

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: "What Does It Mean to Know God?"

SCRIPTURE IN RESPONSE: Psalms 46:1-11, NIV

¹ God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

⁵ God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸ Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹ *The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

I. Key Words:

- Surrender
- Experience
- Sovereignty
- Personally
- Recognize

II. People, Places, & Times:

- Isreal
- Jerusalem
- Assyrians
- King Hezekiah

III. Background:

Psalm 46:1-11 is a "Song of Zion" written by the Sons of Korah, likely celebrating God's miraculous deliverance of Jerusalem from an Assyrian siege in 701 BC during King Hezekiah's reign. It portrays God as a refuge, strength, and protector of the city amid raging nations and cosmic instability.

IV. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis: 1. To Know God Means Surrendering to Him Completely.

A. Surrender: It implies submitting to His authority and lordship over one's life.

1. There is a surrender that saves us; and it is this that God, through the psalmist, is urging us to do: "Be still," "give in," "surrender," "know that I am God.
2. Our extremity is God's opportunity.
3. Our weakness is the opportunity for God's strength.
4. We come to know God when we surrender completely to his will.

B. Surrendering completely and all to God means actively letting go of the need to control your life, plans, and burdens, placing them instead into the hands of God out of trust.

1. It is a deliberate act of submission and worship—a daily choice to align your will with His divine purpose, often defined by the phrase "not my will, but yours be done".

2. Lesson Emphasis #2: To Know God Means Experiencing Him Personally.

A. Experiencing God personally refers to shifting from having theoretical knowledge about God to having a direct, relational, and intimate interaction with the divine.

1. "Surrender, and know that I am God.
2. "The psalmist's expression means "to know God intimately.

3. "It means to know by experience, to make the practical test.
4. Everyone is challenged to experience God personally.

B. To Experience God Personally means to:

1. Worship God every Sunday.
2. Read Gods Word daily, asking God to open the eyes of your heart and teach you (Ps. 119:18; 1 Cor. 2:12; Eph. 1:16–20).
 - a. This includes learning to meditate on God's Word and memorize key verses.
 - b. Meditation takes biblical truth deeper into our minds and hearts with powerful effect.
3. Pray daily in a quiet, undistracted place.
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you each day (Eph. 5:18); seek to walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16) and manifest the fruit of His presence in your life (Gal. 5:22–24).

It is impossible to draw near to God or to live the Christian life without the Spirit's help.

5. Take time away to be alone with God when you sense the need.
6. Fast periodically. Jesus said His followers would fast (Matt. 6:16–18; 9:14–15).
7. Talk with your pastor or an elder when you need guidance in your spiritual life.

3. Lesson Emphasis #3: To Know God Means Recognizing His Sovereignty.

- A.** Recognizing God's sovereignty means acknowledging that God has supreme power, authority, and control over every aspect of life, permitting or causing all events for His purposeful, good, and loving reasons
1. It involves trusting Him during challenging times.
 2. Our text also says, I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth (Psalms 46:10NIV).
 3. In any true sense, we do not know God until we recognize his sovereignty, and his rule over the earth.
- B.** This was the faith of Israel in the Old Testament.
1. "The Old Testament expresses the sovereignty of God in many ways:
 - a. He rides upon the clouds (Ps. 68:4).
 - b. He scatters the hoarfrost like ashes (Ps. 147:16).
 - c. He calls out the stars by number (Isa. 40:26).
 2. The most crucial area of His sovereignty is not in nature but in the movement of historical events.
 - a. He overrules Pharaoh (Ex. 6:1),

