

Who Is God? What Is He Like? What Does He Say About Himself?

God is vastly different from man, but He is not unknowable, in that He sent His Son to straighten out the misconceptions about who He is and what He is like. Created in His image, we can know Him, and our minds can grasp many true things about His nature. Nevertheless, He is mostly beyond our ability to understand. Scripture speaks of “the unsearchable riches of Christ” which point to the fact that we can never, not even in all of eternity, fully know or understand Him who is God: the infinite One!

God has chosen to reveal many incredible things about Himself; things which we would never imagine if left to our own experience or our own thought patterns. These Self-revelations about God are ours. He has given them to us; and we are to treasure them, study them, and reflect upon them, for they are life-giving. (Proverbs 25:2)

The word, “know,” in Scripture refers to knowing a person rather than knowing information. The problems in this world stem from the fact that humans do not know God. (John 1:10) Thus, knowing God imparts the type of life that will bring us through death and into an eternity of knowing Him more deeply. “And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God...” (John 17:3) Even when Jesus speaks of truth as information about God, He refers to “knowing the truth” in such a way that He obviously means something which is experiential and personal. (John 8:32)

This is a month to explore some of the things that God says about Himself. Oh, the exquisite pleasure of knowing Him in every way possible! “The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)

The Uniqueness of God.

The Unchangeableness of God. (Immutability)

The Creator God.

The Power of God.

The Knowledge of God.

The Sovereignty of God.

The Foreknowledge of God.

The Holiness of God.

The Jealousy of God.

The Goodness of God.

God the Judge.

The Justice of God.

The Wrath of God.

The Mercy of God.

The Grace of God.

The Faithfulness of God.

The Patience of God.

The Wisdom of God.

The Love of God.

The Truthfulness of God.

God is Spirit.

Lesson 1

God always existed. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit dwelt in perfect harmony and happiness always, needing nothing; for God needs no other person or thing or condition. He is self-sufficient, and He is unique. There is no one else with whom He might be compared.

He existed always: before time, before heaven, before particles or anything that exists.

No person or thing adds anything to His nature.

Scripture Study: Read Genesis 1:1. (*5 minutes*)

“In the beginning God...” What is implied about God in this verse? _____

From the information in this one phrase, how does man differ from God?

Scripture Study: Read John 1:1. (*10 minutes*)

What do you think this verse is telling you about God the Son? _____

Why do you think God would make such a statement about His pre-existence in both the Old and New Testament? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Come to your heavenly Father through Jesus Christ.

Wait before The Unique and Everlasting God.

Worship by surrendering to Him your mind.

Put all your trust in Him this morning!

Lesson 2

All the gods invented by man are, like man himself, subject to change. Therefore, in an effort to convey to us God's unchanging nature, He is often called, "our Rock," or "the Rock of our salvation." (Psalms 61:2; 62:7; 89:26; 94:22)

God never changes. He is unchanging in His character, His word, His ways, His counsel, and His decrees. No wonder that He is our refuge or our fortress. Safety is found in Him alone. What a marvelous thing, for nothing else in the universe is rock solid, stable, reliable, and unchanging.

Everything about man changes. Our bodies change. The world changes. Only God never changes, for He is perfect. There is nothing for Him to learn or improve. He alone is God.

Even in eternity we will be improving as we experience more and more of Him; but God is perfect and, therefore, cannot change.

Scripture Study: Read James 1:17. (*15 minutes*)

What does this verse tell us about the nature of God? _____

Why do you think this truth is important? _____

If people who live around us were to realize that God never changed, how would this one fact alter our culture? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Surrender yourself to Him who is Everlasting.

Call upon Him to save you from the deception of sin.

Rest your soul in His care this morning.

Worship Him in His unchanging Holiness!

Lesson 3

He is the Creator God. Genesis opens with this incredible statement, as does the Gospel of John.

God spoke and all matter, all that exists came into being. Therefore, He everywhere assumes the position of Owner and rightful Lord.

