

But now we must ask: Is it possible for man to know (both factually and personally) the God who has spoken His Word, the God who has revealed Himself? Jeremiah 9:23-24 tells us:

This is what the Lord says, "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, or the strong man boast of his strength, or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord.

In Matthew 11:27 Jesus says, "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." In 1 John 5:20 we read: "We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true -- even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." And in 1 John 4:7 we read, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." These Scriptures tell us that it is possible for human beings to have personal knowledge of God in the special sense of knowledge of saving relationship. Through God's revelation of Himself in Jesus Christ some human beings have been born of God and given an understanding so that they might know God in this special sense.

Given this background and this understanding, what can it mean to talk about revelation as a self-disclosure of God Himself, rather than as a disclosure of information about God? The God of the Bible is described as a Spirit. This means two things: God is a personal being, and God's substance is not material or physical. He is also described as invisible to human eyes. In addition, He is said to be omnipresent, to fill heaven and earth, to be everywhere at the same time. How is it possible for a personal being who does not have a physical body, who is invisible, and who is everywhere at once, to reveal *Himself*, and yet communicate *no information* about Himself? What conception could we possibly form of such a God? What are we to think of such a God without a known nature, without a face, without even a name! How are we to worship or serve such a God, since we do not know who or what He is, what He is doing,