

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP



*Developing Spirit-Empowered,
Servant-Hearted Leaders*

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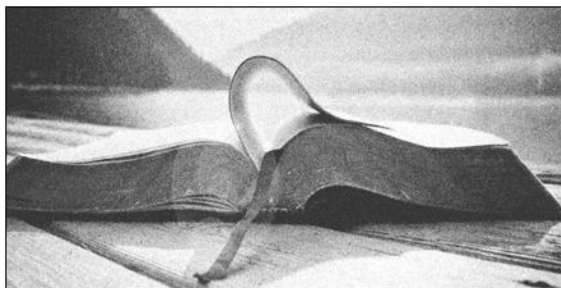
1 | KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD

The Foundation of Kingdom Leadership

As we begin a new year and a new Institute Biblical Leadership class, we come with expectation, looking to the LORD to shape and transform us. Leadership is critical to the life and growth of the Church (Acts 6:1-7), yet the leadership Jesus calls for is radically different from the world's model. In Matthew 20:20-28, He makes it clear that greatness in the Kingdom is not found in position, but in surrender and servanthood!

Biblical leadership begins with knowing God deeply and knowing His ways, not just His works. Psalm 103:7 says, *He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel.* Many see God's acts; few are formed by His ways. Acts impress, but ways prepare.

Key | The Greek mind defined knowledge as understanding; in contrast, the Hebrew heart defined knowledge as experience. Knowing Him is more than information... it is transformation! We are changed as we experience an unveiling of His Character!



The knowledge of God is more essential for the Christian than anything else. It was the prayer of Jesus in John 17:3 ...*Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.* We will experience God only in proportion to our knowledge of Him.

A short book list: God's Final Answer, by Harold E. Helms | The Jesus I Never Knew, by Philip Yancey | The Awe of God, by John Bevere

Part 1 | KNOWING GOD

The importance of knowing the Old Testament names of God. (John 17:3)

In the Bible, a name often revealed a person's character or a defining quality (Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, etc.). The Old Testament contains many names and compound names of God that reveal aspects of His character and His dealings with humanity. In the disciples' prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), when Jesus taught us to pray, "hallowed be your name," the Greek word for name is *onoma* and means identity, character, authority, reputation, and revealed nature. So in context we are declaring, "We honor and revere who You are."

Key | Eternal life is found in an intimate knowledge of God. To know God's Name is to glimpse His very nature... His character, His heart, and His divine personality. Those who truly know Him do not merely believe in Him; they learn to trust Him without hesitation or reserve.

Psalm 9:7-10 *LORD reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity... Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.*

Psalm 91:14 *I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*

John 17:3 *Now this is eternal life: that they know you (intimately), the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

AN ABBREVIATED LIST OF THE OLD TESTAMENT NAMES OF GOD

In chronological order...

1. Elohim (God) – The Creator and Sovereign Power.

- Genesis 1:1 (and many places throughout the Bible) *In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.*
- This is the plural form of El, meaning “Strong One.” While it can be used of false gods, when applied to the one true God it serves as a **plural** of majesty, expressing fullness and Supremacy, and it “suggests” the triune nature of God (Trinity). The name is especially associated with God's supreme authority, His creative power, His mighty works with Israel, and His absolute rule over all things. (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 5:23, 8:15; Psalm 68:7; Isaiah 45:18, 54:5; Jeremiah 32:27).
- Key passages where Elohim is expressed in the plural tense include Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; and Isaiah 6:8.

2. Adonai – Lord, Master with absolute authority.

- Genesis 15:2 *Sovereign LORD (Adonai Jehovah), what can you give me since I remain childless...?*
- Isaiah 6:1 *I saw the Lord (Master) sitting on a throne, high and exalted...*
- Adonai reveals God as the absolute Master who rules, commands, judges, protects, and calls His people to obedient submission rather than casual belief.

3. El Shaddai – God Almighty, the All-Sufficient One.

- Genesis 17:1 *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless.”*
- God revealed Himself as El Shaddai in Genesis 17 to emphasize His all-sufficient, life-giving power to bring Isaac in spite of Abraham and Sarah's barrenness and old age!
- God Himself is sufficient, powerful, and nurturing, the God who sustains and fulfills His covenant promises.

