



Day One: Reason #4 God Knows Your Name

It doesn't matter whether you are reading the Old Testament or the New Testament, one thing becomes very obvious. God knows the names of His people. God calls people individually, and He calls each one by name. Yes, the God of the universe knows YOU!

It is said that History is 'His-story'. But think about it... His story is actually the story of God working through His people... each of whom He knows, and each of whom is named. The entire Bible is a book filled with names of His people and the stories of their lives or specific events they experienced. Most of the books in the Bible are even known and titled by the names of those who either wrote the book or featured in it!

And within these books are story after story of God calling people by name. Consider people like Abram (Abraham), Moses, Samuel and Jeremiah.

Genesis 15:1 (NLT) *Some time later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great."*

Exodus 3:4 (NIV) *When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."*

1 Samuel 3:10 (NIV) *The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."*

Jeremiah 1:11 (NLT) *Then the Lord said to me, "Look, Jeremiah! What do you see?"*

What's more, God cared what each of these people thought, and could see. He still does. Throughout the Bible, God considered the input of individuals of such importance, that He actually changed His mind on more than one occasion because of something one of His named friends had said. The God of the universe actually wanted to 'run His plan' by Abraham before carrying it out... and because of Abraham's input, God changed His mind. Incredible! Moses also influenced God's decisions on occasion. And why? Because to God, each person was an individual, known by name, and His friend.



In the example of Abraham, we can see this in the following scriptures:

Isaiah 41:8 (AMP) *But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham My friend.*

2 Chronicles 20:7 (AMP) *Did not You, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham Your friend?*

James 2:23 (AMP) *And [so] the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed in (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on) God, and this was accounted to him as righteousness (as conformity to God's will in thought and deed), and he was called God's friend.*

Considering that God is unchanging in character, and that we've already proven last week that He is no respecter of persons, what does this say about how He thinks of you?



Do you believe that God knows YOUR name? And that it makes Him smile?



Day Two: So Does Jesus!

When Jesus was on the earth, He continued on in the same way as His Father had done previously, calling people by name.

Luke 19:5 (NLT) *When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”*

Even after He had been resurrected, He spoke to Saul on the road to Damascus. And Saul was a persecutor of the Christians – not even one of Jesus’ ‘friends’.

Acts 9:4 (NLT) *He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?”*

People were never a number to Jesus. They were each a name, a person... someone He loved enough to die for. They were all also part of His-story, and designed with destiny and purpose. He could always see the treasure that was inside of them... even if they couldn’t see it themselves.

How does this apply to our lives today? God knows who we are, Jesus loves us and died specifically for us, and now through Holy Spirit, they daily call each of us by name.

Just think about it! The very fact that you are saved means that He has called you by name! He has come to you, spoken to your heart and invited you to the abundant table of salvation that He has set for you. In order to ever have been saved, you have chosen to respond to an invitation given by the King of Kings, directly to you. You’ve ‘opened the envelope’ with YOUR name on it!

Also, any time you’ve ever felt Jesus speak to your heart, He’s called you by name. So if you’ve ever felt He shared some revelation or understanding with you, for example, know that He has called your name!

There is no doubt about it – Jesus knows YOUR name!



Soak Time

How many times has Jesus called your name?



Day Three: Reason #5 God Knows You Intimately

Last week we looked at the fact that God created us as one of the reasons why we know that He loves us individually. However, did you realise that God didn't just create you intricately - moulding every tiny detail – and then forget about you? God didn't just bring you into this world, and then stop taking an interest in knowing all about you.

Consider your hair, for example. When Jesus was speaking to His disciples, He said:

Matthew 10:30 (NIV) *And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

Just think about that! God is so interested in you and is so intimately acquainted with you that He's made it His business to know how many hairs are on your head! Do you realise that the number of hairs on your head is a different number today than when you were born? In fact, it's possible that the number of hairs on your heads may change daily. Yet, Jesus said God knows how many hair there are... all the time. How does that make you feel?

It's an incredible thing to know God cares so much... even to know a detail that in the scheme of things is not essential to know, but which says 'I love you that much!'

When King David realised how intimately God knew Him and how much He loved him, David penned these beautiful words:

Psalms 139:1 - 6 (AMP) *Lord, you have searched me [thoroughly] and have known me. You know my downsitting and my uprising; You understand my thought afar off. You sift and search out my path and my lying down, and You are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue [still unuttered], but, behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have beset me and shut me in – behind and before, and You have laid Your hand upon me. Your [infinite] knowledge is too wonderful for me...*

In other words, there is nothing God doesn't know about you. And He doesn't know because He can. He knows because He wants to know it.

Not only does He know us physically, but He knows our hearts – far better than we do!



In fact, the Bible makes it very clear that we will not even know what is truly in our own hearts without God revealing it to us through the Holy Spirit.

2 Chronicles 6:30 (NLT) ...for you alone know each human heart.

Is it possible there are beliefs and motives tucked away inside your own heart that you don't even know are there? I'm sure I'm not alone when I remember all of the times in which I thought I'd dealt completely with a certain situation, belief or habit in my life... only for God to reveal to me another level of depth in it. Many things I didn't realise I was doing. Many beliefs (and lies) I didn't realise I'd been hanging onto. Many surprises hiding in my heart that no one but the Lord knew or could reveal to me.

