

“Show Me Your Glory”



A Series of Studies On
The Attributes Of God

By Bill Fairchild, Jr.



Uses For This Lesson Material

This lesson material has been designed for multiple uses. You will find below several of those uses. It is our intent through this material to lead individuals to a deeper appreciation for our God who made us ... appreciation for His revealed Word that serves to guide and comfort us ... and to help prepare our souls for eternity! May the Lord bless you as you study from His Word!

Individual Study: You can go through this series of lessons on your own at a pace that you are comfortable with. It would be suggested that you study one lesson per week to give you time to really consider the content of each lesson.

Family Study: This material can serve as a wonderful guide for a family to sit down and learn together what God expects of His own.

Group Study: You can use this series of lessons in a group setting such as a young people's devotion where each one who attends the class agrees to keep up with the study from class to class.

Bible Class Curriculum: This series of lessons is suitable for a 13-week or a 26-week quarterly system study and it contains sufficient material to be implemented both Sunday morning and Wednesday night if desired.

One-On-One Study: This series of lessons is suitable for you and a friend to study together from week to week. And both of you will experience personal growth in your faith and service to the Lord.



Practical Suggestions On Getting The Most Out Of This Lesson Series

If you want to really grow as a Christian ... you must be willing to spend the time necessary to know God's Word better and be courageous enough to apply what you learn to your own life! Sometimes ... there are truths learned in the Scriptures that can be most challenging to our hearts and our lives. This series of lessons will help you ... if you follow these suggestions:

- ☞ **Begin every Bible study with prayer. Ask the Lord to help you to have an open mind and a receptive heart!**
- ☞ **Use a good study Bible. You might want to consider the New King James Version or the New American Standard Bible. Also the English Standard Version.**
- ☞ **Really work through each lesson.**
 - **Look up every Bible verse that is referenced.**
 - **Think about each one of the questions that is being asked.**
 - **Answer each question ... don't skip any of them.**
 - **Make notes in the margin of the lesson sheet ... including any questions or thoughts you might have.**
 - **Start trying to memorize the text passages at the beginning of each lesson and those at the end of the lesson.**
- ☞ **Be brave enough to apply each Bible lesson to your own life.**
 - **Accept God's teachings as truth and be willing to obey Him in every relationship you have.**
 - **Be willing to change any attitudes that you may have that are not in keeping with God's will.**
 - **Determine to share the truths you learn from these studies with your friends, family and anyone else who will listen.**

Making The Most Of This Material

Psalm 102:18

***“This will be written for a generation to come,
that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.”***

The objective of the **WalkingInSunlight.com** literature is to help young people to acquire a better understanding of ... and appreciation for ... God, His Word, and the church He purchased with the blood of His Son.

Our goal is to prepare young people for their daily challenges of choosing what will bring them real happiness by arming them with the ability to use God’s Word to answer every question.

Laying their own life questions and experiences alongside the proper scriptures will enable them to clearly see God’s directions.

God’s instructions are so clear that even children can understand how God wants them to behave and what He would have them choose when they look at the scriptures without prejudices.

- These studies are made age-specific by **Discussion**.
- **Read aloud every Scripture** – every student should look up every Scripture in their own Bible.
- Allow adequate time for students to think about and answer **every question**.
- **Listen** to what they say.
- **Point them to God’s instructions**, written and preserved for their benefit.

Hosea 4:1,6 *“Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.”*
“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me. Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

Each lesson may require several class periods.

It is an awesome privilege to help young people grow closer to God!

You are encouraged to make copies of these lessons and use them free of charge in your Bible studies and classes. Please pray for the success of this work and for those who are helping to make it possible.

Table of Contents

Lesson One	Introductory Lesson To The Study
Lesson Two	Seeing God's Glory ... Means Understanding There Are Wrong Views Of God (Part One)
Lesson Three	Seeing God's Glory ... Means Understanding There Are Wrong Views Of God (Part Two)
Lesson Four	Seeing God's Glory ... Means Having A Correct View Of His Un-matchless Majesty
Lesson Five	Seeing God's Glory ... Means Appreciating His Awesome Strength & Power
Lesson Six	Seeing God's Glory ... Means Realizing The Benefits Of His Unlimited Power
Lesson Seven	Seeing God's Glory ... Admits To The Fact Of His Presence Everywhere
Lesson Eight	Seeing God's Glory ... Must Include The Comfort From His Presence
Lesson Nine	Seeing God's Glory ... Includes Amazement At His Infinite Knowledge
Lesson Ten	Seeing God's Glory ... Helps Me To Understand He Really Knows All About Me & My World
Lesson Eleven	Seeing God's Glory ... Leads To Recognition Of His Perfect Holiness
Lesson Twelve	Seeing God's Glory ... Includes Awareness Of When God Became Flesh
Lesson Thirteen	Seeing God's Glory ... Means We Must Each Make The Call Regarding Our Own Faith



Introductory Lesson ...

Text: *“And he said, ‘Please, show me Your glory.’ Then He said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you.’ ” (Exodus 33:18,19)*

Introduction:


1. It may have been watching the movie The Ten Commandments ... or it may have been the animated movie The Prince of Egypt ... but hopefully it was from hearing God's Word being read to you ... that you heard of a man named Moses!
 - a. Briefly discuss what you know about this man, Moses ...

2. A brief summation of the life of Moses reveals that he was born in perilous times for a Hebrew boy to live ... that he was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter and educated in Egyptian schools and culture ... that he had to make a choice and fled Egypt following a confrontation with an Egyptian soldier ... that he became a shepherd for some forty years ... and then he returned to Egypt to lead God's people out of bondage to the land of Canaan.
3. Now ... that's a really quick overview ... and we need to understand that a great deal of challenges and situations arose during this dynamic leader's life!
 - a. Moses is listed in the Who's Who of Faith recorded in **Hebrews 11**.
 - b. Question: What was it about Moses that qualified him to have his name recorded in **Hebrews 11**?
 - c. Answer: Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Hebrews 11:27**.



4. Focusing on the Book of Exodus ... we find Moses in a very difficult situation in **Exodus 33**. You see ... it was not a good time in the nation of Israel's young and interesting history!

- a. While Moses was up on Mount Sinai ... receiving the Law ... Aaron was helping the people construct a golden calf. (**Exodus 32**)
 - b. Needless to say .. God was not pleased (**Exodus 32:7-10**) ... people were punished ... and some people lost their lives. (**Exodus 32:25-29**)
 - c. Question: Why do you think God was not pleased with the golden calf?
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- d. We now find Moses interceding for the people (**Exodus 33**) ... because Moses clearly understood that without God's presence ... the people of Israel would not be a people set apart from other nations.
 - e. And if that were going to be the case ... Moses is saying 'why even bother traveling such a great distance?'
 - f. Question: Where would Israel have been without God's presence and help?
 - g. Question: Where would you be today without God's presence and help?
5. Moses appeals to God for help in **Exodus 33:15,16** when he says, *"... If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."*
- a. Question: Do you see a parallel of these thoughts being expressed by Moses, and our own lives as God's people today? See **1 Peter 2:9-11** ...
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6. The Lord offers words of assurance to Moses when He says in **Exodus 33:17**, *"I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."*
7. It would seem to the average person that this assurance from God would be enough ... but Moses makes one more request in **Exodus 33:18** when he says, *"Please, show me Your glory."*
- a. The New Century Version (NCV) reads, *"Show me Your glory."*

