

Christian Book Reports 2019

Christian Life Assembly The Journey Class

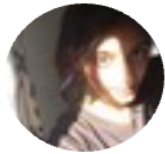
Jim Hoffman

What is wrong in the Quora posting below?

Quora



What was the benefit to God in creating man?

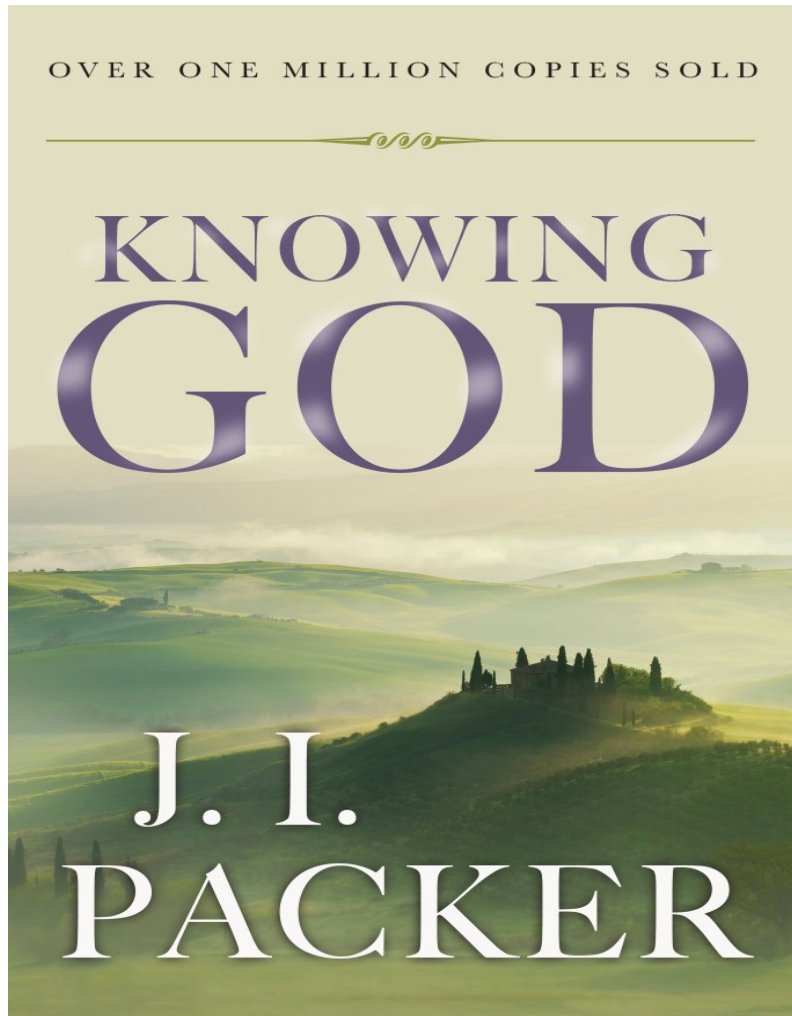


Avneet Spal, 23, Intrigued Soul

Answered May 17, 2015

Okay think about it like this- U are god, sitting alone in this empty space for the rest of eternity. U have all the power, u have the creativity and knowledge. Yet it's all latent. All of a sudden u get an idea as to how u can experience something new by using your powers for the purpose of creation.

Thus u make humans in order to experience different realities. And then u make it all the more interesting by giving them brains to think for themselves!



Knowing God

J.I. Packer

Knowing God

- John 17:1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 ***This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.***

Knowing God

- John 8:19b Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father; *if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.*” NASB
- Jer 9:23 Thus says the Lord, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; 24 *but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord* who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord. NASB

Knowing God

- “God was happy without humans before they were made; He would have continued happy had He simply destroyed them after they had sinned; but as it is He has set His love upon particular sinners, and this means that, by His own free voluntary choice, He will not know perfect and unmixed happiness again till He has brought every one of them to heaven. He has in effect resolved that henceforth for all eternity His happiness shall be conditional upon ours.” — J.I. Packer

Knowing God

- It is a modern day fable, and error to say that God created man for fellowship.
- God benefited only indirectly (mankind can glorify Him) from the creation of man, but man directly benefited in a million ways.
- Our God, who is 3 in 1, does not need fellowship from us or any other person or thing.

Knowing God

- “Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way you can waste your life and lose your soul.” — J.I. Packer

Knowing God

- Eph 4:17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 **being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them,** because of the hardness of their heart;
- Disregard the revelation of God at your own peril and be sentenced to not only a life of darkness, but to an even darker eternity of darkness.

