

21T16b Now What? (Part 2) Know God*

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table.

Now What? Last time we asked this question. Once you are a Christian, Now What? What should I do? How should I do it? How do I act? and on and on and on. I know the questions because I have asked these questions myself over and over during my life. But honestly, did you ever get an answer to those questions?

Well, the short answer to all of these questions is the Bible. But I know that is not very specific. In this series we looking at what the Bible says the answer is to these Now What? Questions.

In Part 1 of this series, we talked about how and why we Love God. According to Jesus, Love God was the most important commandment. But this leads us to another What Now? Question. Love God. Okay. But how do I love someone I don't know. In order, to love God, we have to get to know God.

We can know God if we understand who God is. I want to look at just a few characteristics of God. We will look at several scriptures,

- **Love of God** (Romans 8:35-39; Psalms 100:5; Proverbs 3:12; 1John 4: 8-10)
- **Justice of God** (Proverbs 21:15)
- **Mercy of God** (Psalm 23)
- **Wrath of God** (Romans 12:19; Psalm 33:5)
- **Truth of God** (John 14:6-7; Romans 3:4-5)

First God has many other attributes. My objective today is just to highlight a few. Knowing God is all about understanding who God is. I hope these few will stimulate you to look for more.

Paul describes the depth and fullness of God's love in Romans. Paul writes, *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*** (Romans 8:35-39 ICB)

And Psalm 100 is beautiful psalm. *"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his*

name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100 ICB)

The Psalmist captures how God has loved us forever. King Solomon this wrote in Proverbs, ***“My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.”*** (Proverbs 3:11-12 ICB)

Solomon is reminding us that God’s love is not all smiles and kisses. God loves us when he corrects us. He loves us when He disciplines us.

If you are a parent, you should be able to understand this. I have three girls. I’ve learned loving my children requires me to discipline them. I want what is best for them, so I have to teach them what is right. I discipline them and correct them because I love them.

This Love God has for us is even more. It is a love we cannot fully imagine but when we are in trouble, we can feel this love. I know from my own experience with COVID-19. I could feel how much God loved me. It is beyond reason; I only know what my experience was beyond all understanding. This was just a glimpse of the Love of God.

John writes in his first letter 1st John, ***“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”*** (1John 4:8-10 ICB)

God’s love is pure, and He showed it by what He did for us on the cross.

But to know God, we have to understand the Justice of God. The thing about justice is we cheer justice when it punishes those who have hurt us. But we fear justice when it is our deeds under scrutiny. God is Holy and as such His character will result in judgement for sins. His Justice will prevail.

Solomon wrote in Proverbs, ***“When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.”*** (Proverbs 21:15 ICB)

We can count on God’s justice to right the wrongs of this world.

We cannot talk about Justice without understanding God’s Mercy. The Mercy of God is something we must cling to. We don’t deserve grace, yet God gives it to us. We don’t deserve love, yet God loves us. I’m going to share a scripture from King David. I think it captures the essence of God’s mercy. David writes, ***“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no***

evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23 KJV)

I just had to read this beautiful Psalm in the King James version. Please read it again yourself in any translation you choose. I just love the poetry of the old KJV just like I memorized it as child. God's mercy is with us, God provides for us, God settles our anxieties, God refreshes us, God protects us. Truly God's goodness and mercy will be with us in every situation we will face.

All mercy comes from God. He even forgives us when we turned away from Him or rebel against Him. When we turn back to God, He is waiting with His mercy to forgive us and welcome us back into His family.

Love and Mercy are great, but another part of God's Justice is the Wrath of God. Yes, God gets angry and punishes those that do wrong. Paul writes, *"Do your best to live in peace with everyone. My friends, do not try to punish others when they wrong you. Wait for God to punish them with his anger. It is written: "I am the One who punishes; I will pay people back," says the Lord.* (Romans 12:19 ICB)

I don't want to dwell on God's wrath but be sure the Wrath of God is real. You can read Revelation or any number of old testament stories and see demonstrations of the wrath of God.

Our "Now What" is to learn about God so we can know God. We can trust God because He is the only source of Truth. We don't get to define truth. I don't have my own truth because only God can define Truth. Jesus told us in the Gospel of John, *"I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. If you really knew me, then you would know my Father, too. But now you do know him, and you have seen him."* (John 14:6-7 ICB)

Paul stresses that only God is truth, Paul writes in his letters to the Romans, *"No! God will continue to be true even when every person is false. As the Scriptures say: "So your words may be shown to be right. You are fair when you judge me." Psalm 51:4 When we do wrong, that shows more clearly that God is right. So can we say that God is wrong to punish us?"* (Romans 3:4-5 ICB)

Now I know all of this is just a beginning. But "Now What" is learning more about God. To Know God, so that our faith can grow and our confidence in our Father God will be reinforced. As we get to know God, our love for God will naturally grow. But again knowledge is not enough. Remember the devil and his angels know all about Jesus, but they don't love God. We have to apply our knowledge of God, so our love moves from something we know we need to do, to a love for God we can't live without. We can't imagine not loving God because He is the focus of all our life's activities.

What does all of this mean. Get to know God. We cannot build a relationship with King Jesus if we don't know Him. We have to choose to follow our Lord, King Jesus. Every day we have to trust Jesus to be our leader. There are no part-time Christians. You are either 100% with Jesus or you are not.

**Father God I pray to know you. Help me to know more about you and experience the blessings of being a child of God.
I pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today, I hope you'll join us for the rest of the series "Now What?"

If you liked the message, please click like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me.

See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

LINKS

Dallas Willard (Knowledge of God) <https://youtu.be/lcnGH7uiH-I>

John Ortberg (God & Justice) https://youtu.be/3r5_rzx9uYY

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