8. Moses already knew what God could do!
- a. He remembered what took place back in Egypt ... you know the story ... a rod becoming a snake ... the River Nile becoming red with blood ... the land covered with frogs ... lice or gnats so thick you couldn't take a breath ... swarms of flies ... a livestock epidemic that devastated the Egyptian animals ... boils breaking out on mankind and animals alike!
 - b. And if that wasn't enough ... which obviously it wasn't ... there was a hailstorm that destroyed their crops and vegetables ... locusts that covered the surface of the land ... darkness you could feel ... and funerals for the firstborn of every Egyptian family! (**Exodus 7-10**)
9. Moses already knew what God could do!
- a. He had witnessed firsthand the hand of God separating the waters of the Red Sea so Moses and the million plus people of Israel could cross over on dry ground!
10. Yes ... Moses knew what God could do ... but he wanted to see more! He wanted to see more of God's glory!
11. So ... where does that leave us? Why did Moses want to see ... want to experience even more of God's greatness? For the same reasons that we:
- look for a rainbow after an afternoon shower!
 - look at the beauty of a sunrise or a sunset!
 - look at the migration of the Monarch butterflies and the sand hill Cranes and marvel!
 - look at the beautiful waves in the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic and Pacific oceans ... and listen to their soothing sound!
12. ***"Please, show me Your glory!"*** Moses asked this of the Lord ... and the Lord answered his prayer!!!
- a. Cautionary measures were needed for God to respond only in part to Moses' request to see more of Him than he was already experiencing!
- Moses was able to have a guarded glimpse of God's glory!**
- b. God placed Moses in the cleft of a rock with specific instructions (**Exodus 33:20-23**) ... and Moses catches a glimpse of the back of the Lord God!
 - c. What a moment in time! What an experience for Moses!

- d. And the interesting truth coming out of this experience is that when Moses descends from the mountain ... the people see his shimmering face!
(see **2 Corinthians 3:7**)

You see ... they saw the glory of God in his face ... not any kind of glory regarding Moses ... but God's glory in the face of Moses!

13. Questions: Shouldn't the request of Moses be our request?
Would you like to catch just a glimpse of God's glory?

Application:

1. In this series of studies ... we want to catch that glimpse of God's glory!
2. Just as Moses came face to face with God's glory on the mountain ... just as Moses was stopped by the unimaginable sight of a burning bush that was not consumed by the fire (**Exodus 3:1-10**) ... we have the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the various attributes of God's character and Person!
3. Perhaps ... we're a little ahead of ourselves! We need to ask the following questions:

Number One: Do you even believe in the God of the Bible?

Number Two: What does it mean to have faith in God?

Number Three: Can faith in God do for us what it did for Moses?

Number Four: Who is God? What is He like? Is He real? Is He mean? Does He care about each one of us?

4. The Bible begins with God (**Genesis 1**) ... but the Bible also makes it very clear that there are all sorts of substitutes and counterfeits!
5. The God of the Bible ... the only true and living God ... declares Himself to be a God who acts, creates, and knows exactly what is going on ... everywhere in this world of ours!



- a. Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Isaiah 46:9** ...
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Conclusion:

1. Each of us is faced with a choice: to either honor the real God of Heaven and earth ... or find another god to worship and serve!
 - a. It is simply impossible to avoid this decision in our lives!
 - b. Mankind through the centuries has proven that he must have a god of some kind!
 - c. The Bible begins by offering us a knowledge of the True God ... and each of us must weigh the evidence and decide for ourselves! (**Hebrews 11:6**)
 - d. The fact is ... nobody else can really decide for you ... not your parents, your friends, the preacher, the elders ... no one!
 - e. It must be a personal decision ... it must be your choice! (**Joshua 24:15**)
2. Everyone has a god ... including you! So ... who is it going to be!
3. The prophet Jeremiah summed up the loving invitation that God gives to all of us when he wrote: *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”* (**Jeremiah 29:11-13**)
4. A fearful son looks up into the face of his dad ... uncertain about the events happening around him ... the father looks down into the face of his son and says, “It’s ok!”
5. Moses looked up to his Heavenly Father with uncertainty all around him ... and the Father told him, “It’s ok!”
6. As you go through life ... with uncertainty all around ... may you look up to your Heavenly Father ... with the assurance that He gives to each of us in **1 Peter 5:6,7**, *“Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”*

“Please ... show us your greatness (glory)!”



Seeing God's Glory ... Means Understanding There Are Wrong Views of God (Part One)

*Text: "But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight, says the Lord. " (**Jeremiah 9:24**)*

Introduction:

1. "I pledge allegiance to the flag, and to the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands. One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." ----- Pledge of Allegiance
2. We live in a wonderful country ... without doubt the most blessed nation in the history of mankind with exceptional liberties and freedoms!
 - a. But our nation is a proudly diverse nation ... with diversity in culture, language, and faith increasing daily!
 - b. As migrants arrive from all around the world ... they bring their religions with them!
 - c. Additionally ... many folks are experimenting with various forms of philosophy and self-help teachings ... based on humanism and secularism.
3. With all of these different views of life ... there are different views of God!
 - a. Our country has become one nation under 'gods'!
4. Questions: So ... who is right? Who is wrong?
What is right? What is wrong?
5. The crucial question of the day ... and of our time here on earth ... and for you personally is this: Who is the One true God who can forgive man of his sins ... and offer to him the hope of eternal life?
6. Questions: Is there really a God?
What is He really like?
If He does exist ... what are His expectations of me?
7. There are really no more important questions for us to consider in all of life ... because if these questions cannot be answered ... then we are left empty and without any hope!
8. The Bible is very clear in telling us that God is present ... that He is available ... that

He is involved in this world ... and that He desires for all of us to be saved! Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **2 Peter 3:9** ...



9. In spite of God's desire for us to know, love, and serve Him ... there are many people of all ages who are not very knowledgeable about God.

a. As a matter of fact ... there are numbers of folks who are simply confused about who the true and living God is!



10. Questions: What does "being confused" mean?
Have you ever been "confused" about something?
Have you ever been "confused" about who God is ... and about what He does or does not do in this world and in our lives?
Did you know that the God of the Bible does not intend for there to be any confusion regarding His existence, nature, or intentions and expectations?

a. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed by the apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 14:33** ...



11. Questions: How would you describe God? _____

What is your image of God? _____

Would you describe God as being loving, kind, and compassionate ... or stern, inconsiderate and uncaring? _____

Do you believe the God of the Bible is alive or dead? Is He everywhere or nowhere? _____

12. The fact is: The God of the Bible is vaguely defined by many ... including some in the church!

13. The fact is: defining God is not up to us ... like walking into a bulk candy store at the mall ... and picking and choosing which candy we like!

a. The Bible teaches us that our own feelings and thoughts are not dependable

... and not reliable! Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Proverbs 14:12** and **Jeremiah 10:23** ...



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- b. It is impossible to keep our hearts and lives sound and balanced if our idea of God is erroneous or deficient!
13. So ... in the remaining portion of this lesson and in the next lesson (Lesson Three) we are going to take a closer look at several of the wrong views of God that people have formed!
- a. Would you study these things with an open mind as we ask along with Moses for God to “*show us His glory*”?
 - b. You will be glad you did!

I. The Most Obvious View Of God That Is Wrong Is: There Is No God!

- 1. Most young people are not atheists! However ... some become atheists!
 - a. In recent surveys ... over 90% of young people believe in God! That’s a good thing! Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Hebrews 11:6** ...