Knowing God

- “There is tremendous relief in knowing His love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me , so that no discovery can disillusion him about me , in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself, and quench his determination to bless me.” — J.I. Packer

Knowing God

- There is no reason to try to hide anything from God for fear that He will think less of you. (He can't!) 😊
- He already knew in advance all that you would do and chose to save you anyway.
- The One who knows me best, loves me most.

Knowing God

- “Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on, and applying to oneself, the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God. It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communion with God.” — J.I. Packer

Knowing God

- The truths about God are so deep that even after a lifetime of contemplating them, there is still an eternity of discovery ahead.
- Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and *in His law he meditates day and night.*
- Eph 2:7 *so that in the ages to come* He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Knowing God

- “Those who suppose that the doctrine of God's grace tends to encourage moral laxity are simply showing that, in the most literal sense, they do not know what they are talking about. For love awakens love in return; and love, once awakened, desires to give pleasure.” — J.I. Packer

Knowing God

- Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?
- For one to think that we can sin without recompense because God is gracious, has not the mind of Christ, and does not know Him.

Knowing God

- “Christian minds have been conformed to the modern spirit: the spirit, that is, that spawns great thoughts of man and leaves room for only small thoughts of God.” — J.I. Packer

Knowing God

- We live in a day when most of those around us presume that man is the center and measure of all things. (by definition, this is humanism)
- We hear people call the God of the universe, “the man upstairs” and often this is said with good intentions in a feeble effort to try to include Him.
- God is not a man, and He cannot be limited to the “upstairs” as though we can keep Him in His place.

Knowing God

- “Today, vast stress is laid on the thought that God is personal, but this truth is so stated as to leave the impression that God is a person of the same sort as we are—weak, inadequate, ineffective, a little pathetic. But this is not the God of the Bible!” — J.I. Packer

Knowing God

- While Jesus was the friend of sinners that should not lead us to conclude that God is our “buddy”.
- While it’s true that Abraham was called “the friend of God”, we should not conclude that God is like us.
- “God is good beyond measure, and He is more kind than we know, **but He is not safe!**” C.S. Lewis adapted

Knowing God

- “I can hide my heart, and my past, and my future plans, from those around me, but I cannot hide anything from God. I can talk in a way that deceives my fellow creatures as to what I really am, but nothing I say or do can deceive God. He sees through all my reserve and pretense; He knows me as I really am, better indeed than I know myself. A God whose presence and scrutiny I could evade would be a small and trivial deity.” — J.I. Packer

Knowing God

Forget for a moment that you are saved – as an unsaved person can you make an argument for a God who could be deceived?

Knowing God

- A fair question to ask is this – would I really want a God who could be deceived?
- Is it not the very attributes of God, like omniscience and omnipresence, that make Him God?
- If He were not all of the “omni’s” I am not sure I could trust Him to save me.

Knowing God

- “Our aim in studying the Godhead must be to know God himself better. Our concern must be to enlarge our acquaintance, not simply with the doctrine of God’s attributes, but with the living God whose attributes they are.” — J.I. Packer

Knowing God

- One cannot become aware of His essence without forming a response. (good doctrine leads us to Christ)
- “God’s existence is not contingent upon anyone else. His plans are not contingent upon any circumstances. He promises that He will be what He will be; that is, He will be the eternally constant God. He stands, ever-present and unchangeable, completely sufficient in Himself to do what He wills to do and to accomplish what He wills to accomplish.” gotquestions

Knowing God

- “God loves people because he has chosen to love them—as Charles Wesley put it, ‘he hath loved us, he hath loved us, because he would love’ and no reason for his love can be given except his own sovereign good pleasure.” — J.I. Packer

Knowing God

- Consider for a moment the fact that God has not only created all there is, but He has also chosen to love all there is.
- The only obligation God has to love us is His own will to do so.
- We should ask this – what if God had chosen not to love us?

Knowing God

- “It is the sovereign prerogative of Christ’s Spirit to convince men’s consciences of the truth of Christ’s gospel; and Christ’s human witnesses must learn to ground their hopes of success not on clever presentation of the truth by man, but on powerful demonstration of the truth by the Spirit.” — J.I. Packer

Knowing God

- There are “programs” to help us evangelize, but there are no converts from our programs.
- Our salvation, and the salvation of those around us rests in the persuasive power of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 16:14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; **and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.**

Next Week
“The God Who Is There”
Francis Schaeffer