

## HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GOD?

According to Francis Bacon, "Knowledge is power." Without knowledge, it will be difficult for us to be successful in all our activities. We can only operate a machine or equipment if we know how to operate the machine or equipment. How can we do what we are ignorant of? Ignorance has led a lot of people astray or made them make regrettable mistakes. A politician, out of ignorance, can make a false statement and get embarrassed after receiving correction. One of my college professors advised his students to only talk about the things they know and to avoid defending what they are ignorant of. Can you believe in a person you do not know, or can you love a person you have not heard of or seen or known? God wanted us to know more about Him, and that is why He came down to live with us in the person of Jesus Christ. JESUS CHRIST IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD (Colossians 1:15). "Today's readings remind us that God has never left us in the dark to figure out for ourselves the most important things we need to know about right from wrong, who we are, who God is, and what God wants for us and from us" (Fr Jerry). In the Gospel reading today, the demon or evil spirit showed us that he knew who Jesus Christ was. The evil spirit, through his host, asked Jesus; "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God" (Mark 1:24). The demon knew that he did not have anything in common with Jesus, that Jesus came from a town or city like each of us, and that He had the power to destroy him, that He was holy and came from God. WHAT DO YOU KNOW AND BELIEVE ABOUT GOD? You cannot believe in who you do not know. It is our responsibility to learn about God and know Him better. God has provided us with enough resources that will assist us to know Him. We can know more about God through the person of Jesus Christ, who revealed Himself in the Gospels. The Holy Spirit continues to teach us about God through the teachings of the Apostles and their successors. I started reading the Gospels when I was in grade school to know more about God. My knowledge of God shaped my faith and life. Most of the people who do not believe in God lack the knowledge of what they are supposed to know about Him. God, through Prophet Hosea, asserted that His people perish because of a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). God did not want His people to continue living in ignorance, that is why Jesus taught in different synagogues and places as we heard in today's Gospel reading. Jesus taught with authority which His listeners confirmed because He had proper knowledge of the power He had and what He taught them. "This authority flows from a strong inner conviction" (Fr Jerry). This conviction made Him practice what He taught. Jesus was unlike the scribes whose teachings were not done with authority because they had shallow knowledge of God and were too arrogant to learn. The scribes were not convinced of what they taught and as a result, were unable to practice what they taught. Since God wants us to know Him, what effort are we making to learn more about Him? We are supposed to know more about God than the evil spirit. We can only worship God better if we know Him well. Furthermore, the evil spirit made it clear to us that Jesus Christ could destroy evil when he asked Jesus if He had come to destroy him. But Jesus did not destroy him, but rather, drove him out of his host. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD CAN PUT AN END TO ALL THE CRISES IN THE WORLD AND FORGIVE OUR SINS OR SAVE US FROM ALL HARM? Some people find it difficult to forgive themselves or to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation because they are still in doubt if God forgives sins. According to the Blessed Virgin Mary, "for nothing will be impossible for God" (Luke 1:37). God does whatever He wills.

That God has not done everything we asked Him to do for us, does not mean that He cannot do them. MAY GOD HELP US TO KNOW HIM MORE, BE MORE CONVINCED ABOUT HIS TEACHINGS, AND PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE IN OUR LIVES, AMEN.