

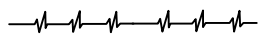
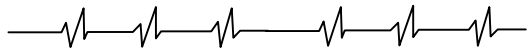
How Great is our God!

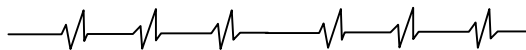


September 2010 Series

How Great Is Our God!

*From the pulpit ministry at Christ E. Free Church of
Saegertown*





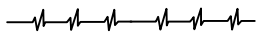
Jesus Christ

Our Highest Calling

Our Greatest Purpose

Our Soul's Source and Joy

And Our All-Consuming Passion



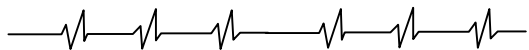
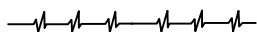
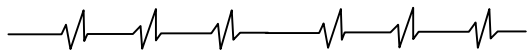


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“How Great is Our God: *Growing in Knowing God*”

Sept 5, 2010

Overall Big Idea: Our God is so big, so great and so mighty. Our God is so altogether unknowable and so absolutely incomprehensible, and yet we are called by Him, to seek Him and to know Him.

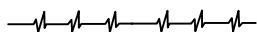
“Knowing You, Jesus, there is no greater thing...”

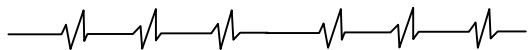
“Indescribable”

“How Great is our God”

“The proper study of the Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God, whom he calls His Father.

There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity. It is a subject so vast, that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity, so deep that our pride is drowned in its infinity. Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the deity.



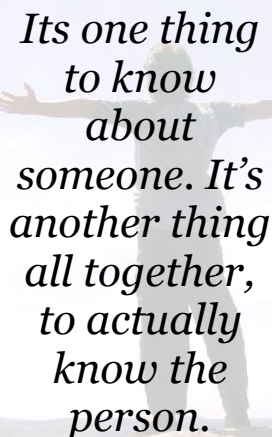


I know nothing which can so comfort the soul; so calm the swelling billows of sorrow and grief; so speak peace to the winds of trial, as a devout musing upon the subject of the Godhead. It is to that subject that I invite you this morning...”

---Charles Haddon Spurgeon, preached on Jan. 7, 1855 to his parish of the New Park Street chapel in Southwark England. Spurgeon was only 20 yrs of age.

INTRODUCTION

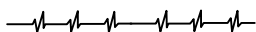
When we claim that we believe in God, what exactly is it that we are saying? It is important to note that what we claim to believe about God, comes from what we **know** to be true about God and ultimately what God has chosen to reveal about Himself, as the source of our knowledge of Him.

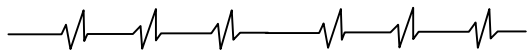


*Its one thing
to know
about
someone. It's
another thing
all together,
to actually
know the
person.*

Just think of it – if God had never revealed Himself to us through His Holy word and through His Son, Jesus, we would be forever a people – who think about God and yet think wrongly about Him. We would be forever a people who make things up about God, who have visions and dreams about God, who theorize about God and you can be sure that we would be destined to forever fall short of truly knowing anything of any truthful accuracy about God, because all we know what to compare God to is what we know of ourselves.

That's why in ancient Greek mythology, people had an inner belief concerning a concept of “god” and yet without God's





own word to guide them, they came up with gods who were basically humans as they were, but with super human powers. They even had similar lusts, drives, self-focused motives and besetting sins that caused them to be all the more like their human creators.

How Great is our God. It is one thing to read a biography of some famous person. It is other's view and perception of that person. It is another thing to read a person's own autobiography to hear from their own perspective and from their own heart, and from their own life experiences of how things are.

As we read the Bible, we are reading God's own word and revelation about Himself, His people, His plan, His promises, His commands, His expectations, and His own desires and perspective on time and creation.

"How Great is Our God"

SoF 1 God - We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power

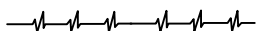
Knowing and understanding God **must** include these elements.

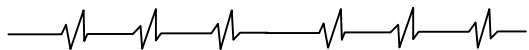
KNOWING GOD INTELLECTUALLY

* Key word: Information.

Dan 11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do **know their God** shall be strong, and do exploits.

** Those who know God intellectually, i.e. from the information they gather about Him.





**** Those who know Him experientially, i.e. from their own personal and intimate experiences with God, - finding Him to be the God who measures up to His own revelation of Himself.**

**** Those who know God Assuredly, i.e. those who know Him, from the intellectual and information, and have experienced Him in a personal and intimate way, and as a result know Him most assuredly – that is in a way which has filled them with great confidence of His ability, availability and personal intent to carry out and fulfill all His word, and promises and commands in the lives of those to whom He has revealed Himself**

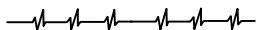
Knowing God is a Personal Lifelong Research Project

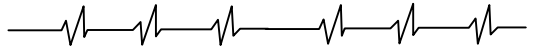
Pro 2:3-6 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; (4) If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; (5) Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. (6) For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

-- One man says God is nowhere. Another says He is everywhere. One person has God in his heart. Another believes God to be in a tree or under a rock.

Over 30 years ago, A. W. Tozer wrote concerning the desperate need for the church to revise its concept of God due to a very distorted conception of Him: “It is my opinion that the Christian conception of God current in these middle years of the twentieth century is so decadent as to be utterly beneath the dignity of the Most High God and actually to constitute for professed believers, something amounting to a moral calamity.”

Tozer goes on to say,-- “The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him—and of her.”





Knowing God is an informational gathering process to feed our faith

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Often when we say we “**KNOW GOD**”, it refers to what we know **about** God, i.e. information. From our studies in Theology, we know there are two main categories of the attributes of God. Communicable and incommunicable attributes.

Communicable attributes - those attributes that we as humans share with God in lesser and in varying degrees.

A. Attributes Describing God's Being

1. Spirituality

B. Mental Attributes

3. Knowledge

4. Wisdom

5. Truthfulness

C. Moral Attributes

6. Goodness

7. Love

8. Mercy

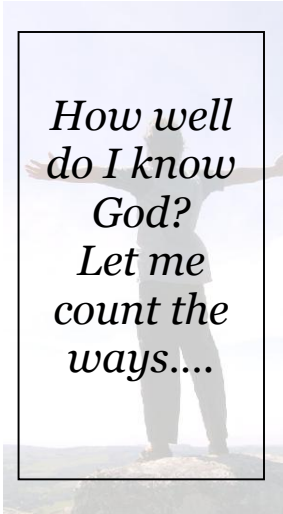
9. Holiness

10. Peace

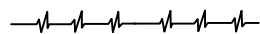
11. Righteousness (or Justice)

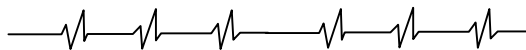
12. Jealousy

13. Wrath



*How well
do I know
God?
Let me
count the
ways....*





14. Faithfulness

15. Grace

16. Patience

D. Attributes of Purpose

14. Will

15. Freedom

16. Power

E. "Summary" Attributes

17. Blessedness

18. Beauty

19. Glory

These are attributes that we as humans share with God in lesser and in varying degrees.

Incommunicable Attributes

These are attributes that we as humans do not share with God.

