

**LIVING FAITH CHAPEL OF SPC**  
The Doctrine of God: Lesson Two  
The Knowability of God

GOD IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE BUT YET KNOWABLE

- **Incomprehensible (*i.e. cannot be fully understood*)**  
*Job 11:7-9* – “Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens-- what can you do? They are deeper than the depths of the grave--what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea.”  
*Is. 55:9* - “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”  
*Ps. 139:6* - “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.”  
*1 Cor. 2:10-11* - “but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”
  
- **Knowable**  
*1 Cor. 2 12-14* – “We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”  
*John 17:3* – “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”
  
- “Reformed theology holds that God can be known, but that it is impossible for man to have a knowledge of Him that is exhaustive and perfect in every way...man cannot give a definition of God in the proper sense of the word, but only a partial description.”<sup>1</sup>
  
- Luther made a distinction between the *Deus Absconditus* (hidden God) and the *Deus Revelatus* (revealed God).  
*Deut. 29:29* – “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”

SELF-REVELATION THE PREREQUISITE OF ALL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

*Matt. 11:27* – “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

- Man can know God only in so far as the latter actively makes Himself known. Without revelation (*i.e. Scripture & nature*) man would never have been able to acquire any knowledge of God.
  
- Special Revelation (Scripture) is especially needed since man is sinful and cannot rightly interpret the revelation of God in nature (Ro. 1:18;25).

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<sup>1</sup> Louis Berkhof, Systematic Theology.