

# Tensions in Knowing God

## I. **What are transforming tensions?**

1. Call and providence
2. Supernatural and natural
3. Joy and groan
4. Increasing righteousness and accepting brokenness

## II. **What happens if we try to avoid the tensions?**

1. Presumption or paralysis
2. Demanding or depression
3. Striving or coasting
4. Blaming or despairing

## III. **The purposes of transforming tensions**

1. They save us from superficiality
2. They require us to die to ourselves
3. They teach us that God is in the questions
4. They call us to live with humility
5. They call us to live at the point of surrender
6. They call us to live with patience

## IV. **Our “answers” many times inform us but do not transform us**

**V. The challenges of transforming tensions**

1. To live in the tensions and find coherence
2. To find both contentment in the now and holy passion for the not yet
3. To learn to live the questions
4. Beware of demanding that God act in a certain way
5. Beware of disappointment and disbelief
6. Refuse to judge others at the opposite end of the spectrum
7. Embrace balance as beautiful, not boring
8. Realize these tensions are not competitive; they are complementary

**VI. Without these tensions, we would settle into areas of comfort, safety, and selfishness**

**VII. Transforming tensions are tempering activities of the Holy Spirit**