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- 2. Yet ... there are folks who do not believe in God ... and as we mentioned in the opening comments of this lesson ... with the smorgasbord of liberties and freedoms ... those who deny the existence of God are making their voices heard!
 - 3. Consider the example of Karl Marx, of German descent, who lived in the 1800's. He denied the existence of God ... believing that man was the highest form of being. Therefore, instead of God being in control ... people are in control ... making man god!
 - a. Now ... why have we cited this example: Because Karl Marx’s ideas were renewed by Vladimir Lenin in Russia ... leading to significant loss of life and the devaluing of individual life!
 - b. Today ... these same views form the basis of governments including Cuba, China, and North Korea!

4. A false view of God leads to sin ... to suffering ... to corruption ... to loss of life ... and to the loss of souls!
- a. A proper understanding of God ... seeing His glory ... leads to a life of joy, peace, and blessing for self and society! Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Matthew 5:16** ...



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- b. Now ... which choice makes the most sense to you?
5. So ... is there some really good evidence to cause a person ... to cause any person ... to believe in God's existence?

- a. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Psalms 19:1** ...



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6. One cannot prove the existence of God like you can prove that a golf ball weighs a certain amount ... or that a certain car is baby blue ... because God cannot be measured under a microscope!

- a. But there is irrefutable evidence to confirm His existence!
- b. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Romans 1:17-32** regarding the responsibilities each one of us has in hearing the evidence. (Please note specifically verse 28).



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7. The apostle Paul actually gives us more food for thought in **Romans 1:19-20** (Note the NKJV and NASV).

8. Questions: Based on the above mentioned passage ... why do you think so many people do believe in God?

Based on the above mentioned passage ... why do you think so many people do not believe in God?

Does this number include young people like yourself?

9. In spite of the fact that God has revealed Himself to every person through His creation and His Word (***Psalm 19:1-11***) ... there are still those who want to reject the fact of God's existence! Don't be one of them!

Conclusion:

1. Questions: Why do you think someone would want to deny there is a God? Do you think a person's denial of God's existence might have anything to do with responsibilities? What does the term "responsibility" mean ... especially as it relates to God and man?



Do we really like to be held "accountable" for our actions at any time? What does the word "accountable" mean?



2. The Psalmist David gives us a very clear and concise look into the kind of person who wants to deny the existence of God.

a. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in ***Psalm 14:1-3*** ...



b. In this passage ... what are the terms God Himself uses to describe the person who says He doesn't exist? _____

3. Thought to consider: Isn't it really the greatest of all insults to God for someone ... for anyone ... to deny His existence? And doesn't it compound things when the person who doesn't believe in the existence of God tries to turn others away from faith in Him?
4. Those who reject God do so ... not from a lack of evidence ... but from a heart that is unwilling to seek Him and to serve Him through obedience in their lives!
5. Questions: Do you know anyone like this? Do you ever have a problem with submitting to God's rule in your life? How does a person ... young or old ... overcome this problem?

6. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Matthew 22:37-39** and **Proverbs 23:7** ...



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7. Because God does exist ... and because He made us ... each of us are answerable to Him!
8. In our next lesson we will consider several other improper views of God. In the meantime ... give some thought time to God's existence ... talk with Him in prayer ... spend time in His Word!
9. May we join with Moses in saying:

“Lord, please show me Your glory!”



Seeing God's Glory ... Means Understanding There Are Wrong Views of God (Part Two)

*Text: "But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight, says the Lord. " (**Jeremiah 9:24**)*

Introduction:

1. Have you ever stopped to think that everything about our lives ... everything ... is influenced by how we view God!
 - a. You see ... if we believe in Him and trust in Him ... then our motives ... our desires ... our thoughts ... our words ... our attitudes ... will be impacted in a good way!
 - b. We will live honorable and influential lives for what is good and right and wholesome! Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in Micah 6:8.



- c. And if we don't believe in Him ... if we deny or ignore His existence ... well ... that influences our motives ... our desires ... our thoughts ... our words ... and our attitudes! Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **John 3:18-21** ...



2. What we choose to believe about God influences how we treat others ... live with others ... and even view others! See **Matthew 22:37-39**.
3. By reason of so many holding to a wrong or improper view of God ... our society ... our world ... is in moral chaos ... and the moral as well as ethical values by which people live are eroding! Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed by the apostle Paul in **2 Timothy 3:1-7** ...



4. So ... let's take a closer look at several views of God that are completely off the mark ... views that if adopted ... will cost us our souls!

I. The Wrong View Of Admitting God's Existence ... But Denying He Can Be Known!

1. They are called "Generation Next" and they are growing with each new day the Lord allows the world to turn!

- ☞ They are growing up with personal computers, cell phones and access to the internet!
- ☞ They believe "getting rich" is the main goal for most people in their age group!
- ☞ Large majorities of them believe that casual sex, binge drinking and illegal drug use are ok!
- ☞ The early members of this "Generation Next" are increasingly tolerant on social issues such as immigration and homosexuality!
- ☞ They do maintain a close contact with family and friends!
- ☞ One in five members of "Generation Next" say they have no religious affiliation or are atheist or agnostic!

2. One of the startling revelations about all of this: the one in five statistic is nearly double the proportion of young people who made such claims in the late 1980's!

- a. And just 4% of "Generation Next" say people in their generation view becoming more spiritual as the most important goal in life!

----- Pew Research Center 1/9/2007

3. Are you listening? I sure hope so! These are challenging times ... especially for young people who are forming their values and making choices that will impact the rest of their lives!

- a. One more thought from the above cited survey: Nearly two-thirds of "Generation Next" believe humans and other living things evolved over time ... while 33% say all living creatures have existed in their present form since the beginning of time!

4. Very simply ... there is a struggle going on around you between the forces of good and evil ... and a struggle within your own heart (to choose right over wrong ... truth over error)!

- a. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed by Joshua to the people of Israel in **Joshua 24:15** ...



b. Question: Which side are you on? Whose army are you a member of?

5. People who accept the view of God that He does exist ... but that He cannot be known personally are called Agnostics.

a. Agnostic defined: A person who holds the view that any ultimate reality (as God) is unknown and probably unknowable!



b. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Isaiah 55:6,7** ...



6. Questions: Does God force His will on anyone?
Has He ever forced His will on anyone?
Will He force His will on someone in the future?

Answer: No ... No ... No!!!

7. It is very clear from the Scriptures that God does not force His will on any person ... Period!

a. The Bible affirms God has revealed Himself to mankind (Psalm 19) ... but man must exercise his own will, intellect and emotions (the heart of man) ... to accept and obey God's instructions!

b. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed by Paul to the Romans in **Romans 6:16-18** ...



8. The person who is described as an agnostic or skeptic doesn't want to really bother with taking the time to see and consider the testimonies of God!

a. You see ... he or she sees no value in coming to know God! How sad!

b. Question: Is it a waste of one's time to consider the existence of God or the relevance of His Word to our lives?

9. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Job 21:14-15** ...



- a. According to Job ... the agnostic or skeptic has much deeper reasons than intellectual laziness for not seeking after and learning about our great God!
10. There were skeptics and doubters who were in the crowds that Jesus preached to. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Matthew 13:14,15** ...



