

# The Ways of Knowing

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## Why does it matter?

- effective Christian witness to a truth-starved culture
- misconceptions about what it means to know adversely affect theology
- transformational depth with God through holistic Bible study

## What does it mean to know?—Holistic knowledge

- **propositional truths:** statements of fact—accessible to reason
- **personal truths:** knowing another mind, beyond mere sense perception; relating to conscience—heart knowledge
- **practical truths:** hands-on knowledge—understanding through obedience

## Problem of imbalance—danger of reductionism

- hollow orthodoxy—sterile, unsatisfying intellectualism; agnosticism
- mysticism and existentialism—subjective experience divorced from reason
- legalism—obedience devoid of indicative or relationship

## Holistic Bible study

knowing...	key words	key texts	approach	outcomes
<b><u>propositional:</u></b> <i>Am I focused on interpreting the text?</i>	know rational, reason— <i>ginosko</i>	Luke 1:1-4 Daniel 9:25 1 Cor. 15:1ff Acts 17:11 1 Tim. 4:6,15,16	<b><u>exegesis:</u></b> process of discovering the author's intent— <i>make the time</i>	insight confidence persuasiveness
<b><u>personal:</u></b> <i>Is my heart prepared to hear from God?</i>	knowledge connected to relationship— <i>ginosko</i> conscience— <i>syneidesis</i> fear— <i>phobos</i>	Psalms 139:1,23,24 1 Cor. 2:10-16 Eph. 3:18,19 Hebrews 4:12 Romans 1:18,21 Matthew 13:14,15 Proverbs 1:7; 3:3-7	<b><u>meditation:</u></b> prayerful reflection inviting personal insight and closeness to God— <i>free of distraction</i>	intimacy delight understanding gratitude
<b><u>practical:</u></b> <i>What should I do today with this insight?</i>	wisdom, skill, discernment— <i>chakam</i> (heb); <i>aisthesis</i> (gr) <i>sophia</i>	James 1:21-25 Hebrews 5:14 Proverbs Jeremiah 22:16 Matthew 11:19	<b><u>obedience:</u></b> decision or action rooted in conviction or practical insight	blessed blessing