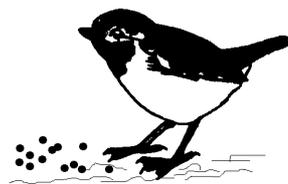


# Can We Understand God?



One wintry day a Christian was walking down the street and noticed some grain on the ground. A flock of hungry sparrows was having an un-scheduled feast. As the man took a step toward the birds, they became uneasy. Another step, and their nervousness increased. When he was almost upon them, they suddenly flew away.

For a few moments the man stood there reflecting on what had happened. Why had those sparrows scattered in flight? He had meant no harm. But then he realized that he was too big.

Another question came to mind: How could he walk among those birds without frightening them by his size? Only if it were possible for him to become a sparrow and fly down among them.

The spiritual analogy is clear. In Old Testament times God appeared to people in various ways—to Abraham through heavenly messengers, to Moses out of the burning bush. They were afraid because of God's awesomeness. But centuries later the Angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds and announced, "There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Yes, God became a man so that we would not be afraid to come close to Him.

—Paul R. Van Gorder

\* \* \*

He is a miserable man who knows all things but does not know God, and he is happy who knows God, even though he knows nothing else.

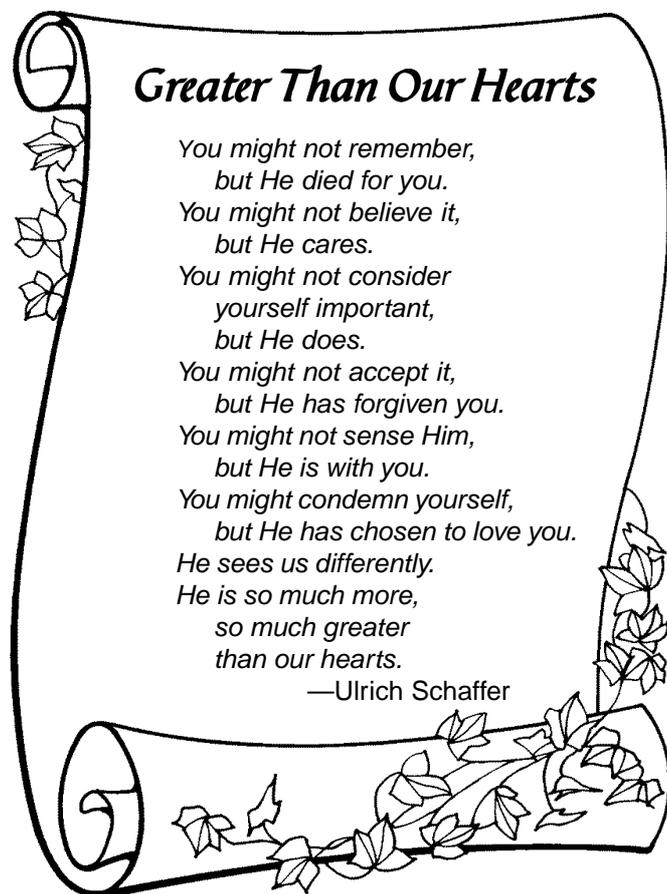
—Saint Augustine

We all use the power of electricity in our everyday lives, even though no one really understands it or where it comes from or how it got here—and certainly none of us has ever seen it, only its effects. In the same way, we must accept the existence of God, even though we don't fully understand Him or know where He came from. We simply know He does exist and He is here, ever-present, all-knowing and all-powerful!

All that most of us know about electricity is, it works! We flip the switch and make contact with this invisible power and it does the work for us. Just so, we must learn to make contact, personal contact, with the power of God through prayer, a spiritual seeking of contact with His Spirit through obedience to the laws of His Word. We must avail ourselves of God just as we do electricity, and let His light and power into the rooms of our lives to give us light and power and joy in living, by letting Him do many things for us that we cannot do for ourselves.

Just reach out your hand of faith and turn the switch of decision which makes the contact and starts the flow of that power into your life. You don't have to personally know all the answers. Just flip the switch and it works!

—David Brandt Berg



## Greater Than Our Hearts

*You might not remember,  
but He died for you.  
You might not believe it,  
but He cares.  
You might not consider  
yourself important,  
but He does.  
You might not accept it,  
but He has forgiven you.  
You might not sense Him,  
but He is with you.  
You might condemn yourself,  
but He has chosen to love you.  
He sees us differently.  
He is so much more,  
so much greater  
than our hearts.*

—Ulrich Schaffer