

non-conceptual? And further, how does the conceptual knowledge of God given in Scripture relate to my personal knowledge of and relationship to God?

In response to these questions, let us first attempt to get clear on the two categories of knowledge being referred to. And let us apply both categories to the knowledge of *persons*.

Knowledge of persons is of two basic kinds. First, there is *factual* knowledge, which can also be called cognitive or conceptual knowledge. The contents of this kind of knowledge is information -- facts and truths about persons. It is possible to have a great deal of factual knowledge about persons whom we have never met, with whom we have never had any contact. On the basis of such knowledge, it is even possible for historians to write extensive biographies of people who died long before the historians began their research.

The second kind of knowledge is *personal* knowledge, which can also be called knowledge of acquaintance or knowledge of personal relationship. The contents of this kind of knowledge is also information -- but it is information that has been set within the framework of personal relationship, and that has (at least in part) been communicated by the living person who is known. To know persons personally we must have personal contact with them and must get to know them. If we experience a large amount of contact with them, we get to know them rather well, provided that they "open up" to us and reveal themselves as they really are. Such personal knowledge usually includes recognition of a person's appearance, or his name, or at least some of the person's characteristic attitudes, beliefs, or traits and behaviors -- i.e., something of his personality.

Both kinds of knowledge of persons -- factual knowledge and personal knowledge -- are capable of various degrees. We may have only a passing factual acquaintance with the life of a historic personage, or we may know more about that person than anyone else in the world, with various degrees between. Likewise, we may have only a passing personal acquaintance with someone, or we may know that person more closely, more deeply, more intimately than anyone else in the world, with various degrees between. In addition, we may acquire or forget factual knowledge about persons, and we may get to know persons better or grow apart and