

THE KNOWABILITY OF GOD

“Great is the LORD... and his greatness is unsearchable.”

Psalm 145:3

Have you ever tried to describe the ocean to someone who has never seen it? You reach for words, comparisons, and images, but nothing quite captures reality. Scripture reminds us that when we speak of God, we are dealing with someone infinitely greater than anything we have known. “To whom then will you liken God?” (Isaiah 40:18). Before we can say what God is like, we must first ask whether he can truly be known at all.

On the one hand, God is incomprehensible. When Job questioned God, the Lord responded by reminding him of the vast gap between Creator and creature (Job 38:2). We cannot know God fully or exhaustively. As Paul says, “now we see in a mirror dimly” (1 Corinthians 13:12). Our knowledge is real, but it is partial. God is greater than anything our minds can fully grasp.

But incomprehensible does not mean unknowable. The Bible is built on the truth that God makes himself known. “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us” (Deuteronomy 29:29). John writes that although “no one has ever seen God,” nevertheless, through Christ, he “has made him known” (John 1:18). God has revealed himself, and what he has made known can be truly understood.

This means we must hold two truths together. We cannot master God, but we can truly know him. Our knowledge is not exhaustive, but it is reliable because it comes from God’s own revelation. As Jeremiah reminds us, true wisdom is not found in human strength or understanding, but in this: “that he understands and knows me” (Jeremiah 9:23–24).

Practically, this guards us in two ways. It keeps us humble, reminding us that God is far greater than our understanding. And it keeps us engaged, reminding us that God has spoken and desires to be known. We do not put God in a box when we study his word. We listen to the God who has made himself known.

*How can you pursue a deeper knowledge of God
while still maintaining humility before his greatness?*