He did not create and then stand apart to passively watch His creation; rather He upholds all things with the word of His power. He actively sustains all of creation from the breath of every animal to the energy to sustain an expanding universe.

Scripture Study: Read Isaiah 40:28. (*5 minutes*)

Read this verse slowly, letting it soak into your inner man.

What impresses you as you contemplate God as your Creator? _____

Scripture Study: Read Psalm 104. (*10 minutes*)

Read this Psalm seeing the Creator and His relationship to all that He has made.

What emotions does this inspire in you? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Bow yourself before Him who is Lord of all!

Honor Him with your lips as your Creator, Owner, Lord, and Father!

Embrace His will in your life.

Pray His word into the situations that surround you.

Lesson 4

If God were good but not all powerful, not only would He cease to be God, we would be in great trouble!

The power of God is the ability to do whatever He pleases by whatever means He chooses whenever He wills.

All power resides in God; and He delegates it, and the authority that flows from it, to whomever He wills.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Mark 14:62. What word does Jesus use here to describe God? _____

Read Hebrews 1:3. What power is ascribed to Jesus? _____

Read Psalms 62:11. Journal your thoughts about power as the result of this statement.

Read Matthew 28:18. What is backing Jesus' authority? _____

Read John 19:11. What are your thoughts as you read this verse? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Submit yourself to the God of All Power.

Rest in the achievements of Christ.

Honor Him by confessing His power over your life circumstances.

Pray His will into your circumstances.

Lesson 5

God never learns anything! Stunning fact. He has always known everything. He sees equally the past, the present, and the future concurrently. Furthermore, He knows all the possibilities and how they could affect every other event. This, of course, moves us immediately into infinity.

God knows everything perfectly and exhaustively. Nothing happens without His permission as well as His knowledge.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Psalms 139:1-6. What is David's conclusion to glimpses of God's knowledge?

Read Hebrews 4:13. How does this make you feel? _____

God not only knows the future, He determines it. Read Acts 2:23. Rewrite this verse in your own words. _____

Read Ephesians 1:11a (Greek): "...having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things according to the counsel of His will." In relation to this verse, what are your thoughts concerning both the knowledge of God and power of God?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Give both your past and your future to God.

Pray His will be done in your life.

Confess His greatness over all things that influence your life.

Pray His will into the lives of those you love.

Lesson 6

God would not be God at all if He were not utterly supreme and actively ruling in His sovereignty.

Today many consider man's "free will" to trump God's free will; but there is no comparison. Only God is truly free to will whatsoever He chooses; yet even He cannot do anything inconsistent with His nature. What God does determines what is right.

The sovereign God does all that He does for one reason: the good pleasure of His will.

Scripture Study: Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-12. *(10 minutes)*

List the ways God's supremacy and sovereign rule are described. _____

Now read 1 Chronicles 29:13. How might these truths affect your worship and faith?

Scripture Study: Read Isaiah 46:9-11. *(5 minutes)*

How sure are God's purposes? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Use some of these Scripture thoughts to worship God!

Honor Him by trusting Him with all your needs.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh today.

Pray for His plan for your day.

Lesson 7

God's sovereign rule takes into account what is called, "secondary causes" which means that He chooses to use prayers and the choices of men to implement what He has determined will come to pass.

This is not fate. Humans have real choices, but God rules in an active and effective way that causes His will to always be accomplished.

Scripture Study: Read the amazing realization that came to King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:34-37. *(10 minutes)*

What revelation delivered Nebuchadnezzar? _____

What effect does this revelation of God's nature have upon your life?

Scripture Meditation: Read Psalm 2 in an attitude of worship. *(5 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Sit quietly before The Almighty God.

Adore Him in silence.

Consider His greatness as you submit your needs to Him.

Pray for the revealing of His glory where you work.

Lesson 8

Foreknowledge does not mean, “to know beforehand” as if God were simply seeing into the future. Usually Scripture uses the word, “know,” to refer to a relationship. Adam knew Eve, which implied an intimate relationship. Jesus spoke of His people as “knowing” Him. He said to those who were false, “Depart from Me, I never knew you.”

