

Summary of Chapter 2: The People Who Know Their God

Introduction:

In Chapter 2 of "Knowing God," J.I. Packer delves into what it means to truly know God. He emphasizes that knowing God is more than just an intellectual exercise; it involves a deep, personal relationship that transforms the believer's life. Packer contrasts knowing God with merely knowing about God, underscoring the transformative power of an intimate relationship with the Creator.

Key Points:

1. The Importance of Knowing God:

- Packer begins by stressing the significance of knowing God, citing Daniel 11:32, which states, "The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."
- He argues that knowing God is the most important aspect of a believer's life, as it provides strength, courage, and purpose.

2. Characteristics of Those Who Know God:

- **Great Energy for God:** People who know God are driven by a passion for His glory and His purposes. This energy manifests in their dedication to God's work and their eagerness to serve Him.
- **Great Thoughts of God:** Knowing God leads to high and reverent thoughts about Him. Believers who truly know God are filled with awe and respect for His majesty and sovereignty.
- **Great Boldness for God:** Those who know God display a boldness and confidence rooted in their trust in Him. This boldness enables them to stand firm in their faith, even in the face of opposition and challenges.
- **Great Contentment in God:** A deep relationship with God brings contentment and satisfaction. Believers who know God are at peace, trusting in His goodness and faithfulness regardless of their circumstances.

3. The Practical Implications of Knowing God:

- Packer explains that knowing God should profoundly impact every aspect of a believer's life. It influences their decisions, actions, and overall outlook on life.
- He highlights the need for continual growth in the knowledge of God, achieved through regular engagement with Scripture, prayer, and fellowship with other believers.

4. The Contrast Between Knowing God and Knowing About God:

- Packer distinguishes between intellectual knowledge about God and personal, experiential knowledge of God.
- He warns against the danger of settling for mere theological understanding without cultivating a personal relationship with God.
- True knowledge of God involves experiencing His presence, understanding His will, and living in obedience to His commands.

Conclusion:

In Chapter 2, J.I. Packer provides a compelling argument for the necessity of truly knowing God. He outlines the transformative effects of this knowledge and challenges believers to pursue a deeper, more intimate relationship with God. Packer's insights serve as a reminder that the Christian life is not merely about accumulating knowledge but about cultivating a vibrant, personal connection with the Creator.