Immutability (unchanging) Invisibility

Eternality Omnipresence Omniscience Omnipotence

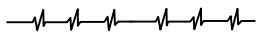
All loving All wise Self-existent Self-sufficient

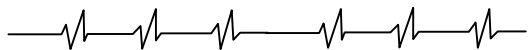
Infinitely Perfect Perfectly Infinite

Totally Incomprehensible undoubtedly Uncontainable

Transcendent Above all things and yet below nothing

Ultimately unknowable and wholly Incomprehensible





We refer to this kind of information as part of what it is to **know God**. And yet knowing God is far more than merely knowing information **about** Him. Knowing God is more than being able to list or even define His Attributes – God is far more than mere qualities of character.

This is knowing God Intellectually. Its our first start in knowing God.

** Knowing God must include the element of

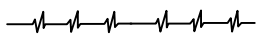
KNOWING GOD EXPERIENTIALLY

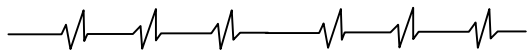
* Key word: Intimacy

Scripture – Php 3:7-10 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. (8) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the **knowledge** of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, (9) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: (10) That I may **know him**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

It is crucial for our intellectual knowledge of God, be translated into experiential knowledge.

In Phil. 3, the Apostle Paul is talking about knowing Christ as being of supreme importance to him. For Paul knowing Christ, beyond head knowledge was crucial to him. To know Christ by experiential knowledge was of preeminent importance – there was nothing as or more important than knowing Christ.





Experiencing the involvement of God in the life of a human is crucial importance for a person to know God.

Too often people view God as a distant and uninvolved God. There is a growing perspective towards God today that views the experiences of human life as “haphazard attempts of a well meaning, but incapable God to involve himself in the lives of earthly humanity”.

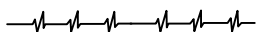
Experience, apart from the Intellectual, informational truth of God’s word can lead us in all kinds of wrong directions and into all kinds of inaccurate theology.

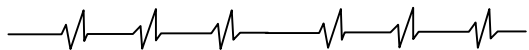
It is crucial that our experiential knowledge of God, be governed by our Truth knowledge of God.

John 4:19-24 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. (20) Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." (21) Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. (22) You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. (23) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. (24) God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Truth without experience, does not bring us to a personal experiential knowledge of God. But Just as truth without experience falls short, likewise, experience without truth is incomplete.

“Those who worship God must worship Him in spirit and in truth”. We must have that truth knowledge, in order for our





experiential knowledge to be evaluated and confirmed accurately.

* We must not govern our Truth by our experience. We must govern our experience by the Truth.

We are to always be Growing in the knowledge of God / Christ/
issue is not the information itself, but the impact that information
is expected to have on the reader, hearer, recipient....

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Col 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

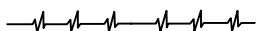
John 17:3 (Jesus own words) Now this is eternal life that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.

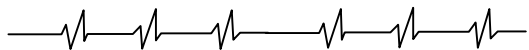
-- Why was experiential knowledge important? Not just truth, but life faith experience in allowing that truth about God and Christ, to build and nurture faith, so that life experience of Christ would bring about life eternal.

Hosea 6:6 (the Father's own words) For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

** Jesus and God certainly aren't telling us to study more to know God better. But we are urged to allow our head knowledge be translated into life experience knowledge.

Jeremiah 9:23 The Lord says, "Wise people should not boast that they are wise. Powerful people should not boast that they are powerful. Rich people should not boast that they are rich. 24 If people want to boast, they should boast about this: They should





boast that they understand and know me. They should boast that they know and understand that I, the Lord, act out of faithfulness, fairness, and justice in the earth and that I desire people to do these things,” says the Lord.

Know and understand – i.e. that they know intellectually, but also they have knowledge experientially.

“but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

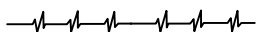
--Jeremiah 9:24

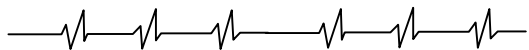
Not just that people should boast that they know information about me – not that people have read the paper and have read about my faithfulness, my fairness and my justice – but these people should boast that they KNOW me, - that they KNOW first hand and personally about my fairness – that they KNOW intimately and experientially about my faithfulness – that they have heard and experienced my justice.

Ford often says when he is witnessing to someone, he will say, “do you know of Christ or do you KNOW Christ?” Then he goes on to explain the difference.

God says, don’t boast about knowing facts about Me, I want you to boast because you KNOW me, first hand, up close and personally experienced those qualities and attributes of Me in my dealings with you.

Stephen Charnock (1628-1680), was a Puritan theologian and author, perhaps best known for his work *The Existence and Attributes of God*, which was first published (posthumously by





Richard Adams and Edward Veal) in 1682.

---"Our ignorance of God is too great, because our estimations of God are too little."

Knowing God must include...

KNOWING GOD ASSUREDLY

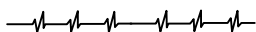
* Key word: Transformation

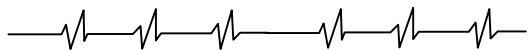
"To know God better is only to realize how impossible it is that we should ever know him at all. I know not which is more childish—to deny him, or define him." Samuel Butler (1835–1902), British author.

Psalm 116:1-9 I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. (2) Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. (3) The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. (4) Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!" (5) Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. (6) The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. (7) Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. (8) For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; (9) I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY, AW. Tozer

The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us. A whole new philosophy of the Christian life has resulted from this one basic error in our religious thinking.





With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence. Modern Christianity is simply not producing the kind of Christian who can appreciate or experience the life in the Spirit. The words, "Be still, and know that I am God," mean next to nothing to the self-confident, bustling worshipper in this middle period of the twentieth century.

This loss of the concept of majesty has come just when the forces of religion are making dramatic gains and the churches are more prosperous than at any time within the past several hundred years. But the alarming thing is that our gains are mostly external and our losses wholly internal; and since it is the quality of our religion that is affected by internal conditions, it may be that our supposed gains are but losses spread over a wider field.

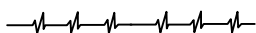
Knowledge of merely truth, but lacking in confirming experience often results in lack of personal spiritual transformation .

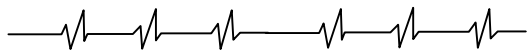
Knowing God is all about personal transformation.

You know beyond any doubt that you know about God and that you know God by experience, to the degree that your life and your life focus is drastically and noticeably different.

This person had a near "death experience". Perhaps he did not actually die, but he was close enough to death that he thought he was surely going to die. And something drastically happened in this Psalm. Something more drastic than Gods rescue.

Because of his situation, because of his prayer and because of God's divine and gracious intervention – he was spared death or





he escaped death and the most drastic element of this entire Psalm is the difference it made in the life of the person who experienced God.

v2) "...therefore, I will call on Him as long as I live"

Change #1 – He discovered God to be not only a God to be read about but a God to be experienced. Once God proves Himself faithful in our lives, that experience obligates us to trust Him more and even call on Him always, as long as we live.

v9) Change #2 – I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

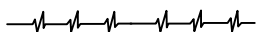
This guy had a near death experience and he came back or he escaped and once he was saved there was no. . .

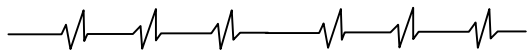
1) "Well, I saw this bright light – I heard a voice that everything is OK – Your work is not finished yet – its not your time to go – I have other things for you to do."

