

book of the month | October 2024

Knowing God – J.I. Packer

J.I. Packer's *Knowing God* is a classic book that I hope every Christian at Grace Bible Church reads at least once in their life. I—and many others in our body—have read it multiple times with great benefit each time. If you have never read *Knowing God* (or even if you have), this would be a great month to do so with the rest of the church.

Knowing God explores the nature of God, His attributes, and how He interacts with humanity. It delves into topics like God's sovereignty, love, holiness, and the practical implications of these truths in our daily lives. Despite covering a decent depth of theology, it remains accessible even to new believers. You can read it in a month even if you read slowly like me. 7-8 pages per day is the perfect amount to keep your mind and heart engaged in a way that should change your thinking and give you a chance to apply what you read.

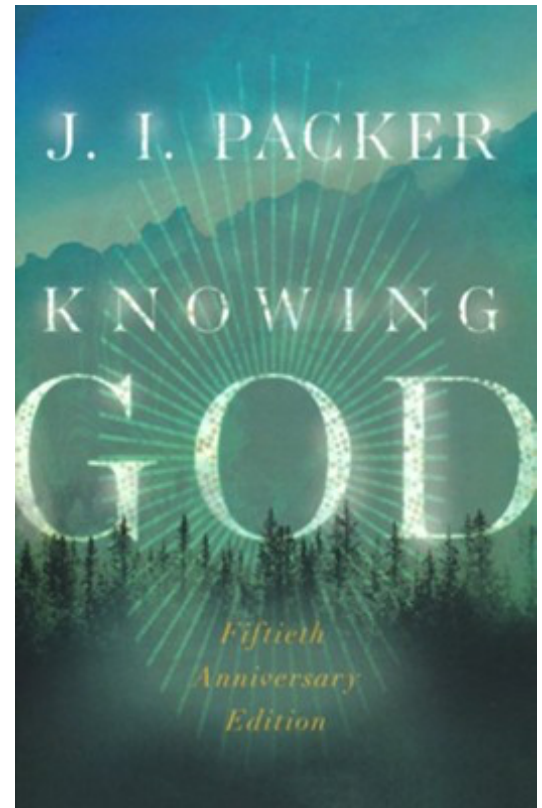
Knowing God is a book about God, but it isn't a disconnected, aloof, theoretical theology. And it is not a low, weak, God-belittling human-exalting theology. Rather it is a theology book that seeks to bring its readers to action, to worship, to repentance, to service, to faith. The Christian must not just know about God; *the Christian must know God*. As Packer lays out, the Christian must know God through His word, where He reveals Himself to us. We must know Him as King and also as Savior. We must know God in His three triune Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Knowing God* must lead to godliness, and "Godliness means responding to God's revelation in trust and obedience, faith and worship, prayer and praise, submission and service."

It's been a quarter of a century since I first read this *Knowing God*. I think it would be hard to overstate its beneficial effects on my thinking, my Bible reading, my relationship with God, and my shepherding of the church. This phrase from chapter 2 has haunted, motivated, and directed me, "Interest in theology, and knowledge *about* God, and the capacity to think clearly and talk well on Christian themes, is not at all the same thing as knowing him." My aim is not to know about God or not about godliness, but to know the living God and to be transformed by Him through that knowledge.

This book is a classic for this reason; these effects are not unique to me. I truly hope that many in our church read it during October. If that happens, I'm certain that there will be a tangible beneficial effect on our church in love for God resulting in godly, joyful lives lived for Him.

Your pastor-elder,

Jacob Hantla



Suggested One-Month Reading Plan (Average 7-8 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday 9/30-Sunday 10/6

Forward
Preface
Chapters 1-4

Week 2: Monday 10/7-Sunday 10/13

Chapters 5-10

Week 3: Monday 10/14-Sunday 10/20

Chapters 11-16

Week 4: Monday 10/21-Sunday 10/27

Chapters 17-19

Week 5: Monday 10/28-Sunday 11/3

Chapters 20-22
Appendix