

HOW WELL DOES GOD KNOW YOU

Contributed by Jeff Strite

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1. There's an old riddle that asks this question: "What is it **that belongs** to you, but other people **use it** more than you do?"
 - a. **THE ANSWER:** Your name.
2. Your name belongs to you, but you rarely use it except to tell others who you are.
 - a. We like it when other people say our names, because our names are important to us.
 - b. We like to have people know our name because when they don't know our name, we can feel unnoticed and unimportant.
 - c. But when people remember our names,
 - i. we feel valued.
3. God's name is important.
 - a. **I did a sermon with the different biblical names of God**
 - i. You can find it on our website
 - b. In the "**Lord's Prayer**, Jesus taught His disciples **to pray**
 - i. "*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be... THY NAME.*"

ILLUSTRATION

One boy who was memorizing the words of that prayer and was overheard saying: "Our Father who art in Heaven, how'd you know my name?" Everybody in the room chuckled and his mother was embarrassed. But noticing her embarrassment, the preacher smiled and said "Oh, Ma'am - don't let that bother you. Your son was right: God DOES know his name."

4. God knew that boy's name, and God knows your name too.
 - a. Which means you really matter to God.

Isaiah 43:1

*"But now, this is what the LORD says—
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine."*

John 10:3

"The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

John 10:14

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."

5. God knows your name. In fact, He's got it written it down.

a. In **Revelation 20:15**

i. **To those who are saved**

ii. “OUR NAMES WERE WRITTEN DOWN in the Lamb’s book of life.”

6. In fact, God not only knows your name,

a. He knows everything else about you.

b. He has an exhaustive knowledge of every aspect of your daily life and thoughts.

Psalm 139:1-4

*“O LORD, you have searched me
and you know me.*

You know when I sit and when I rise;

you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;

you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue

you know it completely, O LORD.”

7. God knows you! He knows your thoughts, and your location.

Psalm 139:13

“For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”

a. In fact, even before you say something - God knows it.

b. And even before you were born...

c. God knew everything about you

d. “(God) formed (your) inward parts;

e. (He) knitted (you) together in (your) mother's womb.”

Max Lucado stated it this way:

“If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.”

8. **Not only** is God the God who knows your name;

a. He’s also the GOD who will ALWAYS BE with YOU.

Psalm 139:7-12

“Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

*If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb."*

A promise God made us in **Hebrews 13:5** - "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*"

ILLUSRATION

A 2-story house that caught on fire. The family was making its way out of the house when the smallest boy became terrified, and tore away from his mother. He ran back upstairs into one of the bedrooms, and suddenly, he appeared at a smoke-filled window. The boy was crying hysterically, and his father shouted, "Jump, son! Jump! I'll catch you." The boy cried out "But daddy, I can't see you" and the father called out "I know. But I can see you."

9. You are **NOT** some ordinary person.
 - a. God formed you.
 - b. He made you in secret.
 - c. You were intricately woven & knit together in your mother's womb.
 - d. GOD DID ALL THAT!
 - e. There's **no** one else in the world like you.
 - i. There never has been.
 - ii. There never will be.

10. SO, LET'S REVIEW.

- 1) Your God is the God who knows you,
- 2) and the God who will always be with you,
- 3) and the God who created YOU.
- 4) God is invested in you.
- 5) In fact, you are so important to God,
 - i. that He gave His only begotten Son,
 - ii. so that you be **cleansed of your sins**
 - iii. and so that **you could spend an eternity** with Him

1. in heaven.

AND, THAT'S ALL GREAT STUFF

1. But there's something about this Psalm **THAT'S A LITTLE CONFUSING.**

- a. The Psalm goes to great lengths to say
 - i. that God has searched us,
 - ii. and knows everything about us.
 - iii. That He's always near us,
 - iv. and that He even created us at birth,
 - v. and that we are important to Him.

2. But then David writes: **Psalm 139:23-24**

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

3. SEARCH ME? TRY ME? KNOW MY HEART?

- a. **But I thought** God knew everything about me?
- b. Well... He does.

4. But in this set of verses, David is INVITING God

- a. **to search his heart**
- b. **and know his thoughts.**

5. Why would David do that?

Well, **Jeremiah 17:9**

*“The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?
“I the LORD search the heart
and examine the mind,
to reward a man according to his conduct,
according to what his deeds deserve.”*

6. Left to my own devices, I'll believe that **I'm a pretty nice guy.**

- a. I mean, after all - if God loves me as much as **Ps. 139** implies,
- b. I must be WORTH it.
- c. I must DESERVE His love.

7. Welllllll... **not so much.**

8. In the book of **Ephesians**, Paul was writing to a church

- a. whose acceptance by God
 - b. was being questioned by Jewish believers
 - c. who said (to be accepted by God)
 - d. these Gentile believers needed to be **circumcised** to be saved.
9. So Paul spent **an entire 1st chapter** of his letter telling them that:
 (*SHOW SLIDE*)
- a. They were **chosen** by God to be holy and blameless (1:3);
 - b. That God had **lavished** His love and grace upon them (1:7-8);
 - c. They were **sealed** with Holy Spirit (1:13);
 - d. And that Paul was **always giving thanks** to God for them (1:16)
 - e. **THEY WERE WONDERFUL PEOPLE**
10. But then in the next chapter, Paul tells them not think they deserved God's Love.
- a. Essentially, he tells them
 - i. **REMEMBER WHO YOU ONCE WERE:**

Ephesians 2:1-6

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

11. In other words:
- a. *“You didn't deserve God's love and forgiveness,*
 - b. *but He loved you anyway.*
 - c. **He sent** His only begotten son to die for you
 - i. **so that** you might be saved.
 - d. **All He asks** is that we believe/ repent/ confess/ be baptized/
 - i. and live for Him.
12. And it's all **because** GOD KNOWS YOUR NAME.
13. Someone once said something that I found it interesting.
- a. He noted that **the devil knows your name,**
 - i. **but** he calls you by your **sins**.
 - b. **But God** knows your **sins**...
 - i. and calls you by **your name**.

- c. **Satan** knows your **name**...
 - i. **but he** doesn't like you,
- d. so **he calls you** by your sins
 - i. and **he reminds you** of how you've failed.
- e. **But while God knows** your sins,
 - i. **He loves you** so much that He calls you by your name.
 - ii. And **He calls you by your name**
 - 1. because that's how valuable you are to Him.

PLAY SONG:

https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=LKVGOy7ROZc&list=RDLKVGOy7ROZc&start_radio=1