People who have these experiences and say they heard some voice say "its OK - everything is OK" – "go back you're OK" – I believe those people either (1) they just imagined it (2) they had something to eat prior to the near death experience and this whole vision was a result of something that disagreed with them and they had this vision or dream while on the operating table or (3) they heard Satan himself telling them these lies.

God or Jesus or the Holy Spirit will never tell anyone that is not a believer in Jesus Christ, and on the brink of life and death or caught somewhere between heaven and hell and say "Oh, you're OK, everything is going to be all—right!" If that person is not a believer in Jesus Christ then that message was a lie out of the pit of hell from the devil himself.

I'm don't like hearing of near death experiences and people





saying all these weird things that they saw, voices they heard – they heard God or Jesus say – never or very seldom do you hear people who said they heard the voice of the Lord saying – you’d better repent and turn from your wicked ways – you need to trust my son Jesus whom I sent to die and shed His blood for you. You need to quit living for yourself and begin living like I created you to live.

I think I might believe a testimony like that. Of perhaps a testimony of a Christian that God was comforting as they were passing from life into death.

Why? Because when people know God in Truth and know Him experientially and personally, something happens – transformation takes place – lives are never as they were. Those who know God assuredly are experience transformation.

True knowledge of God produces transformation in attitude towards God and perspective towards self.

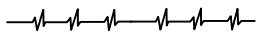
For some it is easy to know God and to live without any apparent life transformation.

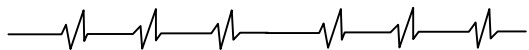
“People see God every day, they just don't recognize him.”

~Pearl Bailey

For some they “know of God” but perhaps we don’t pay any attention to God.

Isa 6:1-5 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. (2) Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. (3) And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (4) And the foundations of the thresholds





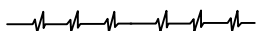
shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. (5) And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

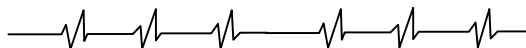
There is the wristwatch experience of God. We are also experiencing God in some way, yet we are not always mindful of the experience. When you put an wristwatch on in the morning, its not long before you get used to it and eventually you don't even realize its there.

Some experience God that way. Not in a transformational way, but in an unnoticeable and untransformational and non-life changing way. Where are those Is. 6 transformation experiences of people who have these so called near death experiences?

Have you ever wondered just why Isaiah's experience of God was so transformational??

2Chron. 26:11-21 Moreover, Uzziah had an army of soldiers, fit for war, in divisions according to the numbers in the muster made by Jeiel the secretary and Maaseiah the officer, under the direction of Hananiah, one of the king's commanders. (12) The whole number of the heads of fathers' houses of mighty men of valor was 2,600. (13) Under their command was an army of 307,500, who could make war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. (14) And Uzziah prepared for all the army shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, and stones for slinging. (15) In Jerusalem he made engines, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and great stones. And his fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong. (16) But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and

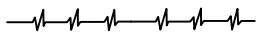


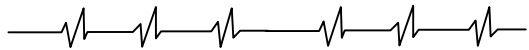


entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. (17) But Azariah the priest went in after him, with eighty priests of the LORD who were men of valor, (18) and they withstood King Uzziah and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have done wrong, and it will bring you no honor from the LORD God." (19) Then Uzziah was angry. Now he had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and when he became angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the LORD, by the altar of incense. (20) And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous in his forehead! And they rushed him out quickly, and he himself hurried to go out, because the LORD had struck him. (21) And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death, and being a leper lived in a separate house, for he was excluded from the house of the LORD. And Jotham his son was over the king's household, governing the people of the land.

The vision and experience of God, together with the truth about God and God and Uzziah's experience with God – it was all too clear and all too fearful for Uzziah. It brought a holy awe and a holy fear of God Almighty, that was evidently up to that point, -- missing.

God got his attention. His truth was accurate. His experience was transformational and Isaiah was not only cleansed, but He was changed. All of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, through, both Scriptural information, as well as through personal experience.





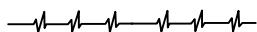
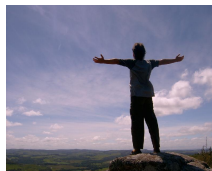
SO WHAT?!

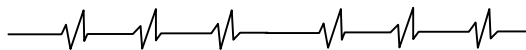
What is my like now, after having trusted Christ? How have I changed?

What information do I know and believe about God and how has that affected my life?

How have I experienced God in my life? What Scriptural Truth's about God have been confirmed through my own personal life experiences?

Has the holiness of God, affected me, changed me, convicted me or caused me to think and live differently?





“Knowing and Experiencing God”

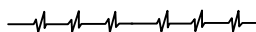
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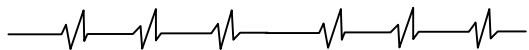
Overall Big Idea: How Great is our God!! How Great Is our God?

EFCA STATEMENT OF FAITH: 1. God - We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power

SoF 1 God - We believe in one God (Dt. 6:4; Mk. 12:29), Creator of all things (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3), holy (Ex. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 57:15), infinitely perfect (Dt.32:4; Job 1:7-10; Ps. 18:30; 50:2; 90:2; 145:3; Matt. 5:48), and eternally existing (Ps.33:11; 102:25-27; 115:3; Dan. 4:34-35; Jn. 5:26; Acts 17:24-25) in a loving unity (Jn.3:35; 17:24; 1 Jn. 4:8,16) of three equally divine Persons (Jn. 17:11; Matt. 3:16-17;28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2): the Father (Dt. 32:6; Mt. 6:6; Rom. 8:15; 1 Cor. 8:6), the Son (Matt.3:17; Jn. 1:14; 3:16; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 1:5), and the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9, 26; Gal. 4:6). Having limitless knowledge (Ps. 139:1-16; 147:5; Isa. 46:10; Jn. 21:17) and sovereign power (Jer. 32:17; Eph. 1:11; Rm. 8:28; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:20; Rev. 1:8), God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself (1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:11; 3:10,11; 2 Tim. 1:9; Tit. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8) and to make all things new (Matt. 19:28; Acts 3:21; Rom. 8:19-21; Rev. 21,22) for His own glory (Ps. 19:1-2; Isa. 43:7; Jer. 13:11; Col. 1:15-23; Rev. 4:11; 5:9-14).

INTRODUCTION





Psa 145:1-3 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. (2) Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. (3) Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is **unsearchable**.

- unsearchable – cannot fathom –

Remember, its not that we cannot know God in any degree or at no level, but fully understanding, completely comprehending who He is or how He works, will always be limited in our earthly lives.

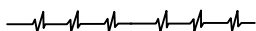
1Co 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

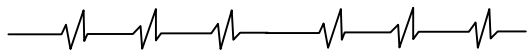
OUR GOD IS HOLY

Holy = no nec. Perfection, but uniqueness. – God is set apart from all that exists. As Creator, He is set apart from all His creation.

Last week we look at Is 6 (v3-5) , where the angels called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (4) And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. (5) And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

As Isaiah had this vision of a holy God, - this experience not only changed his attitude about God, but it also changed his perspective of himself.





Many theologians believe the “holiness” of God to be, perhaps, the key of all God’s qualities, traits and attributes and from this one, flows all the other descriptions and definitions of who God is and what he is like.

