

Sermon Single | Week 42 | Jeremiah 9:23-24

Introduction	Notes
What if the most brilliant mind of the 20th century was completely wrong about the most important question in life? Albert Einstein was named "Person of the Century" by <i>Time Magazine</i> , and his influence is everywhere you look today—from the atomic bomb to your smartphone. But as brilliant as he was in scientific theory, he unfortunately missed it when it came to spiritual theology. Even though Einstein believed in a being with "superior reasoning power," he said, "There is a God, but we could never know Him." I'm certainly no Einstein when it comes to IQ, but I thankfully and joyfully disagree with what he said. There is a God, and His Word declares that He can be known. The incredible truth is this: You don't have to be a pastor or have outstanding character to know Him. Anyone can know God. That is the beginning of understanding the truth about yourself and the world. But first, you've got to remove the one barrier that keeps most people from ever knowing God, discover the one thing God actually wants you to boast about, and understand exactly who this God is that you can know.	
Key Points	
1. Eliminate the Barrier to Knowing God	
Do you know the number one thing that keeps us from knowing God? Pride. That's because the only one who can truly know God is the one who knows they need God. If you think you're the captain of your ship, the master of your fate, and life is a do-it-yourself project, then you'll take pride in yourself for all the good things that come your way. I love the old story about a woodpecker who was pecking away on a gigantic sequoia tree when lightning hit it and split it right down the middle. He flew off and brought back nine buddies, pointed to the tree, and said, "I told you I did it!" God says, "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches" (Jeremiah 9:23, NIV). You	

might be proud of your performance, your power, and your

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possessions. But pride is a barrier. The way to know God is not through celebrating your strengths, but by acknowledging your need for Him. Don't make a god out of your performance, your power, or	Notes
your possessions. Remember that all your works and wealth came from God.	
2. Celebrate the Blessing of Knowing God	
Just in case you think nobody can know God, remember it is God Himself telling you that you can know Him. " let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me" (Jeremiah 9:24, NIV). The Hebrew word for "know" is used to describe the intimate knowledge that a husband has of his wife. This is not knowledge about God; it is knowing God—knowing the works of God, the wisdom of God, the wonder of God, the ways of God. You can know God. He is not distant, in an ivory tower, or unknowable on a relational level. This God knows you and desires for you to know Him. You can know God as a son knows his father, as a wife knows her husband, as a sheep knows its shepherd. Do you know what the great danger of religion is? You can come to know about God without ever coming to know Him. Seek to know God personally and intimately, not just learn	
facts about Him.	
3. Appreciate the Beauty of Knowing God	
God wants you to understand just who He is so that you can know, "'that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 9:24, NIV). There are a lot of caricatures of God.	



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 There's the Speed Trap God: with His radar gun, looking for someone breaking the law. 	Notes
 The Aladdin God: just a heavenly genie in a bottle whom you only want when you have a wish. 	
 The Grandfather God: wants everybody to be happy and doesn't care about morality or obedience. 	
But in this verse, God tells you who He is and highlights the aspects of His character you desperately need to remember. Firstly, God is gracious—He exercises loving kindness that will never leave you or forsake you. Secondly, He is judicious—He exercises justice and will reward what is right and punish what is wrong. Thirdly, God is righteous—He not only does things right; He does the right thing.	
Listen to Him through the Word of God and live in obedience by loving Him with all your heart. This is how you know God.	
Key Takeaway	
The God who knows you completely says you can know Him. That's something to boast about, because knowing God is the key to eternal life.	



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Reflection Questions

•	In which area do you struggle most with pride—what you know, what you can do, or what you have? How might this be keeping you from truly knowing God?
	Are you trying to know about God through religion, or do you actually know Him personally? What's the difference in your daily life?
	How are you practically listening to God, living for God, and loving God? Which of these three needs your attention this week?