Thus the New Testament word, “foreknowledge,” refers to God’s intimate knowing or relationship with an individual before creation.

Humans don’t have this ability; but sometimes a mother may watch so many ultrasounds of her unborn child and feel so bonded to the infant that perhaps she feels that she “fore-knows” this little one before she can hold him or her.

Scripture Study: Examine 1 Peter 1:20. (*5 minutes*)

Since this verse refers to Christ, what do you think Peter meant by saying that Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world? _____

Scripture Study: Read Romans 8:28-29. (*10 minutes*)

After reading these verses carefully, answer this question: Who are the “those” in verse 29? Relate it to the previous verse. _____

Look at the structure of verses 29-30. Whoever He foreknew, He also _____,
_____, _____, _____.

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Read Romans 8:28-29 before the Lord and see yourself in this passage.

Worship Him!

Declare His goodness to you!

Pray His purpose into your life.

Lesson 9

Scripture often refers to the holiness of God; but what does this mean? Certainly “holiness” is not in the modern vocabulary, for it is a term that could never be derived from men whose only reference point is man himself. It is a term used by God to describe His character. He is holy.

Holiness is the sum of all moral perfection. It is purity itself; but it is more than that. God is so pure, so holy that He is like a sun or star that is aflame and unapproachable due to its intensity. He is separate from all others in His being and nature!

Holiness permeates all of God’s other attributes; and it is His self-description of choice. It is the Holy God who is wise or just or patient or jealous or angry or gracious.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Psalm 99:9. What is it about God’s character that is to spark our worship?

What makes a hill holy? What makes a place such as the burning bush where God told Moses to take off his shoes, holy? _____

What is your experience or awareness of the holiness of God? _____

Read Psalm 78:34-72. Especially note in verse 41 the Psalmist’s designation of God as “the Holy One of Israel.” Why do you think God did all these things to Israel?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Approach the Holy One through His Son.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you.

Worship Him Who is beyond description in His Holiness!

Pray His Kingdom come on earth.

Lesson 10

God does not do right because He is God. No, God always acts in accordance with His character; i.e. His Holiness, and what He does or says determines what is right.

His Holiness is the cause for our worship. It is His nature that we adore, bow to, and revere.

The Spirit of God is called the Holy Spirit, and sometimes He is referred to as the Spirit of Holiness.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Isaiah 6:1-7. As you ponder this scene, what do you think God wants to impart to you? _____

Read Revelation 4:4-11. As you try to imagine with the Holy Spirit the scene described here, what is your impression? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank God for making a way for you to be His child.

Come before Him and declare His holiness!

Tell Him that whatever He does is right!

Pray His will into your day.

Lesson 11

We usually think of jealousy as a sin; but when someone's mate is being intimate with another person, we know that jealousy is appropriate. Jealousy properly guards that which is a sacred trust.

God is a jealous God. He is, first of all, jealous for His own glory and honor. He is jealous for the affections and loyalty of those He created and especially of those with whom He is in covenant.

You can thank God that He is jealous over your life and your relationship with Himself.

Scripture Study: Read Exodus 20:4-6. (*10 minutes*)

What do you perceive is God's first jealousy in this passage? _____

What do you recognize as God's second jealousy in this passage? _____

Scripture Study: Read 2 Corinthians 11:2. (*5 minutes*)

Do you think Paul was reflecting the heart of God when he spoke of his jealousy?

_____ Why do you say this? _____

If you have responsibility for someone that has been given to you by the Lord, have you experienced God's jealousy over them? _____ What are your thoughts on this subject? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Join God this a.m. in His jealousy for His honor.

Rise up in faith and declare His glory over the circumstances of your life.

Ask God to lead you today to witness about Him to someone.

Pray for your local church to be completely loyal to Christ.

