

Communion in Christ with the Holy Spirit is how we know God. Because God is infinite, preexistent, and above his creation, we find God to be incomprehensible and inexpressible. We cannot see, grasp, describe, and thus know him. His ineffability, too great for us to comprehend in thought and express in words, is a prime objection of the atheist and agnostic. If we cannot know God, then we can only imagine him, and what good is imagining things that aren't there? So the objection goes.



Yet because God is incarnate in the person of Christ, who sends us the person of the Spirit, we find God in communion with Christ and the Spirit. This knowing God differs from knowing a recipe, knowing a route home from work, or knowing the state capitals in your region. When knowing involves communion, the knowledge is of a different sort. That communal form of knowing God

is what some call spiritual, although that word spiritual presents the atheist or agnostic with its own challenge, as if the word were an excuse for things we do not know or cannot know.

Think instead of the communal form of knowing God as akin to knowing one's local community or work community or church community or school community. One can never adequately describe a community to an outsider. To attempt to do so is to substitute words for a relationship or complex set of intermingling relationships. Perhaps one doesn't know any community other than by communion. And so we know God only by communion in Christ with the Spirit. You'll know you know God when you find yourself constantly conscious of Christ through the Spirit.