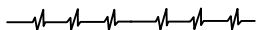
Psa 111:1-10 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. (2) Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. (3) Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures **forever**. (4) He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. (5) He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant **forever**. (6) He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. (7) The works of his hands are **faithful** and just; all his precepts are **trustworthy**; (8) they are established **forever and ever**, to be performed with **faithfulness** and uprightness. (9) He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant **forever**. **Holy** and awesome is his name! (10) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

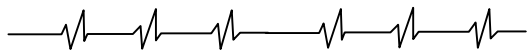
In Summary:... “**Holy** and awesome is his name! – that’s the bottom line.

(10) The fear of the LORD [i.e. holy reverence for the Lord] is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it...

[practice what? Developing a holy reverence for the LORD] it have a good understanding.

-- understanding of what or of whom? -- GOD – i.e. those who practice a holy reverence of God, have a good understanding of who God is and what He is like? Without that, it seems, we cannot say we really know Him. Certainly Isaiah thought he knew the





Lord, but after he saw Him high and lifted up and the angels worshiping and crying out proclaiming His holiness – Isaiah experienced God in a new and awe-inspiring way – and from that experience, he is so transformed and his understanding and knowledge of God is so transformed that he is changed for ever.

Seems like it all needs to start at His holiness.

Infinitely perfect are his all works

Ps.111:9b) Holy.... = set apart, complete, unique and unlike any other

Ps.111:2-3 (2) Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. (3) Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures **forever**. (4) He has caused his wondrous

works to be remembered;”

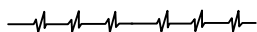
Couple of interesting observations re: Pss.111

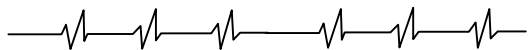
1) the Psalmist’s intellect in engaged – he is expressing worship to God through his intellect. He is organizing his thoughts, he is recording his thoughts in a fashion that makes the reader or the worshipper take note of his organization. Ps.111 is interesting in several accounts.

a) The writer uses the phrase “Hallelujah.” To begin this psalm. This is indicative in only a few of the psalms. These are referred to as the “Hallel” Psalms. It is translated in our versions with the phrase, “Praise the Lord!”

Hallel is given to God and Hallelujah is proclaimed in the congregation because of what ?

v2 – God is great; v3-Our God is glorious, majestic, righteous, eternal; v4-The graciousness and compassion of the Lord; v6-He





is All-powerful; v7-He is infinitely faithful, just, He is completely faithful or Trustworthy. v8-Our God is immovable, steadfast, eternal and eternally without change, He is faithful, upright. v9-Our God is holy, awesome or awe-inspiring. v10 He is altogether praiseworthy, He is powerful in his deeds. He is faithful in his dealings.

b) The Psalmist uses alphabetization.

This Psalm is alphabetical, in that the Hebrew alphabet begins or begins and ends the verses, so that it takes one through the entire Hebrew alphabet in a literary form that is common in Hebrew prose and poetry. It would have been attention getting if you were a Hebrew after the time of Moses.

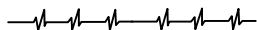
**** So what? What difference does that make?**

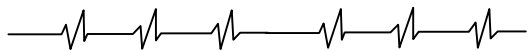
I'm not certain what the Bible scholars would say about that, but here's what comes to my mind.

Q: What is your worship like this morning? Is it deep and sweet? Is your worship experience dependent upon what the praise team can stir up? Is it dependent upon what mood you are in or on which side of the bed you woke up on? Is your worship experience a time of genuine joyful praise for who the Lord is and what He has done?

Q: Why is it that our praise and our testimonies of God is so difficult?

This seems to affect all of us, myself included? But why can we come up with nearly nothing to praise God for on Sunday mornings? I believe its not that we have nothing to praise Him for. Nor is it because we have not thankful spirit. I believe it is because we have not engaged our intellect in our worship of God.





Often times on Sunday morning, we are sleepy – often times we have jumped out of bed – on auto pilot, and we have grabbed breakfast – on auto pilot. We have even driven to church – on auto pilot. And we arrive here and participate in the SS time or worship service on autopilot and perhaps we fail to engage our intellect in our studies and in our testimonies in worship.

Singing songs is a crucially important time in our worship, but if the words are only words we read or sing while on - autopilot, then that is all they are before God. – words on a page.

If we engage our intellect - our mind - and allow the words on the page or the on the screen to be reminders of who God is – if we allow it to jolt our recollection of God's goodness personally, then we can remove those songs of praise from the hymnal and sing them from our heart to God as genuine heart felt praise and worship.

If we are not worshipping with a genuine joy in the Lord, then we are in need of personal and perhaps corporate revival.

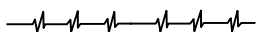
Psa 85:6 “Will you not revive us again, that your people may - -- win the lost?*NO*. -- have larger crowds in our churches?*NO*. Won't be judged so harshly in eternity?*NO*.

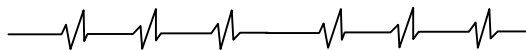
“Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?”

****** If we are not worshipping God with genuine inner joy and with meaningful inner praise, then perhaps we are in need of revival.

Not only is his intellect engaged, but....

2) the Psalmist's experiences are utilized





To worship God without our intellect is to worship Him inaccurately.

To worship God without our emotions is to worship Him incompletely.

Psalm 111: 4-9 (4) He has caused his wondrous works to be **remembered**; the LORD is gracious and merciful. (5) He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant **forever**. (6) He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. (7) The works of his hands are **faithful** and just; all his precepts are **trustworthy**; (8) they are established **forever and ever**, to be performed with **faithfulness** and uprightness. (9) He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant **forever**. **Holy** and awesome is his name!

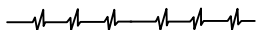
Now we get to the more personal aspect of the psalm. Up to this point, the works of God looked like it might be referring to the stars and wonders of His creation.

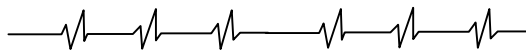
But now we begin to see the specifics of what is being referred to – we see he is not referring to the generic works of God of creation, but to the specific dealings with His people.

****** The psalmist begins to make reference to his experiences. And that is what completes the intellectual knowledge of God through information.

Personal experience of God's dealings with His people is what takes the head knowledge of God and moves it straight to the heart.

Psa 4:7 Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.





Psa 9:1 I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.

((i.e. personal testimonies to the goodness of God. Personal experience that moves the heart to worship – fills the heart with joy and fills the mouth with genuine praise.

Psa 107:8 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

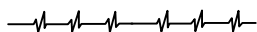
His wonderful works to the children of men. For His power demonstrated in His deeds and for His faithfulness displayed in His dealings with His people.

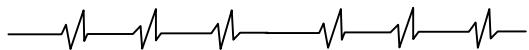
v4) God causes the experience of His dealings with His people to be recalled and that recollection is one that floods the Psalmist's heart with first hand experiences of the grace and mercies of a **Holy** God.

A God that is unique – a God that is one of a kind – a God that is experienced – A God that is involved and a God that is Set apart and unlike any other “god” that the mind of man can conceive.

****** When this Psalmist gathers with the congregation of God's people, he or she is one that does not hinder the worship of Gods people but contributes to it. This person does not dampen the worship but helps fan the flames of Believer's worship.