Lesson 12

God is good! Think for a moment. What if He were not? Oh beautiful revelation, that the Creator God's holiness includes His goodness! Satan works to undermine this truth.

“The goodness of God means that God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval.”(Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem)

Created in His image, we have some capacity to recognize good when we see it; but “No one is good but God alone.” (Luke 18:19)

Scripture Study: Scan Psalm 73 so you can see the whole picture.
(10 minutes)

When you begin to lose sight of how good God is, what happens to you?

In this Psalm, how did Asaph regain his footing and what lesson is here for you?

Scripture Study: Read Luke 18:18-19. (5 minutes)

Why do you think Jesus asked this ruler this question? What was His purpose in asking this question? _____

You can partake of His goodness, because the gospel explains how God's goodness imparts the righteousness of His Son into you.

Prayer Time: (15 – 30 minutes)

By faith, count yourself in Christ, and come to God.

Behold His goodness. Savor Him.

Sing a song of your own making, telling Him of His goodness to you.

Pray for the revelation of God's goodness to come to someone you know.

Lesson 13

God cannot do anything without being good in the doing of it. Men like to blame Him for the evil in the world, but evil and suffering are the result of rejecting the goodness of the Lord.

Being able to discern the goodness of God and to thank Him for it is the gift of life.

Complaining and taking God's goodness for granted are sins that offend the goodness of God and minister discouragement to our souls.

Scripture Study: Read Psalm 34:1-8, and let His words enter into your bones! (10 minutes)

Are you tasting that the Lord is good? _____

What is the Lord saying to you this morning in these verses? _____

Jesus said, "Freely receive; freely give." What would happen if you were regularly receiving more of the goodness of the Lord? _____

Scripture Study: Read these wonderful verses in Psalm 27:13-14. (5 minutes)

What shakes your belief that God is good to you? _____

When you lose sight of the goodness of the Lord, what happens to you?

How might you combat this? _____

Prayer Time: (15 – 30 minutes)

Confess with your mouth how good God is!

Believe in His words of promise to be good to you.

Receive Jesus Christ as your righteousness today.

Pray for your friends to discern the goodness of God.

Lesson 14

God is the judge. Every man will stand before God Almighty and experience Him as the ultimate, final authority. They will know Him as judge.

God is good. God is jealous for His honor. He is merciful; but surely He is the judge. He alone will decide every issue and reward every action, every word, and every thought with the fullness of justice.

The gospel of grace is meaningless to those who do not recognize God as the judge. Judgment is not only His right: it is inherent in His being God, for He will not clear the guilty unless the debt has already been paid.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Genesis 18:25. How was this revelation to Abraham a basis for Abraham's faith?

Read Luke 18:2-8. What was Jesus' point in this parable? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank God for providing Jesus' blood to clear you in His court.

Acknowledge God as the rightful judge over all things.

Confess your confidence in His goodness.

Pray for His will to be fulfilled in the various areas of your life.

Lesson 15

God is holy, and as such He inherently loves righteousness and hates evil. Furthermore, He rewards righteousness and punishes evil, because He is just and ensures ultimate justice to all.

Because of this, Galatians 6:7 says, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

This means that you live in a world that is ruled by eventual justice; and it also means that there is something in the soul of man that instinctively abhors injustice.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Deuteronomy 32:4. What do you learn about God’s nature in this verse?

Read Psalm 33:5. What do you learn about God’s nature here?

Read Psalm 89:14. Why do you think righteousness and justice are the foundation of the throne that is characterized by covenant love and truth?

Read Psalm 101:1. Why do you think David sings of these two things together when they might be considered as somewhat opposite to one another?

Read Matthew 23:23. Why do you think Jesus grouped these three things, “justice, mercy and faithfulness” together and called them “the weightier provisions of the law”?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Can you worship God for being righteous and just?

Honor Him for who He is.

Pray His will upon the earth.

Appeal to Him for justice where there is injustice.

Lesson 16

It is the knowledge of God's righteous character that establishes the parameters for justice; and where this knowledge is obscured or lost, justice loses its way.

