



The short answer is, yes, we can understand Almighty God and his Word, the Bible! Does that mean that we can fully understand everything? No, we can't. The Bible makes this very clear.

“How great is our God-beyond our understanding! The number of his years is past

finding out”—Job 36:26 NIV

But the Bible does indeed indicate that understanding of what we need to know, how to act, how to be considered “righteous” by God, and be given the gift of eternal life, is entirely attainable.

“The secret things belong to Yahweh our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may do all the words of this law”—Deuteronomy 29:29 LSB

Here we’re told that, yes, some things we’ll never know because we don’t need to know them, but what God does reveal are things that we do need to know, and are sufficient for us to know him and his Word, the Bible.

The Trinity God is said to be “mysterious” and “unknowable”. For example, one its leading designers said, *“If you have understood, then what you have understood is not God.”* (Augustine of Hippo).

Jesus further emphasized that **‘knowing God’** is not only attainable, but actually required for eternal life.

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent”—John 17:3 NIV

Jesus certainly would never say such things if it wasn’t possible for us to really **‘know God’**, at least to the extent necessary to please him, and to be given eternal life by God.

Throughout the Bible we’re encouraged to acquire understanding. Using some metaphors and word pictures, Proverbs encourages and urges people to take this action.

“Call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for

silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD [Yahweh] and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD [Yahweh] gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding”—Proverbs 2:3-6 NIV

“Get wisdom, get understanding . . . Though it cost you all you have, get understanding”—Proverbs 4:5,7 NIV

In the New Testament, understanding is also urged and encouraged as being attainable.

“We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding”—Colossians 1:9 NIV margin

“We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life”—1 John 5:20 NIV

The scriptures are clear that **“the Son of God . . . has given us understanding [to] know him who is true . . . the true God.”** Thus, it is very obvious from the scriptures that anyone who wants to know and serve God can reach out for, and actually attain, understanding of God and his Word, the Bible, with God’s help. In fact, the scriptures tell us that, over time a Christian, through effort and reliance upon God, can, and should be, **“growing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10 NIV, NAB).**

Yes, we can understand God!