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- a. Question: How were the hearts of these people described in this passage of Scripture?
 - b. Question: And who does Jesus say was to blame for their spiritual condition?
11. You see ... it is a wrong view of God to say that He cannot be known or understood!
12. It is not that God cannot be known ... it is that folks choose not to know Him!
- a. The words of the prophet Zechariah ring so true in **Zechariah 7:11-12** ...
 - b. How sad that folks back in Zechariah's day ... and even in our day ... "*stop their ears so they cannot hear*" ... the creation's voice and God's voice proclaiming, "*I AM that I AM!*"

II. The Wrong View Of God ... Thinking Of Him As Weak & Lenient!

1. Some folks have a distorted view of who and what the God of the Bible is all about!
- a. For instance ... some view the God of Heaven and earth as hard to get along with ... as being difficult to even talk to!
 - b. While others view God as some sort of a kindly old grand-fatherly type ... who simply looks over His creation ... shakes His head in bewilderment and disappointment ... but does nothing about it!
2. Write down the first five words you think of when you hear the name "God":

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3. When a person comes to the knowledge of how really good and holy God is (perfectly good and holy!) ... and how weak we are (mankind, **Romans 3:23**) ... and that we are constantly doing things that we know aren't right (sin ... **1 John 3:4**) ... rather than dealing with the problem and turning from sin (repentance... **Luke 13:3**) ... many folks have painted a picture of God on the palate of their heart that depicts God as weak ... lenient ... even tolerant of their sins!

4. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Isaiah 29:15,16** ...



- a. The fact is ... there are many people of all ages who aren't living as they should ... and they are hoping that God is somehow unaware of what they are doing!
 - b. Question: So ... how do you feel about this perception of God?
 - c. Questions: According to this passage ... what do people do to try to keep God from discovering their sin?
Have you ever tried to hide something from your parents?
How about trying to hide something from a friend?
Have you ever tried to hide something from God?
 - d. Listen to the words of the following passages: **Isaiah 30:1; Psalm 10:11; Psalm 94:7...**
 - e. Question: Are you listening to these words ... really listening to them?
5. The Bible affirms that God is not weak ... in any way, shape, form or fashion! Please note the following passages: **Psalm 139; Isaiah 14:26; Romans 13:1,2** ...
- a. Although some people hope that He doesn't see their sin ... most realize that God does know!
 - b. So ... to keep from turning away from their evil ways ... they have formed a view of God that He is just like them ... permissive and tolerant of sin!
 - c. The Psalmist David brushes aside this improper ... and really deficient view of God in **Psalm 50:16-23**. Note also the NASV ...
 - d. Questions: According to this passage ... what are the sins against God these folks were guilty of?
How was their reasoning incorrect?
Why did they think that God was lenient and permissive as they had been?
Is it any different for us today?
 - e. Satan is still seducing people by telling them that God does not really mean what He says! And that ... folks ... is a lie!
6. You see ... the important thing for each of us to remember is: God is just and loving!

7. Make no mistake about it: God will use His mighty power for the destruction of evil!
 - a. He has given us examples in His Word:
 - (1) The great flood in Noah's time (**Genesis 6-8**) ...
 - (2) God's judgment of Sodom & Gomorrah (**Genesis 19**) ...
8. May we all come to a better understanding of the truth that our God is not a weak ... passive God ... with no strength or will!
9. May we all come to a better understanding of the truth that in Judgment ... every injustice will be righted ... and every act of sin and rebellion will be accounted for! (**Romans 14:12!**)

Conclusion:

1. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed by King David before his death in **1 Chronicles 29:10-13** ...



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2. As we discover more about the character of our heavenly Father ... we will want to do more than just file these truths away in a folder somewhere ... we should want to develop a closer relationship with Him!
 - a. And the wonderful thing about all of this is ... we can! See **Matthew 11:28-30**
 3. Throughout the remaining days of your life ... would you decide to:
 - Reflect on the character of God more!
 - Accept His grace and mercy ... and reflect that in your daily life!
 - Think about someone who doesn't yet know the wonderful Creator of this universe we live in ... and introduce them to Him!
 4. So ... what is God really like? The words of Moses ring true ...



“Please, show us Your glory!”




Seeing God's Glory ... Means Having A Correct View Of His Un-matchless Majesty!

Text: "And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And He said, 'thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you'." (Exodus 3:14)



Introduction:

1. Once a child was asked to put on paper his view of God. So he drew a picture of an elderly man who had a long white beard who was sitting on a big throne. Interestingly ... he drew a panel board that was built around this throne that contained a number of switches that were labeled and could be turned on or off. Some of these switches were named "wind" ... "rain" ... "thunder" ... "lightning". This elderly gentlemen sitting on the throne had his arm stretched out and the caption read "which one do I pull this morning!"
2. How big is the God you serve? This question has been asked by writers, preachers, and the every-day-person living on planet Earth through the ages.
 - a. For far too many folks ... as the writer J. B. Phillips once wrote, "Your God is too small."
3. Question: Is it really possible for any of us to completely understand ... or comprehend ... just how awesome the God of the Bible really is?
 - a. Please read and discuss these thoughts along with those being expressed by the Psalmist David in **Psalm 8:1-9** ...



- b. The apostle Paul was moved to say it this way in **Romans 11:33-36** ... 
 - c. You see ... the greatness ... the glory ... the majesty of Jehovah God is simply amazing to consider!
 4. The Lord has given each of us the ability to think ... to reason ... to consider ... and even to see things beyond our own limitations!
 - a. We have the ability to learn about places we may never physically visit ... learn about people we may never meet personally!
5. In this lesson ... let's take a closer look at the glory and majesty of Jehovah God!

I. Moses And Others ... Being Confronted By God's Glory






1. It was Moses who asked to see God's glory in **Exodus 33:18** ... 
2. We read in **Exodus 40:34-38** how the glory of God billowed throughout the Tabernacle once it had been constructed by Moses according to God's instruction!
3. And we can read in **2 Chronicles 5:13,14** ... that the glory of God filled the Temple ... once it had been constructed by Solomon according to God's instructions!
4. When the prophet Ezekiel was confronted by God's glory ... he bowed down in **Ezekiel 43:1-3** ... 
 - a. Imagine how overwhelming this experience must have been for the prophet of God!
5. The apostle John had the same response when the glory of the Lord presented itself to him on the Isle of Patmos where he had been banished! **Revelation 1:12-17.**
 - a. What an awesome opportunity!!!
6. Well ... God is continually showing us His glory ... in the world around us ... and through the Book He has written and preserved for our benefit!
 - a. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Isaiah 6:3** ...



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7. The glory of God ... when it is recognized ... generates change ... in people's hearts and lives (see **2 Corinthians 5:17**) ...
 - a. Questions: What kind of changes should be taking place?
Have you experienced those changes in your own life?
 8. The Psalmist writes in **Psalms 29:1-11** of the supremacy ... of the superiority of God over everything and everyone!
 - a. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in this passage and their relevance to our own lives ...



II. “Glory” Defined ...


1. The Hebrew word for “glory” derives its origin from the meaning “heavy, weighty, or important.”
 - a. You see ... God’s glory reflects His very own uniqueness! 
 - b. Question: Do you truly believe in God’s uniqueness?
2. The prayer of Moses reflects the one-of-a-kindness that God alone possesses in **Exodus 15:11** ... 
3. When God addressed Moses in **Leviticus 10:3** ... following the blatant disregard of God by Nadab and Abihu ... He was making the point of man’s need to honor and respect the Person and the words of Jehovah!
 - a. Questions: Was God too severe in His dealing with Nadab and Abihu?
If so ... in what way?
If not ... why not?
4. When God is engaged in conversation with Moses ... He speaks of “hardening Pharaoh’s heart” in **Exodus 14:4** ... 
 - a. Question: Do you know why God says He allowed this to take place?
 - b. Answer: So that Pharaoh and others might come to realize God “was the Lord”!
 - c. Questions: Can a person’s heart become “hardened” today?
If so ... in what way?
5. Question: Why do the “heavens and firmament” even exist?
Answer: According to the Psalmist in **Psalms 19:1** ... they do so to attest to the “glory of God!”
6. Are we starting to get the picture in all of these thoughts and passages?
 - a. Consider why God even chose the Israelites to be His chosen people in the thoughts expressed in **Isaiah 43:7** ... 
 - b. Consider why God allows folks like us to struggle from time to time in the thoughts being expressed in **Psalms 50:15** ... 
 - c. Consider everything Jesus Christ did while He was here on the earth ... including His death on the Cross! You see ... He did everything to glorify His Father!