AT the nursing home, there a lots of people who share things – all are important and all are meaningful --- and *most* are appropriate. But there is one lady – a dear lady, who has various physical things going on in her body. She is often late for the services, - as it is an ordeal to hobble her way from her room to our meeting area. And often when she shares something she does so in a way that is noticeably difficult for her. Her thoughts get jumbled up – her words get confusing to us. Nevertheless, she shares her





testimony and praise report with such joy and with such a countenance of peace and radiance. She often apologizes for taking too long and for getting so messed up in her testimony.

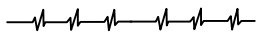
Sometimes she will write her thoughts down before she gets to our meeting. She will hand write her thoughts, the things she wants to thank God for and will even hand write a brief Bible verse. She purposefully engages her mind in order to share her personal experience with the congregation there.

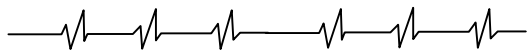
v5) “He provides food for those who fear him;” - How common is that? How worthy of our praise is Gods provision for His own. Whether it is food on our plates, shelter over our heads, clothing upon our bodies?

God’s provision alone, should be enough to cause our hearts to sore in praise. But unless we are not faced with nothing, we are often not thankful for much of anything.

In 1988 – I was on a summer missions trip to Turkey and we drove the entire way. We were scheduled to make a stop in Munich Germany along the way. One young lady on our team was from Russian. We were camping along our trip to Turkey, and as were approaching Germany, we were praying and asking God to lead us to a place for us to camp safely. As we were driving and praying, and approaching Munich, our team member stated that she had relatives that used to live in Munich that she had not seen in about 10 yrs. In fact she was not sure if they still lived in Munich and had not addresses or phone numbers to contact these relatives.

We gathered up all our loose change and she was going to attempt to find her relatives names in a phone book in a phone booth. As we drove through town someone in our group shouted that they saw a phone booth up ahead. As we approached the phone booth,





the girl was looking out her side window and she started screaming out the window in Russian and a person next to the phone booth began screaming back.. None of us spoke Russian, so none of us knew what all the screaming was about.

With great excitement she began to instruct us to pull up to the phone booth, and that the person next to the phone booth was her long lost relative that we were going to attempt to look up.

Upon meeting that relative, we were informed that they had insisted that our two van loads of summer missions students were to follow them back to their home. There, all 14 of us were on the spur of the moment, well fed and put up for the night, all over the floor of a very tiny and very modest apartment.

God has a way of bringing to our remembrance even the smallest of His dealings in our lives and how He provides for His own and faithfully demonstrates His involvement in our lives.

In order to praise God adequately we must engage our intellect and recall our experiences of the faithfulness of God.

QQ; What is your story? What things has God done in your life that evidences His faithfulness and fully involved in your life?

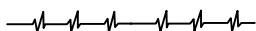
What has God done to remind you that He is your provider and that He alone is your Helper?

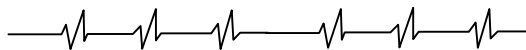
What has this Holy Holy Holy God done, to remind you of His **Infinitely perfect dealings with His people?**

Closing time of reflection.

Closing Song of Praise: **How Great Is Our God!** (not ? but !)

Exo 8:10 And he said, "Tomorrow." Moses said, "Be it as you say, so that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.





2Sa 7:22 Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

1Ch 17:20 There is none like you, O LORD, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.”

Knowing God, knows truth about God, has experienced that which he/she knows about Him in a life changing way in that they know first hand, -- his character. They know with renewed depth of intimacy, His workings and they trust with fresh assurance that He is involved and busy working all things out for our good and His glory.

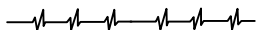
-“...with our ears” – verifiable with the senses.

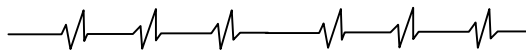
* Important to remember, that He does work all things out simply for our good, but the ultimate purpose of all that He has created is to bring Him glory. In all we experience, we must always leave room for the divinely ordained purposes of God that are designed to bring Him glory.

Infinite = unending in terms of its quality or spatial limitation

Infinitely perfect = God being totally and wholly perfect, without flaw, without error, without modification, without process or progress or evolution or development of advancing.

I don't mean to trivialize God. But God is somewhat like the world wide web. You log onto one website and you realize that site has links to a hundred other websites. You click onto any one of those links and you realize that site has a hundred other links. You log onto any one of those sites and you realize that each of those sites has a hundred other links for other websites, and so on.





Very soon, you realize you can spend every waking moment surfing the net and you would still never be able to visit all the websites that are available.

Likewise, - once you “log onto” God, you soon realize that he is even more vast in His character and His content than even the world wide web. You visit God’s holiness and you realize that His holiness is inseparately linked to a hundred other qualities. You click onto one of those links for one of His other qualities, and you discover each of those links are inseparately linked to a hundred other links pertaining to His character. You click onto any one of those links for His character and you realize that each of those links are inseparately linked, like a giant, endless web – to the endless links of His divine attributes and on, and on and on He goes.

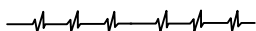
We can know God partially, but when it comes to figuring Him out completely - - no one can fully fathom Him. His ways are unsearchable – His design is beyond our comprehension. And yet – with all that, we are still invited to log on – begin clicking on His links – and to begin the life long research project of knowing Him – all His inexhaustible resources – and all His wonderful and awesome deeds.

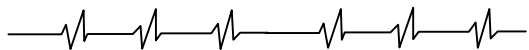
He is **infinitely perfect and perfectly infinite**. That is He is unending in his quality, character and attributes. He is inexhaustible in His content, and His essence.

Pro 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the **knowledge of the Holy [One]** is insight.”

HE is Eternally Existing

Eternal = unending in terms of time, whether future or past.





Prayer of Hannah -- 1Sa 2:2-8 "There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. (3) Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. (4) The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. (5) Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. (6) The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. (7) The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. (8) He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.

Did Hannah believe that creation was birthed from an ancient turtle or that the earth rides on the back of a turtle? Or that the earth rests on some giant structure?

This is prayer is part prayer and part rebuke to the unbelieving pagans of her day. And here Hannah prays in terms that reflects the pagan beliefs of the culture in which she lived.

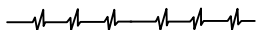
Self existent – no outside cause

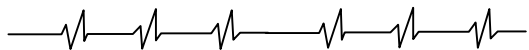
Self Sufficient – no outside need

Self dependent – no outside dependence on anything

OUR GOD IS LOVING

1Jn 4:10-19 (7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (8) Anyone who does not love does not know God,





because **God is love**. (9) In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

(10) In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (11)

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

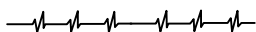
(12) No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (13) By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (14) And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. (15) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

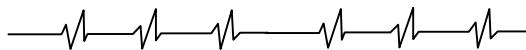
(16) So we have come to **know and to believe** the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (17) By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (19) We love because he first loved us.

Limitless in His knowledge

God is Limitless in knowledge - Ps. 139:1-16; 147:5; Isa. 46:10; Jn. 21:17 sovereign power (Jer. 32:17; Eph. 1:11; Rm. 8:28; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:20; Rev. 1:8)

In Phil. 3, the Apostle Paul is talking about knowing Christ as being of supreme importance to him. For Paul knowing Christ, beyond head knowledge was crucial to him. To know Christ by experiential knowledge was of preeminent importance – there was nothing as or more important than knowing Christ.





Experiencing the involvement of God in the life of a human is crucial importance for a person to know God.

