

“ADJ - Knowing God Part 3” (1-30-22)

Introduction: “The Nature of God”

Example: Deep Sea Creatures (show pics, give some info)

1) Explore

a) Into the Unknown

Acts 17:23, 27-28 (ESV)

(23) For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. . . (27) that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

Note: If we don’t know him, we should. And we can always know him more fully!

- The unknown God - wants us to seek, feel, move toward, and find Him.
- This is crucial, because in all reality He’s not far - He is essential to every aspect of our lives!
- Exploration is an act of worship - the pursuit & discovery opens our eyes & connects us to his Majesty!

Personal Example: Snorkeling I’ve experienced - Maui, DR, Florida vacations

b) At Home with Him

2 Peter 1:2-3 (ESV)

(2) May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord. (3) His 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,

- All things for living a godly life are found in - Knowledge of Him!
- And the fruit of that knowledge - Grace & Peace

Personal Example: Exploring Knoxville, enriches our life - because we are partaking of all it has to offer . . .

- God’s invitation isn’t just to explore a bit & then move on with our lives.
- Exploration is meant to lead to a way of life.
- This leads to our next point - We are meant to partake of Him . . .

2) Partake

2 Peter 1:4 (ESV)

by 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.

Note: He has granted something precious to us - promises that flow from his very nature that we are to enjoy

- **Partakers** - Partner, companion. Same root as Fellowship (Koinonia) - communion/community
- **Divine Nature** - Nature or essence, qualities or attributes that are uniquely God's and proceed from Him

Personal Example: Understanding the unique nature of animals (my Cat vs my Dog)

Partake of God - as He is, not as I want Him to be!

Example of a Divine Attribute: Omni-Present (meaning God is everywhere) . . .

Proverbs 15:3 (ESV)

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Psalms 139:7-10 (ESV)

(7) Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?
 (8) If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
 (9) If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
 (10) even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

Example of Partaking of God's Omni-Presence: A big part of my heart is with Ashley is in Switzerland

Deuteronomy 31:6 (ESV)

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

Note: God's Omni-Presence - Gives courage & strength, and dispels fear & dread

Matthew 10:29-31 (ESV)

(29) Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.
 (30) But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. (31) Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Note: God's omni-presence is tied to His love for me. I'm highly valued, so He is with me in all circumstances.

- As I explore His nature, and partake of it myself, my life realigns itself with that reality.
- I begin to partake and enjoy His very great & precious promises!
- This leads to our last point . . .
- Growing in my relationship with Him (by exploring & partaking) - changes my nature!

3) Grow - (apply, align, integrate, co-operate) and therefore: Change!

2 Peter 1:5-8 (ESV)

(5) For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, (6) and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, (7) and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. (8) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: Peter is describing growth and change . . .

- **Supplement** - means: to furnish, or (in another context) nourishment
- **Qualities** are yours & are increasing

- **His Nature** - a lot to explore & partake of (a life long adventure).

Resources: **Tozer** (Knowledge of the Holy) & **Lionshare App** (Dave's App - 101 attributes of God)

- **My Nature** - lot's of room to grow & mature!

How? By applying, aligning, integrating, & co-operating with the Nature of God, then I change!

Example: "Biggest Little Farm" - layered character traits working together to create a functioning eco-system

Conclusion: Let's commit our lives to exploring and partaking of the Nature of God, and enjoy the fruit of a life that is changed by experiencing His very great & precious promises!