When a people lose hope in present justice and have no understanding of ultimate justice, they tend to take matters into their own hands. Thus there is a downward tendency in every society that can only be reversed by the knowledge of God.

God does not sanction revenge, for only He can deliver final justice, although He has ordained the governments of the world to exercise some efforts to execute justice as a means of preserving man and awakening his conscience to the final judgment.

Scripture Study: Read Romans 3:21-26. (*15 minutes*)

Looking at Romans 3:21, how is the righteousness of God now manifested apart from the Law? (Until you have wrestled with this question and answered it correctly, you have not grasped Paul's point, which deals with whether or not God is truly just.)

In Romans 3:25, Paul addresses an accusation against God. What is the issue that Paul brings up in this verse? _____

In Romans 3:26, why is it important that God demonstrate that He is both just and the justifier of sinners? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Offer your worship to the God of all justice!

Praise Him for loving you enough to justify you!

Drink in His forgiveness and approval of you.

Pray for the revelation of God to come to those who work around you.

Lesson 17

The Gospel of the Kingdom includes the reality of the wrath of God. Because God is holy, because God is just, He hates all that opposes His nature; and He expresses His intense anger, i.e. wrath, toward sin and sinners in two places, ultimately: hell and the cross.

The Gospel answers the question, “How can I be saved from the wrath of God which is what my sins deserve?”

If you would understand how much God loves you, study the many references to the wrath of God.

Scripture Study: Read Romans 1:18-32. (*15 minutes*)

Paul is explaining how the wrath of God is currently being expressed in this passage.

Reread it with this in mind and answer the following questions.

In Romans 1:18, Paul explains to whom God is expressing His wrath. Who are those who are experiencing the lowest levels of His wrath now?

What are these people doing that is causing God to reveal some of His wrath ahead of time?

In Romans 1:21 and 25, answer the same question as above.

In Romans 1:24, 26, and 28, what does God do which reveals some of His wrath?

Why do you think it is important for you to understand the wrath of God?

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Thank Jesus Christ for experiencing the wrath of God for you!

By faith in Jesus, receive His peace, His joy, and His righteousness afresh.

Be still and let God enjoy you.

Bring your needs to the God who loves you.

Lesson 18

There are a number of attributes of God that are frequently inappropriate or sinful in man; and thus modern people often think that something God has revealed about Himself is, in fact, unworthy of Him.

The wrath of man usually suggests a loss of self-control followed by irrational, unwise responses; but the wrath of God is His measured, holy response to that which deserves to be condemned and punished, i.e. the evil of men or angels.

The wrath of God is a virtue, for it flows forth from His infinite purity.

Scripture Study: Read Romans 2:1-16. (*15 minutes*)

In this passage, Paul is speaking about the Jews who have the law and thus believe that they are better than other people. They imagine that they are exempt from God's judgment while they feel free to judge others. But because they do not understand the inner nature of the law, which governs motives and attitudes as well as outward actions, they do not understand their own need for the final sacrifice of God on the cross.

What can you learn about the wrath of God from this passage? _____

The Christian will experience a judgment of his works, but he will not suffer the wrath of God. Paul explains this in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Thank God for giving you the gift of faith in His Son!

Trust Him alone for your ability to fulfill your responsibilities.

Refuse condemnation and reject the accusations of Satan.

Believe that you are clothed with Christ, and that God likes you.

Lesson 19

God is merciful. What a treasure is this revelation! Without mercy we would be without hope.

Mercy flows from the goodness of God who sees our unworthiness and yet is moved by something in Himself (His “bowels of compassion”) to extend His forgiveness and help.

Where there is no justice, mercy has no meaning; but what a dramatic meeting of the two when one thief on the cross recognized the justice of his punishment and was able to appeal to Jesus for mercy. Instantly he was granted the mercy he so needed!

