



There are repeated calls from pastors and laity to return to fundamentals—helping people understand why we do what we do as a synod. We hear you. In response to this, the Director of Communications (Dr. T) connects with pastors and have these *Conversations*.

In this series on ‘God, Trinity and Revelation’, we are introduced to God-the Supreme Being, but how do we get to know Him? We explore this in today’s Conversation as the Director of Communications (Dr. T) puts this question to Rev. Stephen Bartlett:

Dr. T: **How do we know God’s character?**

Rev. Bartlett: Mankind by itself is unable to accurately know or perceive God. We are so turned inward that our nature and sin prevent this proper knowledge of God. We cannot come to a proper understanding about who He is or what His nature contains. If we are to understand God, that wisdom must come from outside ourselves and from outside our sinful world.

God has taken this action to come to us and impart knowledge of His character along with the nature of the world and mankind. We come to understand God through the written words of the Bible and by the work of the Holy Spirit who creates faith within us to treasure and guard the scriptures in our daily lives.

God continued to make himself known throughout history until the greatest revelation through Jesus Christ; from there His disciples were filled with and inspired by the Holy Spirit to write about Jesus words and life. They were given instruction for the people of God and the comforting forgiveness of the sacraments as they grew more and more in the truth of God’s own Son.

In these last days since Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension God continues to impart knowledge through the words of scripture. He continues to reveal himself and who He is with each page of the scriptures and through the people of his church as they share this good news of Christ Jesus.

Rev. Stephen Bartlett is Pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Thunder Bay, Ontario, along with serving several other vacant churches in the area.

In this *Conversation*, we got insight on how we can get to know our God, but can we do that apart from Jesus? We'll explore that in our next *Conversation*.