

Does God ALWAYS know what is best

The first thing that I want to discuss is God's knowledge. This will be most easily done by thinking first and foremost about how we are used to knowing, and then we will see what Scripture says about God's knowledge.

Think of HOW you know and compare that with God

You OBSERVE, PROCESS, and DRAW CONCLUSIONS

This is difference from God because He never "observes" anything new. He has never "become acquainted" with anything!

WHY??? God has eternally known all things because he decreed all things

Isa. 41:22; 44:7; 46:8-11 - This knowledge is a distinct feature of His Deity

This is why He is NEVER IGNORANT, NEVER WRONG, and NEVER FAILING in His prophecies

Think of WHAT you know and compare that with God

Secondly, we PARTIALLY and ERRANTLY know A FEW things

Job 8:9; 26:14; 37:16

God FULLY and PERFECTLY knows ALL THINGS

The number of your hairs - Matt. 10:30

The number and name of all stars - Ps. 147:4

The landing of birds - Matt. 10:29

He knows all actions - Ps. 90:8

He knows all thoughts - Ps. 94:11

He knows all creation - Heb. 4:13

He knows Himself perfectly - 1 Cor. 2:10-11 - This explains His eternal joy/happiness

He knows all things - 1 John 3:19-20

God's knowledge is perfect in every way

Wilhelmus À Brakel on application for unbelievers

“Since God's omniscience extends to past, present, and future, and all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do, how the ungodly ought to tremble! For,

- (1) God perceives and knows your heart...He knows what is concealed in it as well as what can [come] from it. He knows your thoughts...He is [aware] of the motives of all your actions...to get your own way, or to harm your neighbor. He is aware of the hatred...you [have] for your neighbor, your wrathful emotions, as well as your envy regarding your neighbor's prosperity. In sum, God truly perceives all that transpires in your heart even though you may neither discern it nor be conscious of it.
- (2) God is [aware] of your immoral inclinations, adulterous eyes, licentious words, secret promiscuity...and immoral conduct...
- (3) God is [aware] of your [unfair] behavior, deceptive business practices, trickery whereby you seek to make the belongings of your neighbor your own, dishonest billing practices, idleness, as well as all your other acts of thievery.
- (4) God is [aware] of your gossiping, slandering of your neighbor, defamation of his character, and the delight you have in hearing and speaking about these things.
- (5) He is [aware] of your pride, [showy] behavior...and how self-satisfied you are... (skip 6) ...
- (7) He is [aware] of your hypocrisy within...

Be aware that,

- (1) God records all the [previously mentioned things] much more accurately than if someone were to be continually in your presence recording with pen and ink all your thoughts, words, and deeds, along with the location, day, month, and hour when they occurred...
- (2) Be aware that the books will once be opened and you will be judged according to all that is recorded in them (Rev 20:12)...
- (3) Consider it as an utmost certainty that God, the righteous Judge of heaven and earth who by no means will clear the guilty and whose judgment is according to truth, will punish you for all your sins (Ps 7:12-13; Ps 50:21). Not only will He pronounce the curse upon you with which He threatens [sinners] and say to you in the last day, “Depart from Me, you cursed” (Matt 25:41), but He will also assign you eternally to the lake of fire which burns with sulfur and brimstone if you do not make haste to repent. You are presently not concerned whether God sees you, as long as people do not see you, but how frightful it will be for you when the Lord Jesus shall appear as Judge and will summon you before His judgment seat, examining and reexamining you with His eyes which will be as flames of fire! How dreadful will that day be!...”

“Therefore, repent before it is too late. May you presently fear the all-seeing eye of God, so that in that day you will not be terrified before His flaming eyes.”

For disciples of Christ, remember...

- He knows your love for Him
- He knows every time you pray, struggle, read the Bible, obey, etc...
- He knows how you regret your sin and how you repent
- He knows your physical needs
- He knows your innocence when people speak evil of you

So as you walk through this life, always remember what He knows

- It will comfort and convict you in a way that you need

BUT... as we all know, knowledge ≠ wisdom. You can have people who know a lot of things about a lot of things but not understand what to do or how to accomplish what they know...

- Think of how often your struggle is not with what is right/wrong but with how to do what you know is right
- In parenting, relationships, business, etc...

So we also need to understand God's wisdom if we are going to answer this question.

The Bible makes it clear that God is wise

Assign: Job 12:13; Isa. 40:28; Rom. 11:33; 16:27; 1 Tim. 1:17

Before we explore this concept though, we have to know what wisdom is...

Most commonly understood, wisdom is NOT knowing WHAT, it is knowing HOW...

You not only know something, but you know the best way to accomplish what is best

Biblically, wisdom is explained by looking at Ex. 28:1-3; 31:1-6; 35:31-35

These men were SKILLED or GOOD AT ACCOMPLISHING THEIR GOAL

A wise builder is...

A wise husband is...

A wise teacher is...

A wise plumber is...

Biblically, to be a "wise" or "skilled" human is to "be good at" living in the fear of YHWH

- Anyone who is bad at this is not called WISE but FOOLISH
- A wise person is good at living in a way that shows God and His Word are handled and carried out with care and success

Saying that God is wise is saying He is SKILLED IN ACCOMPLISHING WHAT HE KNOWS IS BEST

Biblical Doctrine: God's wisdom is His perfect knowledge of how to act skillfully so that He will accomplish all His good pleasure—to glorify Himself

What He knows is best is His greatest glory...

We know God is wise, therefore we trust Him to skillfully accomplish what is best for His glory and His people

So to answer our question, yes... God does always know what is best, and we trust Him to accomplish what is best in the wisest way possible...

How Do Disciples Of Christ Respond?

1. Marvel - Rom. 11:33-36
2. Trust - Rom. 8:28
3. Ask - James 1:5
4. Search - Prov. 2:1-6
5. Acquire - Ps. 19:7
6. Apply - Eph. 5:15-17