Scripture Study: (*5 minutes*)

Read Exodus 25:17-25. What a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ is seen here in the Tabernacle! See the mercy seat! Here is something that stands between God’s holy law, which is contained in the ten commandments inside the ark, and the very presence of God Himself. This “something” is the mercy seat, which is a picture of the coming Messiah who saves us from our sins.

Read Ephesians 2:3-5. What do you learn about God in this passage?

Scripture Study: Read Hebrews 4:11-16. Answer the following questions.
(*10 minutes*)

What is “that rest” to which the author refers in Hebrews 4:11?

How does Hebrews 4:12-13 make you feel?

How then do the following verses in Hebrews 4:14-16 comfort you?

What does Hebrews 4:14-16 imply that you need? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Confess Jesus Christ as your sin-bearer and High Priest.

Come to Him and experience His sympathy for your weaknesses.

Receive His mercy and grace into your soul.

Worship Him out loud!

Lesson 20

The question that hides itself behind all our difficulties is, “What is God like?” and “What will He be like for me?”

Indeed, He is righteous, and He is just; but what a marvelous thing: He is full of Mercy! To His beloved children He is tender, meek, and approachable.

While He cannot violate His holiness, He loves to give mercy. He is filled with compassion for the weak, the hurting, the lonely, the needy, the poor; and He tells us to apply to Him for His understanding, compassionate forgiveness and assistance.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Matthew 11:28-30. Jesus came to reveal the Father. As you listen afresh to Jesus’ invitation, what do you learn about the mercy of God?

Read Matthew 18:33. In this context Jesus’ definition of mercy is

In 1 Timothy 1:2 Paul writes to his son in the faith. What does Paul know that his friend and understudy needs most? _____

Read 1 Peter 2:10. What is it that characterizes your life?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

As God’s child, take advantage of your access. Come boldly to your God!

Drink in His love for you as He ministers mercy to you.

Pray for the people around you to receive the mercy of God.

Pray for God’s help upon your nation.

Lesson 21

Grace differs from mercy. In Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan there was something in the beaten, half dead man that prompted compassion; thus the picture of mercy.

Grace, however, is God's decision to love and help those who elicit no compassion. The rebellious, the willful sinner, the arrogant, the unteachable, the stubborn, the self-righteous, the blame-shifting ones whom He ordains to make His own children defines grace. Truly it is the free flow of God's life and help to the undeserving.

He is the God of all grace.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Ephesians 2:5, 8. What does Paul say is the cause of your salvation?

Read 2 Timothy 1:9. When was this grace for your salvation given?

Read Hebrews 4:16. The throne is the symbol of God's full authority, so what do you think He means by calling it "the throne of grace"?

How would you define grace? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank God this morning that your salvation is entirely His doing.

Draw near to the throne of grace so you can receive His loving help.

Lift your hands in praise to the God of all grace.

Intercede for others who need God's grace this morning.

Lesson 22

God does not owe anyone grace. He alone decides to whom He will give saving grace. In this way 100% of the credit goes to God.

Grace is God doing for man what the man should do for himself, but he is unable.

We are saved only by grace, and this applies to the past, the present, and the future. The only cure for sin is the grace of God.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Romans 11:5-6 (Greek). “So too at the present time there is a remnant, having become a choice by grace once in the past. But if by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.” Why do you think God wants you to know that you are experiencing salvation based on His choices made long ago?

Read Romans 6:14. The moral laws of God are always valid, but to be “not under law” means that you are not trying to become free from any particular sin by your own self effort. What do you think it means to instead be “under grace”?

How do you think the grace of God frees you from your bondage to sin?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Let your need, your inadequacy, help you to come to God.

Confess to God your failures and sins.

Receive both His mercy and His grace.

Worship Him as the God of your deliverance!

Lesson 23

God is utterly faithful. He cannot ever be otherwise, for it is His nature. Faithfulness is part of both His holiness and His goodness.

God's faithfulness means that God will always do what He has said and fulfill what He has promised.