Too often people view God as a distant and uninvolved God. There is a growing perspective towards God today that views the experiences of human life as “haphazard attempts of a well meaning, but incapable God to involve himself in the lives of earthly humanity”.

Experience, apart from the Intellectual, informational truth of God’s word can lead us in all kinds of wrong directions and into all kinds of inaccurate theology.

God is Sovereign in His Power That is, He does what He intends and pleases to do.

Eternal in His Purpose His plan is from eternity to eternity.

Application

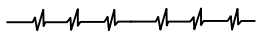
God is not dependent upon any one single quality. Yet al His qualities, attributes, and traits work and function in perfect unison and harmony in all His dealings.

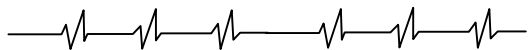
Love/wrath, mercy/justice, Calvinism/Arminianism, One w/o the other, = inaccurate definition and grave misunderstanding of God.

Holiness of God. Why is the Holiness of God so important in our own earthly, human lives?

1) It is important to know God as best we can, regardless of or whether or not we perceive that knowledge to be directly beneficial to us.

2) In God’s holiness, He is perfectly infinite and infinitely perfect = complete – without fault or flaw or fallacy – without lack or want.





3) Holiness is one of those attributes that we share in part, with God, however we share it in part, in varying degrees and in lesser levels.

Therefore, in Lev. 19:2 – “...be holy as I am holy.”

Aren't you glad He didn't say, “be as holy as I am”?

In other words, be set apart, as I am set apart. Be different as I am different. Be unique as I am unique.

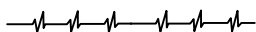
1Pet. 1:15-16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; (16) Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

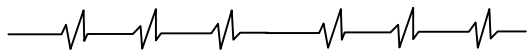
1Pet. 2:9-12 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an **holy** nation, a **peculiar** people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (10) Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (11) Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; (12) Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Dan 11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do **know their God** shall be strong, and do exploits.

Why are these attributes and qualities about God so important to us?

As humans, we often feel as though our quarter has run out with God.





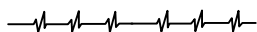
Imagine you are driving your car and you realize you have a flat tire. You make it to the service station and you get up to the air pump and you have 2 quarters. You put those two quarters in and the air pump begins. You work at pumping up your tires and you realize it's a bit longer than you had anticipated. One tire is finally filled and you go to fill up the second tire with air and you realize your time is nearly out. You hurriedly get the screw on cap off your other flat tire and you get the air nozzle properly connected and begin pumping air into the second flat tire and about half way through, you hear that little "ding" and the pump stops. Your time has just run out – and you still have two flat tires.

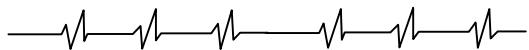
We may not admit it, but there are times that even as Christians, it seems as though our quarter has just run out with God. It may seem like God has left us or that His resources have been depleted, due to our constantly coming to Him with all our troubles – and for a while it seemed as though God was working, helping, providing, but not it seems our quarter has just run out.

God doesn't work like that. His resources are never depleted. His help is never exhausted. His compassions fail not. His love endures for ever. God doesn't change, quite, go out of date, and never, never does His timer click off.

It is important to know that intellectually. It is more important to know that experientially. If we believe God to be a God whose quarter runs out when we need Him most – is to believe amiss. To know God as a God who comes and goes – who is there and then He is mysteriously gone, it to believe inaccurately. In fact, to believe those things about God, is to believe a lie.

“Can God really help you?”





“IF God really cared, surely you wouldn’t be experiencing this.”

”If God is a God of endless resources, then were is His resources for you now?”

“Go ahead and doubt”. “For be anxious in everything, and never by prayer and supplications dare to make your requests known to God – and for certain, don’t be so foolish as to thank God for what He has not provided for you.”

It is important to allow our truth about God, determine our experiences with God. Our beliefs are confirmed by our experiences. Our experiences must never be allowed to form the basis of what we believe.

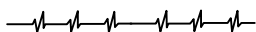
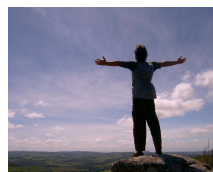
LOSE EVERYTHING TO GAIN THAT WHICH IS THE MOST VALUABLE - knowing God is a true treasure -

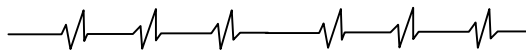
The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl - Mat. 13:44

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

**** Sin can keep us from properly knowing God.**





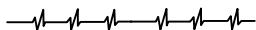
“Joyful Praise: A Natural Response to Experiencing God”

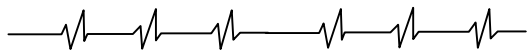
Sept 26, 2010

Overall Big Idea: How Great is our God?? How Great Is our God!!

SoF 1 God - We believe in one God, Creator of all things, **holy**, **infinitely perfect**, and **eternally existing** in a **loving** unity of three equally divine Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit Having **limitless knowledge** and **sovereign power**

Psalm 111:1-10 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. (2) Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. (3) Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures **forever**. (4) He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. (5) He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant **forever**. (6) He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. (7) The works of his hands are **faithful** and just; all his precepts are **trustworthy**; (8) they are established **forever and ever**, to be performed with **faithfulness** and uprightness. (9) He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant **forever**. **Holy** and awesome is his name! (10) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!





How do you view God and how do you perceive His workings in your life?

Sometimes we think that “life happens” and God responds to those happenings, like hitting your thumb with a hammer. You hit your thumb with a hammer and the response is you throw your hammer and grab your thumb and attempt to nurse the pain away.

Some see God that way – some see God as forever being barraged with our problems and our pain and our troubles and He is forever busy attempting to work out the problems we have caused. If you have that view of God, then you have a very small view of God and how He works.

REVIEW

I OUR GOD IS UNIQUELY HOLY

Holy = no nec. Perfection, but uniqueness. – God is set apart from all that exists. Unique, As Creator, He is set apart from all His creation.

A. Infinitely perfect are his all works

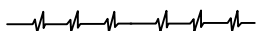
Ps.111:1) Praise Ye the Lord! Both an emphatic invitation to praise the Lord and the rest of the Psalm he gives a summary of reasons why the Lord is worthy to be praised.

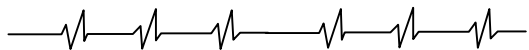
As we read Ps. 111, we realize

1) the Psalmist engages his intellect

He utilizes various literary techniques to cause the reader and the worshipper to get their minds out of auto-pilot mode and to engage their minds in remembering and recognizing the praise-worthiness of God. (Hallel psalm, and alphabetization)

2) the Psalmist also engages his experiences





v4) He has provided food for His people. v5) He has kept His covenant with His people – His promises are certain and sure. v6) He has demonstrated His power in the midst of His people v7) He has shown Himself to be faithful and just in all their circumstances. He has proven Himself trustworthy time and time again. v9) He has gloriously redeemed His people. How Great Is Our God? He is Holy and Awesome!! That is the bottom line of Psalm 111.

It is their knowledge of the Truth about God, together with their personal experiences with God that is intended to bring about a sense of Awe before God and to invoke Praise to Him.

Not only is God Uniquely Holy ... But

II OUR GOD IS ETERNALLY EXISTING

* **He is Eternally Existent in His essence and being.**

Ps.111:3) his righteousness endures **forever**.

v5) he remembers his covenant **forever**

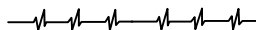
v7 & 8) all his precepts are **trustworthy**; (8) they are established **forever and ever**

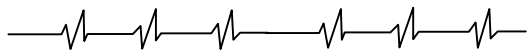
v9b) he has commanded his covenant **forever**.

