

“My desire and hope is that Spiritual Gold will reach our world with the positive message that God is alive and has the answers for the problems facing us today. In his messages at SpiritualGold.org, my husband, Richard, takes the Scriptures and breaks them down so that we can understand and receive practical advice as we live one day at a time.” —Mary Strauss



Knowing God

Adapted from *Show Me Thy Glory*, Dr. Richard L. Strauss,
AT-01 delivered September 16, 1979

God wants to be known. He is confident that the better we know Him, the more we will love, trust, worship, and serve Him. So He tells us about Himself. He reveals Himself to us and He takes the initiative. It has to be that way. There can be no personal knowledge of Him unless He takes the initiative.

How does God reveal Himself? He does it through the Bible. It is God's Word. The Scriptures were given by the breath of His mouth (2 Timothy 3:16; cf. also Matthew 4:4). In them God tells us what He is like. We learn through them how He thinks, how He feels, how we can expect Him to act. He reveals Himself through His Word.

God has taken the initiative. How should we respond? We must cultivate a desire to know God. We need to accept what God reveals about Himself. And we must commit to a total involvement with Him.

Your Total Being

If we really want to get to know Him, it's going to involve our total person:

- Intellect
- Emotions
- Will

We live in a day of extremes. On one hand are the super-intellectuals who know the doctrine about God but feel nothing in their relationship with Him. On the other are the super-sentimentalists who drum up a big emotional religious experience, but don't know the facts about God. In between are all kinds who say they know God, but don't obey Him with their wills.

continued on next page

Take Note(s)

Transcripts are available for some sermons—useful for highlighting text as you listen.

- Attributes of God (partial)
- Balaam, Life of
- Big Things in Little Books
- Christian Adventure (partial)
- Christ in Hebrews
- Galatians (partial)
- James (partial)
- John the Baptist (partial)
- Jonah
- Miscellaneous (selected sermons)
- Revelation
- Rewards
- Romans

Be the first to know when new transcripts are posted by following us.



Year-End Giving

If you'd like to make a donation, please send a check payable to:

Spiritual Gold, Inc., 749 Willow Glen,
Escondido, CA 92025.

You may use a credit card online via PayPal (<http://spiritualgold.org/donate.html>). Spiritual Gold is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

This ministry operates solely on gifts. In fulfillment of our ministry's mission, our Board of Directors strategically supports pastoral training ministries here and around the world—including Africa and the Middle East.

Knowing God (*continued*)

All three parts of our personality are involved in knowing God.

We learn about Him with our intellects--we study the Bible, absorb the information He reveals about Himself, meditate on it, think through its implications and applications to our way of living. That's all the function of the mind. The mind has to be involved in knowing God, and must of necessity come first. If we don't have accurate information about Him, we really cannot say we know Him.

The more we learn about Him, the more emotionally we get involved with Him. That's nothing to be afraid of. Too often we back away from our emotions.

When we see the depths of His love for us, it might well bring tears to our eyes, or shouts of joy to our lips. And it will certainly inspire greater love for Him. When we understand the far-reaching implications of His goodness and grace toward unworthy sinners like us, may want to burst out in song, even if we can't carry a tune. When we see people spurn Him, our hearts will be saddened. When we realize how deeply we have hurt Him by our sin, we will feel grief. When we experience the reality of His forgiveness, we will feel relief, and love, and joy, and a sense of security. Those are emotions. A true knowledge of God cannot eliminate them.

“O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.
Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary,
To see Your power and Your glory.
Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,
My lips will praise You” (Psalm 63:1-3).

But it doesn't stop with an intellectual knowledge and some exciting emotions. We must do something about it. We must choose to act by our wills in a manner consistent with the information we have received and the feelings we have experienced. Some people who say they know God aren't doing that. Let me show you some in the Bible.

"They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed" (Titus 1:16).

The choices these people have made are not consistent with the profession they make.

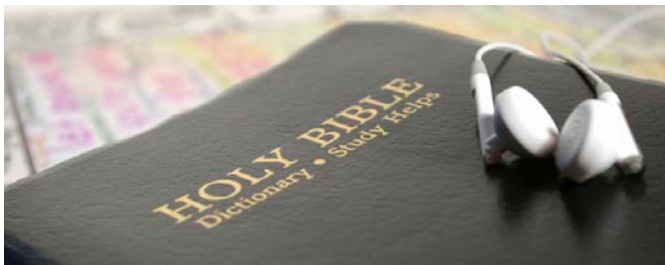
"The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4).

If we really know God, we are going to respond in obedience.

Let's bring it back to our human illustration again. If I have gotten to know you intimately, you will expect certain things from me: loyalty, faithfulness, trust, fellowship, and a sharing of myself with you. Those are things I must choose by an act of my will. If I don't, I can't really say that I know you.

We cannot really say we know God just because we have accumulated some facts about Him or even because we've had an emotional religious experience with Him. If we truly know Him, we are going to choose to do what He wants us to do: spend time with Him in prayer, share ourselves openly with Him--honestly admitting where we fall short of what He wants us to be; depend on Him on the basis of what we know about Him; worship Him because of who we have discovered Him to be.

If, like Moses, you want to know God's ways that you may know Him (Exodus 33:13),
let Dr. Strauss help you by sharing some of the information God has revealed about Himself in the Bible.
You can learn this by listening to the Attributes series of sermons (also available in transcript form).
The rest is up to us. We will have to believe what He says, and commit ourselves to total involvement with Him.
That may mean some changes in our lives--changes in the way we think; changes in what we live for.
But the benefits of knowing God are enormous.



More Messages Online

You can find over 1500 messages at SpiritualGold.org, including *Show Me Thy Glory* (AT-01), the first message in the sermon series on God’s attributes.

Over 1,000 hours of material covers 23 books of the Bible and 52 topics, from Aging Gracefully to the Will of God. Use these resources in your own personal study, or as a help in preparing a sermon or study for others.

Dear Spiritual Gold,

I cannot begin to thank you enough for making these resources available. I started attending EFCC as a young kid in around 1986, so at the time I didn't appreciate how much benefit there was to listening to Doc. Once again, thank you so very much for your continued ministry!

G. H.

Thank you for the website and sermons. Still making a difference.

P. L.

EFCC is where I became a believer in 2009. I was not raised with any spirituality or really any guidance at all. This has caused me a lot of stumbling blocks to grow personally, especially regarding my self-worth. At some point, I came to your website and Pastor Strauss’s sermons have given me more understanding and comfort than any other modern outlet. His way of speaking plainly gives me assurance in God’s word.

K. C.

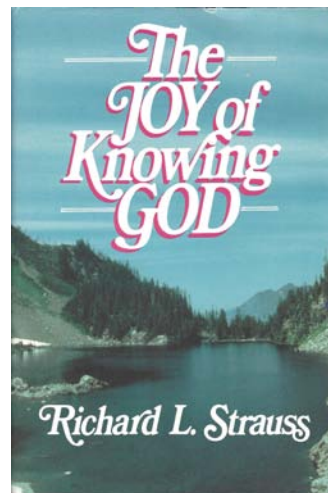


Email Reminders

Need a friendly nudge to listen to the Sermon of the Month? Go to SpiritualGold.org to sign up for email reminders and a link to the message. Or type this link into your web browser: <http://bit.ly/2eKQ8WX>

Book Spotlight

“One day it occurred to me that God is the most fascinating person alive and that getting to know Him could well be the most helpful thing that ever happened to me,” wrote Dr. Strauss in *The Joy of Knowing God*. This book examines many of the attributes of God to help you get to know Him personally. (ISBN 978-0872138346, 304 pages)



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