

[A Devotional Study *on the Names of God*]

LORD,
I Want
to Know
You



KAY ARTHUR

LORD,
I WANT TO
KNOW YOU

A DEVOTIONAL STUDY

on the NAMES of GOD

K A Y

A R T H U R



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INTRODUCTION

So much of our confusion, our pain, our indecision, and our wrong decisions come because we do not know God. We may know *about* Him—we may know what others know or say about Him—but do we know what God says about Himself? Do we know for ourselves who He really is and, therefore, how He conducts Himself in the affairs of mankind?

Lord, I Want to Know You has been used by God in over two hundred thousand lives in more than sixty languages around the world. Its content is foundational to our faith—to our lives.

Daniel 11:32, a passage in which the context is a crisis of faith, assures us that “the people who know their God will display strength and take action.” In other words, when we know God as He really is, there’s a power in our lives—the ability to stand firm. We aren’t left in the state of inertia where so many are today simply because they do not know and confidently understand the character and ways of their God.

This, Beloved, is what *Lord, I Want to Know You* will accomplish in your life. How I wish we could sit face to face, as we share a cup of coffee or tea, and I could tell you the awesomely incredible stories of what has happened in people’s lives, young and old, as a result of studying the names of God. Although you may never hear these stories, I believe that you, my friend, will have a story of your own to tell once you know the names of your God and make those names your strong tower, your refuge in time of need, in any and every crisis of faith.

If there’s a possibility of your using this as a group study in which you would be a facilitator, then read “Guidelines for Group Use” in the “Study Resources” section at the back of this book, where you’ll find other valuable tools to enhance this study.

For many, the blessing of this study has been enhanced by the companion video and audio teaching tapes. For more information on these,

simply call Precept Ministries International at our toll-free number (1-800-763-8280) and let one of our staff members help you. It would be their pleasure. We also provide training if you would like to develop your skills in handling the Word of God more accurately or in leading others in group studies designed to minister to people of all ages at any level of commitment while respecting the restraints on their time. We're known as "The Inductive Study People: everybody, everywhere, any time, any place, any language, any age. One message: the Bible. One method: inductive." Please don't hesitate to call us.

Finally, let me share my vision—it's the possibility of a new avenue of ministry for you, Beloved of God...

*A new beginning—
An avenue of ministry—
A sense of doing something that has eternal value*

These are three things I think are so important for you and for me. There's so much to learn, to know, to experience, to do—and we never want to lose sight of that. To do so would be to miss what God has for us. To fall short of the tremendous potential of our lives—a potential that is ours because we are His, because we are children of the Creator of the Universe, indwelt by His divine Spirit and given the mind of Christ. You and I, Beloved, are God's workmanship gifted by the Spirit of God and created in Christ Jesus unto good works that would absolutely stagger our minds if we were to see them before they ever happened.

And what has God put into your hands? What are you holding and reading right now? Is it an accident? A coincidence? No! You are holding a devotional study that first and foremost will be the beginning of a new depth of understanding about God and all that He is for you.

God is going to speak to you because through this book you are going to come face to face with the living Word of God—the Word that not only discerns the thoughts and intentions of your heart, but becomes the

means of throwing His light on the direction your life is taking so you can know with absolute confidence where you are headed. If you listen to what He says—and by that I mean ordering your life accordingly—then there is, in a sense, a new beginning...of understanding, of purpose. A new level of Christlikeness is attained. You will be, as Paul would say, pressing on and attaining that for which Jesus Christ laid hold of you.

Which brings me to my next point—an avenue of ministry. What you have learned, God intends for you to share. I have a vision, and you, Beloved, are part of that vision. Our Lord's commission in Matthew 28 was that we make disciples of all men—that we teach them to observe all that He has commanded us. Acts 1 tells us that when we are saved and receive the Holy Spirit we become His witnesses—yet the question is often, “How?”

Here is the how. This “Lord” book contains truths every human being needs to know and to apply to his or her life. These are precepts for life; through them we will gain understanding and, as the psalmist says, “hate every false way” (Psalm 119:104) We hate it because it is false rather than true, and it is truth that sets us apart, sets us free.

So what is my vision for you, my friend? It is that you go to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to direct you to at least one other person—but preferably at least ten—and that you, along with them, study this book together. You may not be a teacher, but you can be the group's facilitator. You can take the questions you'll find at the end of each chapter and use them to stimulate a discussion among those whom the Lord has brought together in answer to your prayer. These are those who will be part of your crown of rejoicing in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. As you watch them learn and grow in the knowledge of God and of His Word, you will experience the humbling joy of knowing that you have been used of God. That what you have done has eternal value. That your life and God-given gifts have not been wasted. That your work will live on—that the grace of God poured out on you was not poured out in vain, for you have labored in the strength of His grace.

So as you facilitate a group using this book, you need to watch for and encourage others in your group to do as you have done—to take what they have learned and impart it to another as you did with them. Think of the multiplication that will happen! Do you realize, Beloved, that this is the way we can reach our neighborhoods, our communities, our nation, and beyond? Think of the transformation that will take place among all those people today who are so interested in “the spiritual” but won’t step inside a church. Think—just think!—what is going to happen!

The time is now. The hour is short. Stop and pray right now and ask God what He would have you to do. He will show you, because He is God and because such prayers are in accordance with His will. As you step out and begin, just know that if you will step out in faith, God will give you an avenue of ministry, person by person or group by group, that will not only stagger your mind but absolutely delight your soul.

I cannot wait to hear what God does in and through you, my friend.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kay". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large loop at the end of the word.

THE NAMES OF THE LORD

— D A Y O N E —

The muffled, distant sound had broken the quiet reverie of his walk across the meadow. The sharp barking of a dog almost irritated him. It was abrasive in that tranquil setting. As the barking grew louder, his eyes scanned the meadow, looking for the culprit.