And the coolest thing – even if they were surprises I could do without, there has been no variation or turning in God's dealings with me when He's revealed these things to me. He shines His light on our hearts with the utmost of grace and honour. Because though He intimately knows those things that don't look like Him which are still hidden in our minds, will and emotions... He also knows what treasure lives inside of us – our re-created spirits are now one with His because it's Christ who lives in us and He is our true identity!

Soak Time

Ponder on Psalm 139:1 – 6 and relate it to yourself. What feelings does this provoke?



Day Four: He Knows Your Every Thought and Desire

We saw in Psalm 139 that God knows our thoughts and even what words we're going to speak before we speak them!

Early in my walk with God, I had been pondering on the things that I'd felt I would do in my life. I hadn't shared these things with other people, and I felt a little bit unsure of myself because it didn't look as though what was in my heart was possible. I was sitting in my room at a desk by myself, with no one else at home and I asked the Lord if this was of Him or was I just making these things up? Not a person in the world knew that I had posed that question to God.

A couple of weeks later, it was the first service with a new pastor at our church. At the end of the service I had gone forward for prayer and after he had prayed for me, he spoke these words to me which he felt were from the Lord:

"I see you sitting there and asking God, 'Is this you, or is it just my idea?' God is saying, 'No, it isn't your idea. What's in your heart is of me. I put it there. And it will all come to pass.'"

How do you think I felt at that moment? Do you think I've ever been in any doubt since that time that God knows me intimately? He knew what the very question was which was crying out from my heart and He answered it word for word. I am forever confident that my thoughts and my heart are better known by Him than they are of me.

And if you've never experienced something like this, don't feel as though it's true for me but not for you. Stick with God and His people, be willing to believe He'll speak to you too and before long you'll have your own stories to share. I clearly remember the days I would read things like this and feel disappointed as though it was for others but not for me. Of course, this is definitely not true – God is no respecter of persons. What He'll do for one, He'll do for another!

In addition to your thoughts, He also knows the desires of your heart – some of which you may never have voiced to another person!

Psalm 37:4 (AMP) *Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart.*



How can He give you the secret petitions of your heart unless He knows what they are? He has made it His business to know what is hidden there from the rest of the world. And I can guarantee He is also making it His business to bring these secret petitions to pass. If you have been walking with God for any length of time, you will be sure to have a list of things God has done for you, to fulfil a desire that was tucked away in your heart.

If you haven't had these experiences, get ready to! We can't receive from God when we're still thinking with the 'Does He love me?' mindset... but once we decide to believe His individual love for us, the funnel is open and His blessings will flow! There's no stopping it!

Soak Time

Can you remember times in which God demonstrated that He knew what was in your heart? If not, now is a good time to ask God for your own experiences and to let Him know that you are ready to believe and receive all He has for you!



Day Five: He Never Stops Thinking About You

Perhaps the reason why God is so intimately acquainted with every single thing about you is because He never stops thinking about you. You are constantly on His mind! How do I know that?

Again, one of the places in which we find our answer is Psalm 139.

Psalm 139:17 – 18(AMP) *How precious and weighy also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I could count them, they would be more in number than the sand. When I awoke [could I count to the end] I would still be with You.*

Imagine that! Literally! Have you ever been to a beach lately? Or a riverbank? Or perhaps a desert? Could you imagine going out from one of these places to the next, the next, and counting each grain of sand? And then continuing to do so in every beach, every river and every desert across the planet? That's what you'd have to do to measure the number of times God thinks about you! It's beyond comprehension!

You may find that truly difficult to believe... however there's a very simple reason why it's true that God's thoughts of you would number more than even the grains of sand. Remember that we said God doesn't give us an instruction that He doesn't already follow Himself. When He tells us how to love one another, we know that's how God loves us etc...

So what do you make of this?

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV) *Pray without ceasing.*

When God tells us to pray without ceasing, He's not saying that we should spend 24/7 in our rooms on our knees. He knows we can't do that, and He doesn't want us to do that because He has commissioned us with work to do to see His commission completed, and He wants us to enjoy the blessings (such as our families) that He's given to us. He's also told us to spend time in the Word and instructed us to lay hands on the sick and they will recover. Obviously, we can't do all that (nor can we sleep) if we interpret this scripture with our traditional idea of prayer and what it is.

But what God is saying is that no matter where we are and no matter what we are doing, our hearts can stay connected to His. We can stay in a continual



sense of connection to God, being aware of His Presence in our moment-by-moment lives and engaging in an ongoing conversation as our Spirit prompts us and we encounter different situations in our day. Prayer is not a specific act so much as it is a connection to the God that we love. He wants us to stay focused on Him regardless of what we are doing, for this is our source of power, ability and wisdom and love.

But do you realise that this also means two incredible things:

1. If God wants us to pray without ceasing, that means He is also willing to listen and respond without ceasing. God never takes a break from being there for you. He is willing and desiring that at any moment of any day or night, you connect with Him.
2. God never tells us to do something He doesn't already do, so we can know that His heart is already focused on us in a 'without ceasing' way. The reason why His thoughts of you far outnumber the grains of sand in the world is because... how many grains of sand do you need to be more than every second of every day of your existence... and probably from before the foundation of the world. 'Without ceasing' means there's never a second God is not thinking about YOU!

Soak Time

The God of the universe knows your name, knows and cares about your every thought and desire, and never stops thinking about you. Can you fathom it?
