



30 DAYS
to
Knowing
GOD

Better





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*Life-Changing Insights from
Classic Christian Writers*



BARBOUR BOOKS

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Our mission is to inspire the world with the life-changing message of the Bible.



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INTRODUCTION

God is not only knowable; He *wants* to be known—and that’s the idea behind this book, an inspiring compilation of classic Christian devotions. Give this book and your Bible thirty minutes a day for thirty days, and you may find your life changed. . . forever.

30 Days to Knowing God Better provides insightful writing from some of the best minds of Christian history—Charles Spurgeon, John Wesley, D. L. Moody, Hannah Whitall Smith, Brother Lawrence, R. A. Torrey, and others. Lightly updated for ease of reading, these devotions explain both the whys and hows of connecting with God. Though He is far beyond us, He has also revealed much about Himself in His Word—and through the pens of His faithful servants, many of whom you’ll meet in the following pages.

Each devotion includes scripture references for additional reading, questions for further thought, and writing space for recording your own observations. We hope you’ll learn more about God during this thirty-day journey, finding both challenge and encouragement for your Christian life.

THE EDITORS



Day 1

KNOW GOD
THROUGH
HIS WORD

*All Scripture is God-breathed
and is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in righteousness.*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 NIV



Men's ideas differ about the extent that human skill can go; but the reason we believe the Bible is the basis of our assurance and hope is because it is inspired. The reason we believe the Bible is inspired is so simple that the humblest child of God can comprehend it. If the proof of its divine origin lay in its wisdom alone, a simple and uneducated man might not be able to believe it. We believe it is inspired because there is nothing in it that could not have come from God. God is wise, and God is good. There is nothing in the Bible that is not wise, and there is nothing that is not good.

If the Bible had anything in it that is opposed to reason or to our sense of right, then perhaps we might think that it was like all the books in the world that are written by mere men. Books that are just human books, like human lives, have in them a great deal that is foolish and wrong.

Like the other wonderful things of God, this book bears the sure stamp of its author. It is like Him. Though man plants the seeds, God makes the flowers, and they are perfect and beautiful like He is. Men wrote what's in the Bible, but the work is God's.

D. L. MOODY

KNOW GOD BETTER

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

PSALM 19:7-11

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 PETER 1:21

THINK ABOUT IT

On a scale of one to ten, based on your own reading of the Bible, how familiar are you with God's Word?

How interested are you in improving that score?

What practical, measurable steps can you take to improve your familiarity with scripture?

We should read the Bible as those who listen to the very speech of God.

F. B. MEYER

The Way into the Holiest

Let all our employment be to know God: the more one knows Him, the more one desires to know Him.

BROTHER LAWRENCE

The Practice of the Presence of God



Day 2

KNOW GOD
IN STEWARDSHIP

*There was a certain rich man,
which had a steward.*

LUKE 16:1



The relation which man bears to God, as creature to the Creator, is exhibited to us in the Word of God under various representations. But no character more exactly agrees with the present state of man than that of steward. Our blessed Lord frequently represents him as such, and there is a peculiar propriety in the representation. This exactly expresses our situation in the present world, specifying what kind of servant we are to God, and what kind of service our Divine Master expects from us.

We are indebted to God for all we have. Although a debtor is obliged to return what he has received, yet, until the time of payment comes, he is at liberty to use it as he pleases. But it is not so with a steward; he is not at liberty to use what is lodged in his hands as *he* pleases, but as *his master* pleases. For he is not the proprietor of these things, but barely entrusted with them to dispose of as his master orders.

Now this is exactly the case of everyone with relation to God. We are not at liberty to use what He has lodged in our hands as *we* please, but as *He* pleases who alone is the possessor of heaven and earth, and the Lord of every creature. He entrusts us with them on the express condition that we use them only *as our Master's goods*, and according to the particular directions He has given us in His Word.

JOHN WESLEY

KNOW GOD BETTER

“A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.”

JOHN 3:27 NIV

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

I PETER 4:10

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

I CORINTHIANS 4:2

THINK ABOUT IT

What gifts has God entrusted you with, to use for His glory?

Are you faithfully using those gifts?

Stewardship involves priorities. When does God get “paid”? Is He the last one? Are you giving to your church and the other ministries only after everything else has been purchased and paid for? Is God getting just the leftovers (if there are any)? God deserves first place in our lives. That means our finances, too. Giving a portion to God first reflects an attitude that God has priority in your family finances.

BRUCE BICKEL AND STAN JANTZ

God Is in the Small Stuff for Your Family

Every man must render to God the things that are God’s, and that, let it be remembered, is all he is and all he possesses.

RICHARD BAXTER



Day 3

KNOW GOD
AS GUIDE

*Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also
in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he
shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light,
and thy judgment as the noonday.*

PSALM 37:5-6



We must make God our guide and submit in everything to His guidance, and then all our affairs, even those that seem intricate and confusing, shall be made to turn out well. The duty is very easy, and if we do it right, it will make us easy. "Commit your way to the Lord." Cast your burden on the Lord, the burden of your cares. Reveal your way to the Lord; that is, by prayer spread your case, and all your cares about it, before the Lord, and then trust Him to bring it to a good conclusion, with full satisfaction that all is well that God does. We must follow Providence and not force it, subscribe to Infinite Wisdom and not prescribe. The promise is very sweet: He shall bring that to pass, whatever it is that you have committed to Him, if not to your contrivance, yet to your contentment. He will find means to extricate you out of your problems, to prevent your fears, and bring about your purposes to your satisfaction. "He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday." That is, He shall make it to appear that you are an honest man, and that is honor enough. If we take care to keep a good conscience, we may leave it to God to take care of our good name.

MATTHEW HENRY

KNOW GOD BETTER

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

MATTHEW 6:10 NIV

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

JAMES 4:7

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

PSALM 143:10

THINK ABOUT IT

Have you made God your heart's delight?

Have you made the intentional choice to commit your way to the Lord?

Do you daily choose to make God your life's guide?

As we journey on the adventure of life, God leads us. He walks ahead. . .He's the point man out there blazing the trail.

STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN
The Great Adventure

“Be guided, only by the healer of the sick, the raiser of the dead, the friend of all who were afflicted and forlorn, the patient Master who shed tears of compassion for our infirmities. We cannot but be right when we put all the rest away and do everything in remembrance of Him. . . . There can be no confusion in following Him, and seeking for no other footsteps, I am certain!”

CHARLES DICKENS
Little Dorrit



Day 4

KNOW WHO GOD IS

*Jesus answered, "I am the way
and the truth and the life."*

JOHN 14:6 NIV

