels are saying is God is separate beyond separate beyond separate from them. He is above and different and unknowable.

This meaning of holiness is also comparable to the Israelites. They were given instructions in their approach unto God in the Tabernacle. Once a year the High Priest, and only the High Priest, could offer a sacrifice on the brazen altar. He would then go on and wash at the Brazen Laver. Then he could enter the Holy Place where the Golden Candlestick, the Brazen Altar, and the Table of Shewbread was. Finally, the High Priest could, just one day a year, enter the Holy of Holies and stand in the very presence of God!!! But even this was no guarantee of truly knowing God for if the High Priest were not truly clean and worthy, then he would die when he stood in God's presence. Even if the High Priest were able to commune with God, his time of communion would be short lived and fleeting.

In the most gracious way, this isn't what Jesus promised us. It isn't the way that He told us to approach God. Jesus told us that when we approach God that our starting point should be an understanding of God's desire for relationship with us and His love for us. He is our Heavenly Father. He is our Provider. He is our Guiding Light. We can trust in Him for all our needs, but more than that, we can just stand still and be in His presence and know that we are loved by God.

Questions for Meditation:

- Is there something you can point to this week that shows you how much God loves you?
- What are some differences between prayers that are prayed with a mindset of having to cleanse ourselves to be worthy of approaching God versus prayers prayed knowing that God loves us and cares for us?
- What can we do in our lives to live in better understanding that God loves us, chooses us, and knows us?