A God ordains Life from the beginning to the end

Isa 46:9-10 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, (10) declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and **I will accomplish all my purpose,**'

2Ti 1:6-10 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, (7)





for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (8) Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, (9) who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his **own purpose and grace**, which he gave us in Christ Jesus **before the ages began**, (10) and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

God has no beginning and will have no end.

He is self existing and completely self sufficient. That is part of His divine attributes. And because that is who He is, it is also how He works and how He deals with His children.

God Himself is unending, therefore His resources are unending. God is sufficient all things.

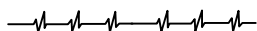
As a good Bible school student, I was well aware, theologically, that God was faithful, that He provided for His own and that He is God alone, is full sufficient in all things. I knew that intellectually, but God blessed several of us to learn that experientially.

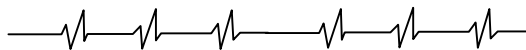
God is Eternally Existing And...

He ordains life and life experiences, from the beginning to the end.

In order to praise God adequately we must engage our intellect and recall our experiences of His faithfulness, His provisions and His wonderful works in the dealings with His children.

"holy,
holy,
holy,
is the Lord God
Almighty, who
was
and is
and is
to come!"
- Revelation 4:8





I want to tell you that all of us in that tiny apartment were filled to overflowing with genuine joyful praise, which was a natural response to a supernatural experience with God.

God ordains life from the beginning to the end and. . .

B. He Establishes His Truth Forever, and Ever

Isa 46:9-10 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, (10) **declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand,** and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

God did not just wake up one day and decide, “Hmm, I’m going to invent something called “Truth”. Nor does He check His calendar and think: “I wonder what I should accomplish today?” Gods plan and purposes do not form or evolve as our lives unfold.

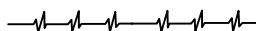
God is the God of Truth. Truth is who God is.

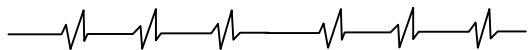
John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (17) even the **Spirit of TRUTH**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Truth is one of God’s attributes – its part of His makeup – He cannot ever – whether in the past or in the future – He can never be untruthful or void of truth. Truth is what He is.

As God is eternally existing in His essence and being – as He is inexhaustible in all His resources -- so is His truth equally eternally existing and equally inexhaustible and unending.

I don’t mean to trivialize God. But God is somewhat like the world wide web. You log onto one website and you realize that





site has links to a hundred other websites. You click onto any one of those links and you realize that site has a hundred other links. You log onto any one of those sites and you realize that each of those sites has a hundred other links for other websites, and so on.

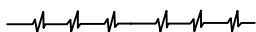
Very soon, you realize you can spend every waking moment surfing the net and you would still never be able to visit all the websites that are available.

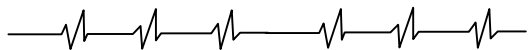
Likewise, - once you log onto God, you soon realize that he is even more vast in His character and His content than even the world wide web. You visit God's holiness and you realize that His holiness is inseparately linked to a hundred other qualities. You click onto one of those links for one of His other qualities, and you discover each of those links are inseparately linked to a hundred other links pertaining to His character. You click onto any one of those links for His character and you realize that each of those links are inseparately linked, like a giant, endless web – to the endless links of His divine attributes and on, and on and on He goes.

If you have read your Bible through once or 1,000 times, you will never discover all He has to teach you – You will never discover that you have exhausted the wisdom and knowledge of the word of God.

No matter how much we know, how much we study, there is always more to discover and more wisdom to gain from it for every choice more Truth to trust and depend upon in every situation of life.

We can know God partially, but when it comes to figuring Him out completely - - no one can fully fathom Him – His ways are unsearchable – His design is beyond our comprehension – His truth is inexhaustible and without contradiction





And yet – with all that, we are still invited to log on – begin clicking on His links – and to begin the life long research project of knowing Him – all His inexhaustible resources – and all His wonderful and awesome deeds.

QQ; What is your story? What things has God done in your life that has evidenced His faithfulness and His full involvement in your life?

QQ What is your view of God? What is your experience with God?

Genuine joyful praise is a natural response to a supernatural personal experience with God.

What has God done to remind you that He is your provider and that He alone is your Helper?

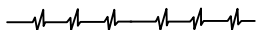
How has God demonstrated His **Infinitely perfect dealings with His people? How has He reminded YOU that He is Eternally Existent in His essence, as well as in His resources?**

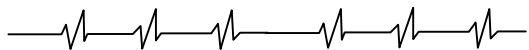
And how has God nurtured the natural response of genuine joyful praise, through His supernatural intervention in your life?

I was recently talking with a young man with many troubles and trials in his life. He acknowledged that He believed in God and that He believed there was life after death. But when it came to his being interested in knowing what God expected of him, he stated that he'd never thought about it, and that he did not consider that something that was all that important.

Psa 14:1 “The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.”

****** The fool has said in his heart, “there is no God”. How much more foolish is it to say I believe there is a God, and yet have the





attitude that I am not all that interested in what it is that God expects of me.

May that not be so with us!! May it not be so with God's own children, what have been saved by His grace and redeemed with the blood of His very own Son!!

Repent from our shallowness of knowing God

Repent from our satisfaction of knowing God from a distance.

Repent from being Believers in God and followers of Jesus Christ, and yet being fairly apathetic concerning how He affects our lives and what He expects of us.

QQ: What is your view of God? What is your experience with God?

Our God is Uniquely Holy

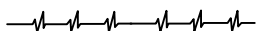
Our God is Eternally Existing

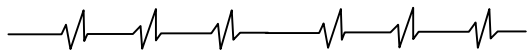
III Our God is Unconditionally Loving

God is not dependent upon any one single quality. Yet all His qualities, attributes, and traits work and function in perfect unison and harmony in all His dealings.

Love/wrath, mercy/justice, Calvinism/Arminianism, One w/o the other, = inaccurate definition and grave misunderstanding of God.

1Jn 4:10-19 (7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and **knows** God. (8) Anyone who does not love **does not know God,** because **God is love.** (9) In this the love of God was made





manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

(10) In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (11)

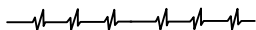
Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

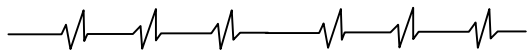
(12) No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (13) By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (14) And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. (15) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

(16) So we have come to **know and to believe** the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (17) By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (19) We love because he first loved us.

A. Limitless in His knowledge

Psa 139:1-10 To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. O LORD, you have searched me and known me! (2) You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. (3) You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. (4) Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. (5) You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. (6) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. (7) Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from





your presence? (8) If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! (9) If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, (10) even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

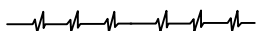
Psa 147:5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

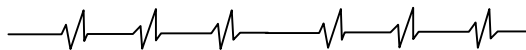
What an awesome passage of Scripture this is and yet if we stop to think about it, what connection is there between the love of God and the limitless knowledge of God?