- d. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **John 12:27-28** ...
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7. "Please, show us Your glory!" His answer, "I have ... I am ... and I will!"

III. God's Names Reflect His Glory ...

1. In Bible times ... a person's name would very often give insight into that person's place in life.
 - a. A good "for instance" can be found in God's changing of Abram's name to Abraham in **Genesis 17:1-8** ...
 - (1) Abraham means "father of many."
 - (2) His new name reflected his new relationship with God ... as well as his new identity based on God's seed promise!
 - b. Saul of Tarsus finds a name change after his conversion and his becoming an evangelist and apostle in **Acts 9; 13:9** ...
2. Rest assured ... then ... that the names of God reflect to us just exactly what He wants each of us to know about Him!
3. Consider the following:
 - a. "Father" ... a name that appears frequently through the Scriptures ... gives us a familiar relationship to identify with!
 - (1) You see ... the name "Father" portrays to us the loving care He has for each one of us! We are His people. Please read the following passages of Scripture: **Matthew 6:9** and **Deuteronomy 32:6** ...
 - (2) God ... the Father ... He had started and originated the nation of Israel ... He had helped the nation to develop ... grow ... and mature!
 - (3) He created each one of us ... He provides and cares for each one of us! Please read **1 Peter 5:6,7** ...
 - b. "Lord" or "Master" as in **Psalms 39:7** and **Luke 6:46** ... 
 - c. When God commanded Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egyptian bondage ... God told Moses to tell those who asked ... tell them "I AM WHO I AM" (**Exodus 3:14,15**)!
 - (1) The Israelites would understand this to mean that the name "I AM" identified the only eternal Being ... God Himself!
 - (2) Jehovah God!!!

4. Other considerations:
 - a. “Exalted One” (El-Elyon) ... “the Most High” as in **Numbers 24:16** ...
 - b. “The God who sees” (El-Roi) as in **Psalms 139:1-2, 7** ...
 - c. “God Eternal” (El Olam) as in **Habakkuk 3:6** ...
 - d. “The Lord Our Shepherd” (Jehovah-Rohi) as in **Isaiah 40:11** ...
 - e. “God with us” (Immanuel) as in **Matthew 1:23** ...

5. You see ... when looking to God’s glory ... when viewing properly His names ... one comes to realize:

☞	Number One:	He has no beginning!
☞	Number Two:	He has no end!
☞	Number Three:	He needs absolutely no help!
☞	Number Four:	He is not in need of any advice!
☞	Number Five:	He is absolutely perfect in every way!

6. God ... in the Bible ... is not referred to as ... or described as an “it”! No ... He is described by the word “He” ... denoting gender and personality!!

Conclusion:

1. Question: Will we ever be able to fully understand the completeness ... the perfectness ... the awesomeness or the magnificence of our God?

Answer: No ... not in this life! His majesty is simply unmatched!

2. As we begin to look more closely in coming lessons into the various attributes or characteristics of God ... we will come to a better and more appreciative understanding of just how great ... how good ... and how truly wonderful He is!

3. The Psalmist and King, David was the instrument through which God revealed much. Please read and reflect on the very moving words recorded in **Psalms 145** ...



- a. Question: Do you see ... do you hear ... what David saw and heard?

- b. David celebrates the King of Eternity ... for who He is ... for what He has done ... and for what He has promised!

- c. Question: Will we do the same in our own hearts and lives?

4. Getting to know God better through a diligent study of His Word is the most wonderful ... satisfying ... and rewarding journey you will ever undertake!
- a. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Matthew 5:16** and **2 Timothy 2:15** ...



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- b. The fact is ... the more you learn ... the more you will become like God's Son ... Jesus Christ! (**Romans 8:29**)
- c. And the more you become like His Son ... the more you please our Heavenly Father!
- d. Questions: Shouldn't this be what everyone of us really wants to do in our lives?
If not ... why not?
5. As Moses asked, "*Please, show me Your glory*" ... may we ask ... with the understanding that ... when He does ... we will never be the same! Amen ...

"Lord, please show me Your glory!"



Seeing God's Glory ... Means Appreciating His Awesome Strength & Power!

*Text: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You." (**Jeremiah 32:17**)*

Introduction:

1. When a college baseball coach is looking at a possible player for his team ... he usually receives a scouting report on the various talents and abilities of the player being considered for a scholarship.
 - a. When he reviews the report ... what would happen if the report said the player was a great hitter ... without saying he was only an average or less-than-average fielder?
2. In the same way ... if folks overemphasize one attribute of God to the neglect or oversight of another attribute ... the result is a distorted view of God Almighty!
 - a. Question: Can you think of a couple of examples where this could be the case with reference to God?
 - b. If one emphasizes the mercy of God ... but excludes His role as Judge ... then folks will not understand how God views sin and how He will punish those who refuse to do His will! (**2 Corinthians 5:10**)
 - c. We must be very careful not to be guilty of the following: God created man in His image ... and then man returned the favor! You see ... we must not be guilty of thinking of God as man! See **Psalms 50:16-21** ...
3. Listen to the words of **Isaiah 40:21,22** and discuss their meaning ...



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4. Questions: When you hear the word "power" what do you think of?
Does a hurricane or a tornado represent power to you?
 5. Questions: So ... just how powerful is God, anyway?
If someone were to ask you this question ... how would you answer them?
Do you think God feels threatened in any way by man's intelligence?

Is God intimidated in any way by our modern technology advancements?
Can God really do everything He says He can?
Did the God of the Bible really “speak” this world of ours into existence?

6. In order for us to arrive at a better understanding of just how powerful and strong God really is ... we must look to His Word for the answers we need!

a. You see ... His revelation of Himself ... of what He is like ... of what He is about ... is completely trustworthy!

b. Questions: What does the word “trustworthy” mean?
Can God really be trusted?
Does His Word really provide us with all that we need?



c. Please read and discuss the important truths being expressed in **2 Timothy 3:16,17** and **2 Peter 1:3** ...



d. The fact is ... what Scriptures say about God is true ... in every way!

7. Let's take a closer look at God's glory ... as it is revealed in His awesome strength and power ...

I. Omnipotence Defined ...

1. Omnipotence is a big word ... used by religious thinking people to describe a big God!

a. It is actually built from two words: “Omni” ... which means “all”; and “potent” ... which means “powerful!”



2. So ... when we speak of God's power and strength ... when we speak of Jehovah's creative abilities ... of His un-matchless majesty ... we're speaking of God's omnipotence!

a. It is His ability to do that which He wants to do! Amazing thoughts ...

b. It is His ability to act ... with complete strength based on His complete authority ... to accomplish His purposes!

