

Can we really know what God is like? If asked, could we describe Him, at least in part? Many people think that God cannot be known, except minimally. But, I believe the opposite. I believe that we can know a lot about the Lord.

1 John 4:8 tells us that "God is love." It doesn't say that God had the capacity to love, and then chose to do so, but that He IS love. According to 1 John 2:2, Jesus died for the sins of all mankind, not just for the sins of those who are saved. Again, this shows His love. That's why He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, as Ezekiel 33:11 says; instead, He would have all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4).

We know from the Bible that when the Holy Spirit fills us, we display the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. If that describes how we are when filled with His presence, don't these attributes really describe Him?

And, there's more to know. Is the Lord an artist? Yes, look at the sunset, His canvas in the sky, and a mountain range, His sculpture in stone. Is He a writer? Yes, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time. Is He a musician? Yes, the Bible is a book of lyrics to songs from the Song of Moses in Exodus to music surrounding His throne in Revelation. Is the Lord a scientist? Yes, He is a geologist, who made the earth, and an astrophysicist, who made the sky. Does He farm? Yes, He devised and cultivates plants to feed His creation. And, I could go on.

One of my favorite reminders of His genius is rain. The Pacific Ocean may be 2,000 miles away, but through evaporation and wind, He moves the clouds east to satisfy our gardens with water. Unlike us, He needs no hose, well or waterline.

The Bible tells us that we are to praise the Lord, and there is much to praise. The world did not just happen as the result of chance, following an explosion of mass and energy, billions and billions of years ago. Instead, His creation reveals Him. For example, some believe that the beauty of a sunset is the effect caused by the filtration of sunlight through more and more of the atmosphere as it moves closer to the horizon. Though true, it only explains the "how" of a sunset. To me, a sunset displays the Lord's artwork daily, which should elicit our appreciation and praise. That is the "why" of a sunset!

There is certainly more to know about Him to complete our description of God, but we must also know that He is holy. To our eternal peril, we should not fail to recognize God's holiness.

Think about it: His Spirit is "Holy", His name is holy, His word is holy, and His presence is holy. According to Hebrews 12:14, without holiness, "no man shall see the Lord." In fact, I believe that repentance is the sudden, Holy Spirit inspired conviction about our sinfulness relative to God's holiness; hence, sin and its consequences are seen in a new and terrible light, leading us to understand our great need of a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Stated otherwise, repentance is the plow, preparing the heart for the seed of faith.

God is not far away, indifferent and unknowable. He is here now and reveals Himself to us as our Maker, Savior, Helper and Friend. Were I to suggest a book or books to read, I would start with 1 & 2 Samuel. In those volumes, you'll read about King David's complicated and difficult life, in which God repeatedly intervened. David did not see his life as the result of fate, luck or fortune, but looked to the Lord for help and salvation. That's why when we read the Psalms, many of which David composed under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we do not see the Lord as a stranger, but as David's ever-present source and strength. And so the Lord is to us, today, when we know Him!