Lying and unfaithfulness have characterized man; but God is true, reliable, faithful.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Numbers 23:19. How deeply do you feel this revelation of God is embedded in your soul? _____

Read Deuteronomy 7:9. Your faithfulness to God is the result of your belief in the faithfulness of God. How do you think you might grow in your knowledge of the faithfulness of God? _____

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-4. What effect does it appear that Paul's view of God's faithfulness was having on his prayer life and his general confidence? _____

Read 1 John 1:9. How does your understanding of the faithfulness of God protect you from the Accuser? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank God for His eternal faithfulness.

Confess His faithfulness over the areas in which you are being tested.

Pray for the revelation of God's nature to come to your work associates.

Confess His faithfulness over your extended family.

Lesson 24

God's nature is patient. He is slow to anger. He is long-suffering, for our sins grieve Him and cause Him pain.

"Love is patient," says 1 Corinthians 13:4; and of course, "God is love." He is perfect in His patience but understand that the patience of love cost God.

He is especially patient with His children, and He has the capacity to enjoy us even as a parent may frequently delight in his child in the midst of his immaturity. He does not wait until we are mature to enjoy us.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Romans 2:4. What is the relationship between kindness, tolerance (forebearance), and patience? _____

In your experience, has the patience or longsuffering of God led you to repentance? If so, how? _____

Read 1 Timothy 1:16. What was Paul's feeling about the patience of Christ?

Read Romans 9:22. How is God exercising His patience toward your nation?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank God for His patience with you.

Repent from any sins of impatience you see in yourself.

By faith in Christ, draw upon His patience for your life.

Pray with faith and patience for your loved ones.

Lesson 25

Just how wise is God? He is Wisdom itself. He is the all-wise God who understands the nature and function of all things.

Wisdom is personified in Proverbs 8 so as to appear as a person who works alongside God in creation. This is a beautiful picture that describes how God built into everything His original wisdom.

It is the wise person who comes to the Lord to be taught, for God alone knows how all things work.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Proverbs 8:22-36. After reading verses 22-31, why does Solomon begin Proverbs 8:32 with “therefore”? What conclusion does he want you to draw?

Read Proverbs 9. Who are the two “women” depicted here?

_____ What are their differing characteristics? _____

Proverbs 9:10 states that wisdom flows from the fear of the Lord. Practically speaking, how might this help you to obtain wisdom from God on an everyday basis?

Read Proverbs 19:8. Paraphrase this verse using your own words.

How are you seeking wisdom? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Worship the God of all Wisdom!

Ask God to remove foolishness and deception from you.

Submit yourself to God afresh and depend on Him for your wisdom.

Let Him use you to pray for others.

Lesson 26

“God’s wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.” (Systematic Theology, Grudem)

His wisdom is sharply contrasted with what the world thinks is wisdom, for His wisdom understands all the factors both visible and invisible as well as the long-term consequences.

Nowhere is this contrast between the world’s “wisdom” and God’s wisdom more vividly depicted than at the cross of Jesus!

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Why do you think the word of the cross is seen as foolishness to those who are not being saved?

In 1 Corinthians 1:24, those who are the called think differently. How do the called view wisdom? _____

In 1 Corinthians 1:30, there is an indication of who is responsible for you being a believer in Christ. Who takes this credit?

In 1 Corinthians 1:30, how is Christ being made God’s wisdom for your life?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-16. Finish this sentence: Paul seems to think that if you are mature, your wisdom will cause you to _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Tell the Lord that whatever He says is your wisdom.

Confess with your mouth that He is faithful, good, and wise!

Thank Him for giving you His wisdom in Christ.

Pray for His way of seeing the various aspects of your life.

Lesson 27

God is love. His very nature is described by this pure attribute of agape love, whereas we humans cannot say such a thing about ourselves. Yet we have a sad tendency to judge God's actions by our definition of love. It is wisdom that asks the God of love to teach us about agape love.

