

# Knowing God

Sample Retreat Talk  
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Let's look at what it's like to know God. Once you've had an encounter with the creator - it's a bit addicting! We want to go back. We want to know Him more and more - and the amazing thing is that He gives us insight into His character in sweet and wonderful ways.

Let's open the word and read a little about what the apostle Paul says about knowing God. He was a violent religious zealot who persecuted Christians until God got ahold of his attention and his heart. ... Open your Bible to Philippians 3. We will start in verse 8 and read through 14.

*More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, **that I may know Him** and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

*Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Remember Paul was a man who had everything regarding religious zeal and background. He was the elite of the elite - but all of it was nothing to him when compared to actually knowing God. Paul is talking about the incredible value of knowing God. Something he places a higher value on than anything in this world. He speaks about it as if it's an unattainable thing but worth every minute of every day to get closer and closer to Christ. It's like Paul sees this mountain of goodness and **MUST** climb. It's a mountain he will never reach the top of but it's impossible to walk away from.

Paul also talks about knowing Christ in the book 1 Corinthians, but this time he isn't talking about it's value, he's helping us understand how to climb the mountain. In Philippians he says "check out this amazing mountain!" in Philippians he gives us insight and tools.

### 1Cor. 13:12

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know (ginosko) in part, but then I will know (epiginosko) fully just as I also have been fully known (epiginosko).

First off, did you catch how Paul says that God fully knows us? Love that.

Second, we need to do a little digging to understand this verse a bit better. The New Testament was written in greek and as with any language there are nuances that sometimes get lost in translation. Today I want to take apart the word "know." It's actually two different greek words but translated as one word.

The first is "ginos" or "ginosko" - it simply means know.

Then there is the word "epiginosko." It means knowledge with experience. Think of the epi as super or experiential, application.

My son Stephen loves to play wii. He used to play the bowling game and score near perfect - it was freaky. One night we took him to a real bowling alley and he declared "I know how to do this!" and his arm nearly fell off at the weight of a bowling ball. We left the bowling alley that night with a very disappointed little guy.

He knew "ginosko" how to bowl.

He didn't "epiginosko" how to bowl.

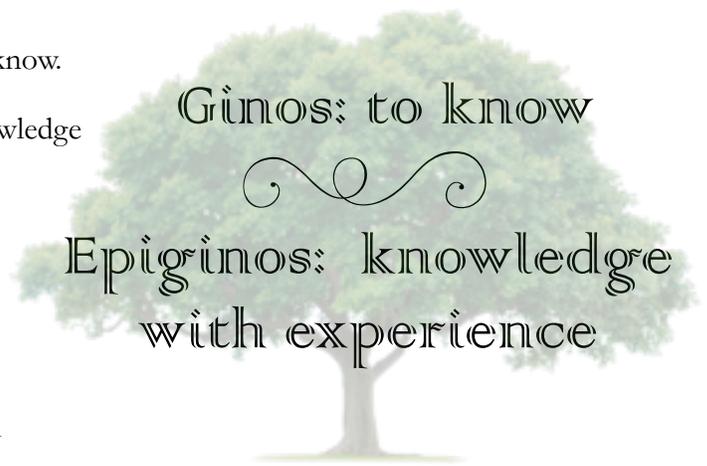
1 Corinthians is saying that we can ginosko God, but when we get to heaven we will epiginosko Him.

Then let's look at that word *dimly*. It's also sometimes translated "riddle."

In 1 Corinthians Paul is explaining to us that we can know God in a way that is dim, unclear, but that when we get to heaven we will know God fully. It will be complete and clear. What is a riddle now will be clear in heaven.

So it is with God. We can have knowledge of God, but that part of super-knowledge? That's a whole new territory that we can't fully grasp until we get to heaven. It will feel like a riddle to us until we get there.

But God, in His graciousness and goodness to not leave us here walking through a complete fog, has given us His Holy Spirit. Our riddle helper.



Check out 1 Corinthians 2:10-13.

.... contact Rachel for more ....