4. JEHOVAH (LORD) – The Proper Name of the Covenant God.

- Exodus 3:14-15 *God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” This is what you are to say to the Israelites: “I AM has sent me to you.” This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.*

- God revealed Himself as the personal, eternal, self-existent LORD, calling Israel into a covenant relationship.
5. **JEHOVAH Jireh** – The LORD who will provide (The One who sees).
 - Genesis 22:1-19 *...So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide.*
 - When Abraham was about to sacrifice His son of promise, God brought the ram as a sacrifice in Isaac's place. This powerfully foreshadowed Christ and His sacrifice on the cross. In fact, Isaac was placed on the altar on Mount Moriah, the same location where the Temple would later stand and what is now the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.
 - Knowing this name grows faith and obedience, especially in seasons of sacrifice.
 6. **JEHOVAH Rapha** – The LORD who heals.
 - Exodus 15:22-27 *...For I am the LORD, who heals you.*
 - God is not just a healer, He is healing by nature. Covenant relationship brings restoration physically and spiritually.
 7. **JEHOVAH Nissi** – The LORD is my banner.
 - Exodus 17:8-16 *So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning ...Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner.*
 - God revealed Himself as both our victory and our identity in spiritual, and even physical, warfare.
 8. **JEHOVAH Sabaoth** – The LORD of Hosts.
 - 1 Samuel 17:45 *David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty (LORD of Hosts), the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."*
 - Although not mentioned by name, 2 Kings 6:17 is one of the clearest examples of Jehovah and armies/host of Heaven! *And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*
 - God revealed Himself as the Commander of heaven's armies, establishing His supreme authority and overwhelming power in spiritual and physical warfare.
 9. **JEHOVAH Shalom** – The LORD is peace
 - Judges 6:1-5, 20-24 *...So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The LORD Is Peace.*
 - Peace is not circumstantial, it flows from knowing God's presence.
 - The meaning of Shalom is seen in the Hebrew characters that translate to "destroy the authority that establishes chaos." (See it here: <https://clr.cm/TSJp>)
 10. **JEHOVAH Roi** – The LORD is my shepherd
 - Psalm 23:1 *The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*
 - This is a deeply **relational name** pointing to guidance, protection, and intimacy.

GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

His _____ **Attributes**, characteristics only He possesses.

1. **Self Existent** — He is Jehovah, the absolute Source of all life and the Eternal Living God. God is not dependent on *anything* outside of Himself, He is Self-Existent! (Exodus 3:13-15; John 5:26; Colossians 1:15-17)
2. **Eternal** — God has always existed and will forever exist. He is outside time as we know it. (Exodus 3:13-15; Psalm 90:2; John 8:58; 1 Timothy 1:17)
3. **Immutable** — He does not change His nature, His character, and His Word. (1 Kings 8:56; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8)
4. **Omnipresent** — He is everywhere at the same time. God is present in all time and space, He is everywhere and – in every moment – past, present and future. (Jeremiah 23:23-24; Psalm 139:1-12; Matthew 28:20; Colossians 1:17)
5. **Omniscient** — God is all-knowing. As the Creator of heaven and earth, nothing exists outside His knowledge. (Psalm 139:1-4, 16; Acts 5:1-11; Ephesians 3:9-11; Colossians 1:16)
6. **Omnipotent** — He is all-Powerful. As with the attributes of Omniscience and Omnipresence, it follows that, if God is Infinite, and if He is Sovereign, then He is also Omnipotent. He has all power over all things at all times and in all ways. (Jeremiah 32:17, 27; Isaiah 40:15; Daniel 4:35; Matthew 19:26)
7. **Sovereign** — He is the Supreme Authority (Sovereign) over all of creation. (Malachi 1:6; Romans 10:11; Ephesians 1:4-5; Colossians 1:15-18)
 - Calvinism and Arminianism are two systems of theology that attempt to explain the relationship between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility concerning salvation. One view holds that God elects or chooses individuals for salvation based entirely on His will, not the worthiness or unworthiness of the individual. The other states that God elects individuals to salvation based on His foreknowledge.



His _____ **Attributes** are those He shares with us to a limited degree, and deal with character and conduct.

1. **Holy** (Leviticus 11:44-45; Isaiah 6:1-5) — Both the Hebrew qados and the Greek hagios define holy as that which belongs only to God and set apart for His purposes. It is pure, undefiled, uncontaminated by sin, and worthy of His presence and use.
 - In the New Testament the quality of Holiness emphasizes the inward purity and separation from the world. (2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:10-11)
2. **Righteous** (Genesis 18:25; Deuteronomy 32:4; Romans 3:25-26) — The Hebrew word is "Tsedek," meaning Rightness, Straightness, Justice of a judge and a King. God is Right in punishing the wicked, avenging, delivering, or rewarding the righteous.
3. **Love** (1 John 4:8-11, 16) — In Exodus 34:6-7 we see that God's Attributes can be summed up in Holiness and Love. In Deuteronomy 7:6-8 God expresses His love based upon His Covenant with Israel.

4. **Truth** (John 1:14, 14:6; Titus 1:2) — His Word is the true (truthful) revelation of His Nature, His will for mankind, and His plan of salvation. (Psalm 119:89; John 17:17) Because God is True, He is faithful to keep all His promises. (Numbers 23:19-20; Joshua 23:14)

Key | If we are to lead in this season, we must allow God to work deeply in us before He works through us. What He forms in us will determine what He can release through us. Following are a few principles that shape Biblical leaders...