J.I. Packer says, "God's love is an exercise of His goodness towards individual sinners whereby, having identified with their welfare, He has given His Son to be their Savior, and now brings them to know and enjoy Him in a covenant relation." (Knowing God)

Behind everything that God causes to happen to you as His child stands His love. He chose to commit Himself to you for reasons found only within Himself.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read 1 John 4:7-10. It is implied in this passage that only those who have experienced God's love for them know what love really is.

Paraphrase 1 John 4:8 using your own words. _____

In 1 John 4:9-10, how is God's love defined toward you?

Ponder 1 John 4:19. What does this verse mean to you?

Read Paul's prayer for you in Ephesians 3:14-19. What is it that you need on a daily basis?

How might you increase your experience of God's love? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Ask the Holy Spirit to refresh your awareness of Christ living in you.

Repent of your failures to love others.

By your faith in Jesus, receive more of His love for you.

Intercede for others.

Lesson 28

Are there things God cannot do? Absolutely. He cannot violate His holy nature. For example, He cannot lie. It is impossible for God to do anything that is not true, not consistent with whom He is. "He is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all."

The Spirit of God is the Spirit of Truth. This means that you can know the truth about all things necessary for life and godliness. This is contrary to the popular notion that everyone can have his or her own truth.

There is absolute Truth, and it is determined by God. As you increasingly know Him, you are growing in your knowledge of the Truth.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read John 1:14. The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. What was His nature?

Read Revelation 19:11. What is the returning Savior called?

What does this mean for you? _____

Read John 8:31-32. What is the power of truth in your life?

How can you grow in your personal freedom? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Ask the Holy Spirit to quicken the truth of God's word to you.

Step into His light and allow Him to cleanse you with His word.

Worship Him who is Faithful and True.

Submit your troubles to Him who loves you.

Lesson 29

The fact that you can know God personally is revolutionary. No other religion teaches that God is a Person who can be known and wishes to be known. In fact, He is the One who always takes the initiative in our knowing Him.

If you long to know Him better, it is because He put that desire in you. And what that means is: He intends to meet you in that desire.

God made you with the potential of being in His image. The more you know Him, the more you become like Him.

Scripture Study: *(10 minutes)*

Read John 17:3. Recognize that “eternal life” isn’t just referring to how long it will last or what you will receive when you are in heaven. It is the quality of life that comes from God and can never end.

What causes you to experience this life? _____

Read Jesus’ invitations to you in Matthew 11:28-30 and in John 7:37-39. Why do you think Jesus makes these invitations?

See the prayer God placed in Moses’ heart: read Exodus 33:18. Then read the next verse to see that God desired to satisfy the longing in Moses’ heart. What longings has God placed in your heart in regard to knowing Him?

_____ Do you believe that the longing in your heart was placed there by God?

_____ Then what conclusion might you draw? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 - 30 minutes)*

Come to your heavenly Father with your desire to know Him.

Wait upon Him by just resting in the quietness before Him.

Don’t focus on your experience; focus on Him.

Thank Him for wanting to be close to you.

Lesson 30

God is spirit. We are challenged to know what this means. God exists in a realm that includes this realm but far exceeds all the realities we know. Jesus took upon Himself our human nature in order to help us understand the God He loved to call, Father.

The reason He caused you to be born again of His Spirit was to enable you to know Him and to fellowship with Him as His spiritual son or daughter.

His Kingdom or realm suits His nature, which means it is a spiritual realm where the ultimate realities exist. When you see Him face to face, you will become like Him.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read John 4:23-24. What type of worshipers does the Father seek?

Read John 14:16-20. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Read John 14:26. What else does the Holy Spirit do in your life?

Read John 15:26 and John 16:13-15. List the other things Jesus promised to do for you by sending His Spirit to live in you. _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

If there is any unforgiveness in your heart, ask for God's cleansing.

Come to Jesus for a fresh filling of His Spirit.

Trust Jesus Christ to fulfill His promises about the Holy Spirit's work in you.

Trust God to work in you both to will and to do His good pleasure.