3. Please read and discuss the following passages of Scriptures:

a. **Isaiah 40:26 ...**



b. **Psalm 33:6-9 ...**



c. **Job 38:4 ...**



d. **1 Chronicles 29:12 ...**



4. The fact is ... we serve an absolutely awesome God!

II. Our God Is The Ultimate Source Of Power ...

1. Questions: Have you ever been at home or school ... anywhere ... when the power went out?
How did it make you feel?
Do you know where the power for your home comes from?
2. The power (electricity) for our homes, schools, hospitals, shopping malls, etc. ... is transmitted into our homes on cables or power lines ... and these lines can break down ... wear out ... or even be knocked down or pulled down!
3. But God's power ... that's another story ... because His power is inherent (belongs to ...) in His very nature!
 - a. You see ... God's power comes from God Himself!
 - b. David writes in the passage just read in **1 Chronicles 29:12 ...**
(1) In this passage ... King David is acknowledging the fact ... as well as his faith ... that all things belong to God ... and all things come from God!
 - c. Question: Do you believe these things to be so?
 - d. You must ... you know!!



4. Our God has more power than all of the forces of nature put together!
 - a. Jesus ... God in the flesh ... calmed the storm on the water in **Matthew 8:23-27** ...
 - b. Imagine the impact this event had on the disciples ...
5. What an absolutely awesome and powerful God we have the opportunity to believe in ... the privilege to obey His wonderful will ... and to be one of His people!



III. Our God's Power Is Absolutely Immeasurable ...

1. Men can measure the intensity of thunderstorms through a number of ways including how high the thunder heads are reaching ... they can measure the wind velocity of a hurricane ... they can determine how high the waves are in a tsunami!
 - a. But men cannot measure the extent of God's strength and power!
2. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in the following passages of Scripture: **Psalm 62:11** and **Genesis 17:1** ...



- a. Question: According to these passages ... just how much power belongs to our God?
3. From the enormous strength of the tiny ant carrying a load greater than its own weight ... to the power and strength revealed in holding the stars in place ... all power is from God!
 - a. Questions: Have you ever watched ants work? See the thoughts expressed by Solomon in **Proverbs 6:6** and **30:25** ...
It's absolutely amazing, isn't it?
Have you ever wondered how ants can carry food and other things two or three times their own weight?

Answer: Well ... now you know how they do it!
 - b. Questions: Have you ever looked up into the sky on a very clear night and observed the millions of stars suspended in the darkness?
Have you ever wondered how they stay up there?

Answer: Well ... now you know how they stay up there!
4. Our God wants each of us to understand this truth: He holds all the power! His name reflects it ... "I AM God Almighty!"

5. And the additional truth to know about all of this is: no matter how much of His power is used ... it will never ... never ... be exhausted!
 - a. Sometimes ... in some parts of the country ... there is a power shortage ... but never with God's power!
 - b. Fast horses run out of strength ... fast cars run out of gas ... but God never even runs low on power!
6. You see ... God is able to do far more than we can even imagine! Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Ephesians 3:20** ...



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7. Now ... read the beautiful words of praise that are being offered by King David in **Psalms 145:3** ...



- a. Questions: This passage really says it all ... doesn't it?
So ... does this passage express your thoughts about the God of Heaven?
If not ... why not?

IV. Our God's Awesome Strength & Power Is Unstoppable ...

1. There are times in each of our lives when we really do struggle to get a particular job or assignment completed ... and the fact is ... sometimes the project is simply more than we have the ability to do!
2. Question: Have you ever stopped to realize that nothing ... absolutely nothing ... is too hard for God?
3. You see ... our God never becomes tired ... never becomes sick ... never gives up!
 - a. He never gets depressed ... becomes distracted ... or is ever overwhelmed!
4. List some of the most draining activities (physically and emotionally ... even mentally) that you have to do:

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5. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed by the prophet in **Jeremiah 32:17**.



- a. Questions: According to this passage, what did God create?
How was He able to do this?
Would you describe some of the parts of God's creation that are most amazing to you personally?
Would you explain why you think it took so much power to create these things?

6. Now ... turn to **Psalm 33:6,9** and discuss the thoughts being expressed ...



- a. You see ... the God of Heaven is in complete control of our universe!
- b. Questions: According to this passage ... what was the only "tool" that God used in creating our universe?
Are you impressed?
Do you really believe this testimony?

7. Nothing ... absolutely nothing ... is too hard for the Lord!

8. Would you stop for just a minute ... think about what we've learned about God's power ... and consider what these truths should mean to you in your life!

Conclusion:

1. Our God ... is more powerful than all of the rulers ... than all of the nations ... of this world!

a. We do not need to live in fear of them ... or of their threats!

b. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Isaiah 40:15** ...



c. After King Nebuchadnezzar learned on a personal in-your-face basis of God's power ... read his words recorded in **Daniel 4:35** ...





2. God's power and strength ... it is so awesome that as we read from God's Word about it ... as we observe the open displays of it in our world ... we should be led to offer words of praise to Him!



- a. Please read and discuss the words of **Psalm 111:1-10** ...
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- b. Questions: What were the things that gave the Psalmist so much joy?
Do we have things to be joyful about as well?
Please name a few: _____
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3. Suggestions:

-  Worship Him more often in praise ... as in **Psalm 105:1-2!**
 -  Spend more time thanking God for His revelation of Himself to us ... as in **Isaiah 40:12!**
4. Even though you are one among billions of creatures ... God offers you His protection and tender loving care!
5. What a great privilege it is that the God of the Bible ... He who holds all the oceans of the world in the palm of His hand ... wants to adopt you as one of His children!
(**Romans 8:31**)

“Please, show us Your glory!”



Seeing God's Glory ... Means Realizing The Benefits Of His Infinite Power!

Text: "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, The Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary. And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:28-31)

Introduction:

1. Our God is capable of doing anything ... just as long as it does not violate His other attributes!
 - a. As an example ... God cannot lie ... He will not change ... He has absolutely nothing to do with evil!
 - b. According to **James 1:13,14** ... He is simply not susceptible to temptation!
 - c. What reassuring knowledge this should be to each one of us!
2. Reading **Isaiah 40:28-31** again ... there are several things we want to highlight:
 - a. Number One ... God was not too weak to act in Israel's behalf ... even as He is not too weak to act on our behalf!
 - b. Number Two ... God really did care for His people in Old Testament times ... even as He really cares for each one of us today!
 - c. Number Three ... those who believe in God will learn to be patient ... trusting that God will bless them with strength in their trials!
3. Throughout man's history ... God has demonstrated a willingness to bestow blessing ... to offer His strength and power ... to those who seek Him!
 - a. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Psalms 66:5,7** ...



- b. Questions: Are you diligently trying to know God better?
Are you willing to put forth the sacrifice necessary to acquire this knowledge?
- c. Please read and discuss the challenging thoughts being expressed in **2 Timothy 2:15** and how they relate to you and your relationship with God.



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- 4. As we continue our study of Seeing God's Glory ... one of the features we should want to study pertains to God's power and how it relates to us. It is most important for us to understand just how much we can expect our God to do for us ...

I. Our God Is Very Purposeful In The Use Of His Power

- 1. When we take a closer look at this wonderful Planet Earth that we live on ... we see order and design!
 - a. Very simply ... everything has its place ... and is in its place!
 - b. We live on one of nine planets that revolve around the sun. The sun is the dominant light in our solar system ... giving off more energy in one second than man has been able to generate since creation!
 - c. Question: Did you know that the sun's diameter (860,000 miles) could hold one million planet Earths?
 - d. Question: Did you know that our galaxy ... the Milky Way ... if it were compared to the size of the North American continent ... then our solar system would be about the size of a coffee cup?
 - e. Question: Did all of this just happen ... by accident?
- 2. Please read the words of **Isaiah 40:26** ... slowly and carefully ... and then discuss their meaning and relevance.