Part 2 | ENCOUNTERING GOD

Because I understand His character better, I can entrust my life to Him and successfully navigate through the seasons of transformation.

True knowledge of God begins with a correct (Biblical) understanding of who He is. Experiencing encounters with God is where that understanding becomes a living reality through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our faith matures when knowledge turns into actual experience through encounters with Jehovah Sabaoth!

1. Understand that God is _____ at work around you.

- Philippians 2:13 *...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.* (John 5:17; Philippians 1:6, 2:13; Romans 8:28)
- Look to see what God says and how He works in the lives of people in Scripture. Make your decisions and evaluate your experiences based on Biblical truths.
- **Question** | Do you believe God is at work around you right now? If so, what do you sense Him doing?

2. God takes the initiative in _____!

- Jeremiah 31:3 *The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."* (Hosea 11:4; Luke 19:10; John 6:44; 1 John 4:19)
- Even though Adam hid from God after he sinned, God pursued him...*the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"* (Genesis 3:9)
- **Question** | Why does it matter that God pursues you? How have you experienced this during times of doubt?

3. God _____ to us by the Holy Spirit, revealing Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

- John 16:13 *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*
- Learn to hear and identify His voice through the distractions of life. 1 Kings 19:11-12 *...and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.* (1 Samuel 3)
- **Question** | Have you heard God speak to you recently? If so, what did He say? What have you done in response?

4. **God calls you to be _____ with Him in His Kingdom work!**
- John 5:17, 19-20 *But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." ...Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel."* (Exodus 3:9-10; Isaiah 6:8; Mark 16:20)
 - Jesus sets the example of being fully engaged in the Father's work in John 4:34-35 *"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work..."*
 - **Question** | If God is inviting you to join Him in His work, what is He asking you to do?
5. **As you walk with God, major _____ must be made in your life to align yourself with what He's doing.**
- Genesis 12:1-5 *Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing..."* (Luke 14:33)
 - Every person in the Bible who was used of God, faced great adjustments: Moses and the burning bush, Elisha and his calling, Hannah, the mother of Samuel, Matthew and all the disciples, Paul and all who teamed with him, to name only a few!
 - You cannot stay where you are and go with God at the same time. Jim Eliot, a missionary to Quichua tribe in South America (who gave his life to bring them the Gospel), said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." (Matthew 16:25)
 - **Question** | What specific adjustments have you made as you began to live for Him? What adjustments is God asking you to make in your life now?
6. **God's invitation to work with Him always leads to a _____ that requires faith and perseverance.**
- Luke 22:31-32 *"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*
 - Mark 9:21-24. *"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"* (Hebrews 11:6)
 - Matthew 11:2-3 *When John (the Baptist), who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"*
 - An encounter with God requires faith because the challenges are God sized. What you do in response to God's invitation may reveal what you believe about God.
 - **Question** | Are you currently experiencing a crisis of belief? If so, describe it.
7. **You come to know God through personal _____ as you walk in obedience to Him.**
- Matthew 21:28-30, *"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go."* Who obeyed and did the Master's will?

- John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our home with him."* (John 1:50)
- **Key** | To the Greeks, to know something meant you understood it in your mind. It was an academic process. In contrast, for a Hebrew person to know something meant that he or she experienced it. We, too, can experience Him through our obedience.
- **Question** | In what ways has your obedience to God led you to a greater intimacy and understanding of His Character?

ASSIGNMENT

In the last analysis, what matters supremely, is not, the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which underlies it — the fact that he knows me. I am graven on the palms of his hands (Isaiah 49:16). I am never out of his mind. All my knowledge of him depends on his sustained initiative in knowing me. I know him because he first knew me, and continues to know me. He knows me as a friend, one who loves me; and there is no moment when his eye is off me, or his attention distracted from me, and no moment, therefore, when his care falters... – J.I. Packer

The following exercise is to help you grow as a leader who depends on God's voice, not on self-confidence or personal strength.

1. Set aside 20-30 minutes alone (no cell phone or distractions).
2. Read 1 Samuel 3, *Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.* (Verse 10)
3. Once Samuel recognized that it was the LORD speaking and responded, what was the message God commanded him to deliver to Eli the high priest? How do you think that made Samuel feel?
4. Pray this question... "LORD, what are You calling me into as a servant leader right now?"
 - Write down anything you sense during this time: Scriptures, thoughts or impressions, convictions or direction. (Use the back of the Weekly Time Sheet)

Next week: **Servant Leadership** | Scan the code to preview the lesson.

Answers | absolute | moral | always | pursuing us | speaks | involved | adjustments | crisis of belief | experience