It is Gods limitless knowledge that can probe our deepest parts, and in that knowledge can see who we really are – unhidden from God –

Naked and bare before the one with whom we have to do (Heb. And yet in His limitless knowledge and perfect understanding, He still loves, He still has compassion, He still refuses to forget or forsake us – And in that limitless knowledge and with that perfect love we are **SECURE!** – *secure in our relationship with God.*

There are some people – perhaps some here today who have never felt security in any relationship. Because all the relationships they have known have always been performance based relationships. Perhaps the love of your parents was only communicated when you did what was required of you or when you measured up to their expectations of you. Perhaps the relationships with those of the opposite sex have always been based on what you were willing to sacrifice and give in order to keep that relationship together.





Perhaps you can only remember relationships and only felt love when you have performed properly and when you failed to perform, that conditional love was withheld.

I am loved

by Bill and Gloria Gaither

(Chorus)

I am loved, I am loved, I can risk loving you,

For the one who knows me best loves me most.

I am loved, you are loved, won't you please take my hand?

We are free to love each other, we are loved.

I said, "If you knew, you wouldn't want me;

My scars are hidden by the face I wear."

He said, "My child, my scars go deeper;

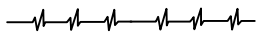
It was love for you that put them there."

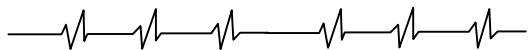
(Chorus)

I am loved, I am loved, I can risk loving you,

For the one who knows me best loves me most.

God's limitless knowledge and His unconditional love is available for you without expectations and without a report card. The God who knows you best, loves you most.





sovereign power (Jer. 32:17; Eph. 1:11; Rm. 8:28; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:20; Rev. 1:8)

Sovereign in His Power

Sovereignty = Gods absolute right to do all things according to his own good.

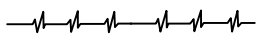
Eph 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

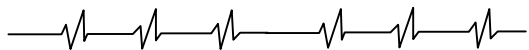
God has absolute power and authority, i.e. the moral right to do what He pleases, in order to accomplish whatever He has ordained as His good and perfect will .

Jer 32:17-18 'Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your **great power** and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. (18) You show **steadfast love** to thousands, but you repay the guilt of fathers to their children after them, O great and mighty God, whose name is the LORD of hosts,

God's sovereign power and His steadfast love again mixed. Not separate qualities, but working together in perfect harmony to make God all He is.

Acts 4:23-24 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. (24) And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,





In His limitless knowledge, He exercises His sovereign power, which is perfectly governed and balanced with His unconditional love and steadfast mercies.

No wonder we call Him Holy. Unique, Unlike any other, Wholly different, completely separate and apart from anything, any person, any God, or any concept the mind of man can conjure up.

Apply

Why is the Holiness of God so important in our own earthly, human lives? It is all about God's most basic quality, from which all other qualities, descriptions and definitions flow.

1) It is important to know God as best we can, regardless of or whether or not we perceive that knowledge to be directly beneficial to us.

2) In God's holiness, He is perfectly infinite and infinitely perfect = complete – without fault or flaw or fallacy – without lack or want.

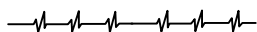
3) Holiness is one of those attributes that we share in part, with God, however we share it in part, in varying degrees and in lesser levels.

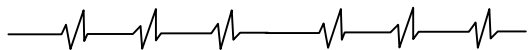
1Pe 1:15-16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; (16) Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Aren't you glad He didn't say, "be as holy as I am"?

In other words, be set apart, as I am set apart. Be different as I am different. Be a unique people, as I am unique..

1Peter 2:9-12 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the





praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (10) Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (11) Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; (12) Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

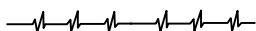
Genuine joyful praise, is a natural response resulting from a supernatural experience with God.

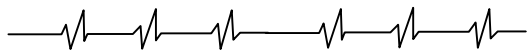
* We are to “show for the praises of Him who has called us...”

As true, devout believing Christians, do our lives truly show forth His praises? Is our life and is our worship characterized with a natural, genuine joyful praise, which results from a supernatural experience with God?

Dan 11:32 ... but the people that do **know their God** shall be strong, and perform great feats.

What does our life display to the world about Jesus?





Don't close this booklet yet

without considering this all important question.

Is Jesus Christ the Savior or *your* soul and the Lord of *your* life?

Every person is born guilty of sin and in need of forgiveness.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of
God; --Rom 3:23

Our sin is against God, therefore our forgiveness can only come
from God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should
not perish, but have everlasting life. --John 3:16

God has appointed His Son as the payment for sins and sent Him
to die in our place.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
-- Romans 6:23

God's love is demonstrated through the sacrificial payment of
Jesus Christ in our place for our sins.

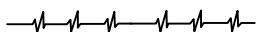
...but God shows his love for us in that while we were
still sinners, Christ died for us. ---Romans 5:8

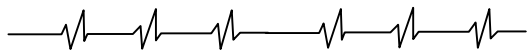
For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved." -- Rom 10:13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his
name, he gave the right to become children of God,
- John 1:12

Before you close this book, why not be absolutely certain that you
are truly a citizen of God's eternal kingdom and loving family?

*Trust in Jesus Christ today and receive forgiveness for your sins
and citizenship into God's family and His Kingdom.*





The ABCs

A - Admit you have sinned and are in need of a Savior.

B - Believe Jesus died in your place, and you can no way help yourself.

C - Confess your sins to God. He already knows. Also Confess Jesus as you LORD. He desires and deserves to be your Lord.

Prayer: Take time to talk to God right now and open your heart and life to His instruction and leadership.

Connect with a local Bible believing, Christ centered church.

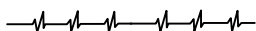
Commit yourself to meeting regularly with other Christians who are growing in their faith.

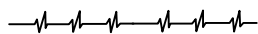
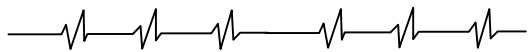
Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

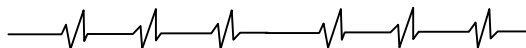
Act 2:41-42 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

For more information or for spiritual help, please contact us at:
Christ E. Free Church, PO Box 619, 19682 Hill Rd,
Saegertown, Pa, 16433, Ph: 814-763-2934, www.christefca.org

*It is our prayer that you find **Jesus Christ** to be...*
your highest calling,
your greatest purpose,
your soul's source and joy,
and your all-consuming passion.

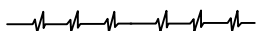


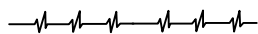
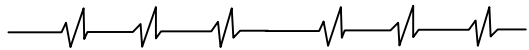


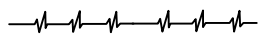
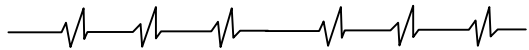


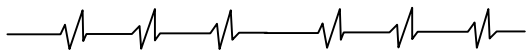
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 A NEW CREATION: *Beginning Your New Life In Christ*
 ADVENT: *The Submission of Christ*
 AMERICA ADRIFT: *A Culture in Crisis and the Challenges Before the Church*
 BALANCING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: (2Vol) *Growing together in the Basics*
 CHALLENGES OF FAITH *From Characters in the Bible*
 CHRIST'S COMING KINGDOM: *What Will Be Will Be*
 CPR Evangelism: *Helping others Step from Death to Life*
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May each lesson bring a growing submission, a deeper obedience and an increase of the righteous reign of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the fullness of His Spirit, in His Church and throughout our mission field.

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