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- a. You see ... rather than men worshiping the stars ... men should be worshiping the Creator of the stars!
 - b. As innumerable as the stars are ... God knows every one of them ... and even named each star!

- c. And not one of the stars runs astray ... that is to say ... the stars are held in place by the force of His power! And falling stars only happen ... when God releases them!
3. The Bible begins with the words, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* (**Genesis 1:1**)
- a. Consider a couple of additional truths regarding order and design as a demonstration of God's purposed use of His power ...
- b. Question: Do you know what the odds would be of drawing any selected card (i.e. the Ace of Spades) from a deck of 52 cards at random?
Answer: The answer would be 1 in 52.
- c. Question: If that same card were placed back in the deck of cards ... and reshuffled ... what would be the chance of randomly choosing the same card again?
Answer: Mathematicians tells us $1/52 \times 1/52$ or 1 in 2704!
- d. Question: What do you think the chances are that having all the necessary factors in place for us to live on Planet Earth are?
Answer: The answer is astronomical!
4. We serve an absolutely awesome God!
5. Consider this ... if you were offered a billion dollars to jump out of an airplane at 10,000 feet ... **without a parachute** ... with the provision you had to live to collect it ... would you accept the offer?
- a. Not if you were in your right mind! The odds of survival are minimum!
- b. The odds of there being an 'accidental' planet hospitable for life using the normal parameters to be considered ... well ... those odds are considered 15 billion times less likely than surviving a free-fall from an airplane!
- c. Questions: Are you impressed with God's purposeful use of His power?
You should be!
If you are not impressed ... why not?
Is it because you just don't believe it?
6. The question begs for discussion then: Does God really care about what is going on in each of our lives, with everything else that is going on in this world of ours?
- a. The answer is ... absolutely!

- b. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Isaiah 14:26** and **Isaiah 23:9** ...



- c. The point to be understood is God's awareness of this world ... and of its peoples ... and of its people's ways!
- d. Our awesome God is fully aware of everything that is going on in our world! (Note: There will be a lesson on His knowledge later in this series of studies.)

7. Try and imagine living in a community where there were no rules ... no boundaries ... and no laws! Discuss ...

8. Please read and discuss the words of the apostle Paul recorded in **Romans 13:1,2**.



- a. You see ... God does place men and governments in their positions and places to help bring order to this world of ours!

9. Imagine if the God of the Bible ... our Heavenly Father ... with His unlimited power were some sort of a tyrant who handed out judgment and punishment indiscriminately!

- a. I am thankful this scenario is not so ... because our God acts out of love and fairness. Please read and discuss the words of **John 3:16** ...



10. Now ... we may wonder sometimes why God does not answer our prayers as quickly as we would like ... or even in a way that we would like.

- a. God is not some sort of vending machine ... or 'genie' ... who gives us everything we might ask for!

- b. God is not our servant ... He is our Master!

- c. He knows far better what is best for us than we could ever hope to know!

- d. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Jeremiah 10:23** ...



- e. Questions: Can you remember asking God for something ... and not getting it ... and then looking back later on ... and being thankful your request wasn't granted? If that hasn't happened to you yet ... it will!
Isn't it so ... we are often selfish?
Isn't it so ... we often pray selfishly?

- f. Please read and discuss the words of James recorded in **James 4:2-4** ...



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11. May we continue to grow in our faith and trust in Jehovah to know what is best! Please consider the following passages of Scripture: **1 Peter 2:1,2; 2 Peter 3:18...**

II. God's Power In Our Every Day Lives ...

1. We must never forget this truth: God's power is directed to see His will accomplished ... not our will!
- a. It is as the prophet Isaiah records in **Isaiah 55: 8,9** ...
- b. You see ... because He is God ... His ways are infinitely better ... yes ... better than our ways could ever hope to be!
2. Make no mistake ... our God is always wanting men to become His faithful servants!
- a. The fact is ... we all serve somebody!
- b. God has done some extraordinary things through His servants ... men like the apostle Paul (**Acts 19:11**) ... and Moses (Exodus) ... etc.! And He can do some wonderful things through each one of us!
3. Please consider the following ways, among many, that our Heavenly Father uses His servants in ways to reflect His glory ...

Number One ... Our God gives us the power to overcome the evil one and his army!

- a. When Moses was appointed by God to lead the Israelite nation out of Egyptian bondage ... it was going to be necessary for him to confront Pharaoh.
- b. In the confrontation between Moses and Aaron with Pharaoh and his magicians (**Exodus 7**) ... God demonstrated His superior power over the magicians' rods that had become serpents.
- c. This was, indeed, a graphic demonstration of the superiority of God's power!

- d. The devil and his army are simply over-matched by God and His power!
- e. James gives us some very confident and practical advice when it comes to dealing with our adversary in **James 4:7,8** ...
- f. You see ... even though by ourselves we are weak ... with the Lord on our side ... we can say “NO” to sin ... to the temptations to sin that are put before us!
- g. With God on our side ... we can stop any bad habit ... we can quit any type of addiction!
- h. With God on our side ... we (you and me) can stand up ... and speak up ... for what is right!

Number Two: Our God gives us the power to live a holy life ... no matter what!

- a. The apostle Peter encourages us with these inspired words recorded in **2 Peter 1:3, 4** ...
- b. Question: Do we really believe these affirmations to be true?
- c. The apostle Paul reminded the Roman Christians of who they were ... and of what they had done in **Romans 6:1-8** ...
 - (1) They needed to remember whose side they were on!
- d. Question: Do we need to remember whose side we’re on?
Why do we sometimes forget?
- e. Let me assure you ... we can become faithful servants in God’s Kingdom (the church) ... as we live in this world He created ... if we ask Him for His help to do so!
 - (1) Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **1 John 5:14,15**.



Number Three: Our God will give us the power to strengthen us in our weakness!

- a. You see ... absolutely nothing is too hard for the Lord
- b. No enemy is too strong ... no problem is too complicated ... for our God to help us with!
- c. As we grow and mature in our faith ... our God builds patience into our hearts and lives!
- d. Please read **2 Peter 1:5-9** ...

- e. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed by the apostle Paul in **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** (emphasis on **v.9**) ...



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4. Questions: Isn't our God awesome? He is your God ... isn't He?

Conclusion:

1. Each one of us has the special opportunity in our life to make an eternal difference in the lives of others!
 - a. No ... we cannot accomplish this objective on our own ... but with the Lord's help!
 - b. Take a close look at the confident words of the apostle Paul recorded in **Ephesians 3:20** ...
2. If we truly believe ... God is real ... God is our Creator ... He is the One True Living God ...
 - a. If we truly believe He is all powerful ... we will walk in fear and doubt no longer! Note the words of **Philippians 4:13** ...
3. If we truly believe that God is ... that He is "I AM" ... we will place our complete faith and trust in Him ... with absolutely no reservations!
 - a. There is ... very simply ... no better way to live!
4. What a difference in our lives God's power can make!

"Please, show us Your glory!"



Seeing God's Glory ... Admits To His Presence Everywhere!

*Text: "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence."
(Psalm 139:7)*

Introduction:

1. Questions: What has the ability to change a person from being unfaithful to God ... to becoming a faithful servant of God?
What is it ... exactly ... that can change a domineering control-type person ... into becoming a person with a servant's heart?
What has the power to turn an individual who has been deceitful and treacherous in dealing with others ... into a kind, gentle, and caring person?