Suddenly a small doe broke through the edge of the woods. Now he understood. Leaning against the fence post, the man watched with compassion as the doe cut across the broad expanse of meadow. She was running straight toward him. He stood motionless, not wanting to add the fear of man to the animal's frustration. As the frightened fawn leaped the fence, she staggered. The chase had taken its toll. Her wet coat gleaming in the sun, the doe stopped, took a few steps in one direction, then, ears held high, looked back toward the sound of the barking. The dog had broken through the woods.

Eyes wide with fright, confused, worn out, panting wildly, the doe surveyed her surroundings, quickly discovering the man standing beside the fence. Glancing back for an instant at the dog in hot pursuit, then viewing the expanse of open field before her, she turned weakly and wobbled straight toward the man. She approached him without fear and buried her head in his tummy. Compassion flooded his heart and filled his eyes. She had found a protector.

Beloved, where do you run in time of need? When the hounds of

trouble, worry, and fear pursue you; when the dogs of temptation, corruption, and evil seek to overtake you; when your energy is spent; when weakness saps you; when you feel you cannot run any longer, where do you turn?

Do you turn to your protector, the One who stands with arms opened wide, waiting for you to come and bury yourself in the security of all He is?

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe” (Proverbs 18:10).

For these forty-two days we are going to study the names of the Lord so that you will know where to run to find help in time of need. The Father longs for you to know more of who He is, that you might more fully “trust in the name of the LORD and rely on [your] God” (Isaiah 50:10). Remember Jesus’ prayer on our behalf just before He went to Calvary: “that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3). The goal of Paul’s life was “that I may know Him” (Philippians 3:10). How I pray it will become the goal of your life!

If someone were to ask you to describe God, what would you say? Write down the words that come to your mind when you think of God.

— D A Y T W O —

“Some boast in chariots, and some in horses; but we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God” (Psalm 20:7).

Where do you run for help? When you are in trouble, what is your first instinct? Do you run to others or to God? Is it usually the counsel of

another rather than the counsel found in waiting upon God in prayer? Why is this the way it is? Why do we run to man before we run to God?

In Old Testament days chariots and horses were means of protection and escape. Today our “chariots and horses” come with different labels, shapes, and forms. Even so they are still a visible means of help, escape, or protection. Yet are these really a source of safety? No. “The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD” (Proverbs 21:31, KJV).

What’s the problem? Why don’t we run to the arms of our all-sufficient God? I think it’s because most of us don’t really know our God. Why do many collapse in the day of trouble and testing? Why are they immobilized? Why don’t they take an aggressive stand in the face of fear? Because Christians, for the most part, can’t boast in the name of their God.

What do I mean when I say, “boast in the name of our God”? In the Hebrew language the phrase *to boast in* means “to have confidence in, to trust in.”¹ Therefore, to boast in God’s name means to have confidence in His name. In biblical times a name represented a person’s character. God’s name represents His character, His attributes, His nature. To know His name is to know Him. To boast in His name is to have confidence in who He is!

We find several different names of God in the Bible. You are about to embark on an exciting study of these names!

In the day of trouble or need, we are to run to our God, to put our trust in Him. That is why He says, “Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me” (Psalm 50:15, KJV).

Is your heart troubled? Is fear lurking in the shadows of your consciousness? Do you feel insecure about anything at all? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, list your fears, insecurities, and troubles below. Then ask God to show you one of His names that will meet your need. When He shows you, tell Him that you will boast in that name.

— D A Y T H R E E —

Let's begin with a day of meditating on Psalm 20. As you look at this psalm, consider what we have talked about these past two days. At the end of the psalm you will find a brief assignment. I urge you to participate fully in this study. Don't just read this book. Do the assignments. Write out your answers. This exercise will help cultivate the seeds of truth sown in your reading. The harvest can be bountiful, and you will grow!

▶ P S A L M 20

¹ May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!

May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high!

² May He send you help from the sanctuary,

And support you from Zion!

³ May He remember all your meal offerings,

And find your burnt offering acceptable!

⁴ May He grant you your heart's desire,

And fulfill all your counsel!

⁵ We will sing for joy over your victory,

And in the name of our God we will set up our banners.

May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.

⁶ Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed;

He will answer him from His holy heaven,

With the saving strength of His right hand.

7 Some boast in chariots, and some in horses;


But we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God.

8 They have bowed down and fallen;

But we have risen and stood upright.

9 Save, O LORD;

May the King answer us in the day we call.

1. Go through this psalm and put a  around every word that has something to do with trouble, need, or help.*
2. What are the Lord's promises in this psalm?
3. Are there any conditions that need to be met in order for the promises to be fulfilled?

* See page 199 for section on marking your Bible.

4. According to this psalm, what sets a person securely on high or in a place of security above the circumstances of a situation?
5. On what basis can we set up banners of victory?
6. What does the answer to question 5 tell you about the name of God?
7. Why are they boasting in the name of the Lord?

Turn your heart's desire into a prayer. Tell your Father what you need. Thank Him that He wants to be known by you in greater depth!

MEMORY VERSE

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe.

SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before the study of these first three days, how did you picture God in your mind?
2. What was so significant about a name in biblical times?
3. Why is it important that we know the name of our God?
4. In Psalm 20, God talks about men who boast in chariots and horses and men who boast in the name of the Lord. Did you see a contrast between these two types of people? What is the contrast?
5. What does trusting in horses and chariots mean? How does that apply to today?
6. Can you remember a time when you trusted in “horses and chariots”? What was the result in your life?
7. Can you remember a time when you boasted in the name of the Lord? What was the result?



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