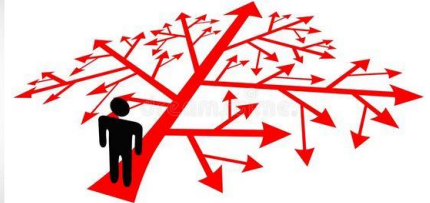


## It's Complicated

We have all been there. Someone asks us to explain something that is quite involved, and it takes some experience of detailed knowledge to understand. We think we know all the intricacies and others won't understand. It took years to experience the details that brought you to this point. Surely, others can't comprehend and understand in one conversation. So, we merely pass it off with the words, "It is too complicated." We avoid sharing everything.

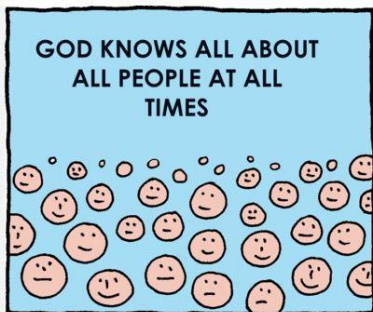
When you go to the Lord in prayer, do you really think God won't understand? Do you think anything is too complicated for God, the Creator of the Universe, with its infinite intricacies? Do you think that this time of prayer is the first time that God has paid any attention to what you are going through?



God walks alongside you and is ready and waiting for you to ask. He understands what brought you to this point in time and He knows the complete backstory. You don't have to start the conversation at "square one." He is ahead of you – He knows how it will end up. Yes, you may have made wrong decisions along the way but nothing is hidden from God. He knows you better than you know yourself, and He still loves you dearly. *You have searched me, LORD, and you know me (Psalm 139:1)*. He knows why you made the choices you did. Now that you have opened the conversation with Him, He wants to guide you on your path from here. Listen to Him.

Life is complicated, but is not beyond where a loving, forgiving God can lead you from here. Let God's direction guide you on a clear path ahead. It starts with a prayerful conversation that acknowledges your sinful past and your desire and commitment to God's plan going forward.

A recent sermon series at our church highlights the fact that "your story isn't over." No matter what you are going through, your life isn't over. With God at your side there is much ahead of you if you acknowledge the Lord and your desire to follow Him. God can work something good from a seemingly disastrous situation. *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who<sup>u</sup> have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28)*. He can guide



you from your complicated past to a clear, bright future. He wants you to succeed. The complications of your past may be a result of trying to do things your way. The clear future is finding God's way.

It all starts with prayer, reading God's Word, and a willingness to listen for the voice of God. Stop trying to manipulate the situation to your way. Act on His plan. The best part of your story may yet to be written.

The Bible assures us that God knows and understands us: Read Psalms 139:1-6, 10-12

**Questions:** How do you make difficult times more complicated by seeking our own way? What can you do differently to seek God's way?

**Prayer:** Loving, Heavenly Father. During difficult times, we seek our own solutions, making the situation more complicated. Let us go to You to find the right solution that will put us on a good path. Amen.