Answer: The answer to all three of these questions lies in the acquisition of knowledge and understanding of the living God!
2. Please read **Jeremiah 9:23,24** ...
 - a. Note the word "*understands*" found in **verse 24** ...
 - (1) It means to have correct "insight" into the nature of the object ... which in **verse 24** is the living God!
 - (2) This thought also finds meaning in the "conducting of one's self wisely and dealing prudently!"
 - b. Very simply ... it is the idea of conforming one's life to the character of God!
3. The point to be made is this: real meaning to one's life can be obtained through learning more about the God of the Bible, and willingness to conform to the knowledge gained!
 - a. Questions: So ... how hard is it for you to focus on God's character?
What distracts you the most in this effort to learn more about God?
Do you really want to focus on God's ways?
 - b. If your answer is 'yes' ... if you want to become more focused on the Lord of all ... then you must choose to learn more about His very nature!

4. Many folks in our world are very lonely people?
 - a. Questions: Have you ever been lonely?
Have you ever just felt alone?
How did these feelings affect you?
 - b. Lonely is just not a pleasurable place to be!
 - c. And the fact is, you don't even have to be alone to be lonely!
 - d. Even among the crowd at the shopping mall ... or in the halls at school ... or wherever there are people ... a person can feel isolated and very much alone!

5. Questions: So ... where does God fit into all of this?
Is He really there when you need Him the most?
Is He there ... even when you may think you don't need Him?
Is there really a time when you don't need God?
Is God in Heaven? Is He on earth? Or both?
Can we turn to Him at any time ... and know that He is there?

6. God knows everything (Lesson Nine) and He has the power to do whatever He wants to do (Lesson Five) ... but is He always available for us?

7. It should be a source of great comfort for each of us to know that God is omnipresent!
 - a. Questions: By the way ... what does omnipresent mean?
 - b. Answer: It means He is all-present! It means He is everywhere ... and at all times!
 - c. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in ***Jeremiah 23:23,24*** ...



8. Very simply ... our God's ability to be everywhere means there is no place in this universe where His presence ... His power ... and attributes ... are missing!

9. As we continue our study of Seeing God's Glory ... let's take a closer look at the meaning and relevance of this attribute of our great God ... and be thankful!

I. God's Presence Is Absolutely Everywhere In Our World ...

1. To some people (Christians) ... God is discoverable everywhere! To others (non-believers) ... God is not discoverable anywhere!

a. You see ... those who want to find Him on earth ... will also find Him on the International Space Station orbiting the earth ... that He made!

2. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed by the Psalmist David in **Psalm 139:7-12** ...



a. Questions: What are the variety of places David listed to find the absence of God's presence?
Where do people mistakenly think they can go to avoid the presence of God?
Why would anyone want to get away from God, anyway?

Note: By the way ... David in **Psalm 139** was not trying to get away from God's presence ... he is offering praise for His omnipresence!

Note: Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **John 3:16-21** regarding "darkness and light" .



b. Questions: Could it be that those who want to hide from or get away from God's presence are ashamed of something?
Could it be that they want to do things they shouldn't be doing?

4. The fact of the matter is this: there is just no place where someone can go to escape the presence of our Almighty God!

a. His presence is found in worship services ... but He is also on the golf course where others choose not to worship Him!

b. He does not approve of folks' actions when they choose the world over Him ... and He is fully aware of our motives in life!

c. How is all of this possible? Because He is a Spirit! (Note **John 4:24** ...)

d. Although these truths can be difficult for us to understand ... we must have enough faith to accept what God says!

e. Please read and discuss the relevance of the words being expressed in **Hebrews 11:1-6** ..



4. Now ... turn back to an earlier passage found in **Jeremiah 23:23-24** ...

- a. Questions: What is God saying about men hiding from Him?
Can you think of a good example of an O.T. character who tried to hide from God? See the Book of Jonah ...



Was this O.T. prophet successful in hiding from God?
What did he find out about God's presence?

5. You see ... the fact that God is everywhere ... and knows everything ... does not turn this world of ours into some sort of a prison!

- a. To the contrary ... God has given each of us the ability to make choices and decisions! This ability is called "free-will"!
- b. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Matthew 7:21-23** and **Hebrews 5:8,9** ...



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- c. Questions: How much of a person's ability and responsibility comes into play in these two passages of Scripture?
Can you think of any other passages that teach this same principle?
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6. Please remember this truth: God forces His will upon no one! He never has and He never will!

7. The greatest choice we can ever make ... is to choose on our own ... to yield fully and completely to the Lord and to His will!

- a. Please read and discuss the importance of the thoughts being expressed in **1 Corinthians 6:19,20** ...



8. Yes ... God's Glory is seen in the fact of His ever-abiding presence in our world!

II. The Fact Of His Presence Should Be Unsettling To The Wicked ...

1. To that person who makes the decision to disobey God and disregard His will ... Beware!

a. You see ... no one can hide himself/herself or their sins from God!

b. Questions: Are there areas in your life ... places in your heart ... where sin is allowed to dwell?

Are there things in your life that you have said or done or thought ... that you have been trying to keep from your parents or your friends ... from your God?

Isn't it about time to stop the game of pretending?

Note of Warning: You cannot be feeling good about yourself as long as you continue living this way ... unless you have seared or hardened your conscience!

c. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **1 Timothy 4:2; Ephesians 4:19; Hebrews 3:12,13** ...



2. Now ... please read and discuss the thoughts found in **Amos 9:3** ...



3. Now ... please read and discuss the thoughts found in **Proverbs 15:3** ...



4. Please go back to **Psalms 139:7-12** again ...

a. You see ... the truth of God's omnipresence should be a frightening truth to the person who is not a Christian ... but just as frightening to the unfaithful child of God!

b. Questions: Are we getting the message?
Are we listening to these truths?
Are YOU recognizing the glory of God in all of this?

c. Questions: Why do these truths not frighten some unbelievers and unfaithful Christians?
Why do folks insist on living in sin?
Isn't the answer to these questions found in a person's own selfishness?

Isn't it true that many times we do things ... simply because that is what we want to do ... no matter what?
So ... how would the words of **Matthew 16:24** apply to these questions?

- d. In **Psalm 139** ... David is saying that the night is like the day to God! It is so foolish for anyone to think that by the cover of darkness or by the separation of distance from God ... they can get away from God and get away with sin!
- e. There were times when David would not have wanted God's presence ... such as during his adulterous affair with Bathsheba!
- f. But after being forgiven ... and for the rest of his life ... he would reflect on the Lord's companionship!

5. Please consider the following:

- a. There are some folks who won't take a drink of alcohol in the presence of certain people ... and yet will turn the glass or bottle or can up in the face of God and drink! Does that make sense? So ... why do people keep on acting this way?
- b. There are those who won't swear in the presence of some people ... but will in the presence of God!
- c. There are those who won't tell a dirty joke in front of certain people ... but will in the presence of God!
- d. Question: Can you think of other examples?

6. So ... how important is it for us to practice the presence of God in our lives? There is not a night too dark ... a wall too thick ... that God doesn't see through or hear! Think about it ...

Conclusion:

1. So ... confidence in both our hearts and in our lives is based on an acute awareness of God's ever-abiding presence!
2. Awareness of His presence will:
 - Help shape our moral and ethical standards!
 - Motivate us to live righteously!
 - Give us strength in time of temptation!
 - Provide hope in time of suffering!
3. Very simply ... knowledge of God's ability to be everywhere will enable each one of us to live differently (**1 Peter 2:9-11**).
4. You see ... we will be "*people of light*" ... not "*people of darkness*" (**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**)!
5. When God revealed more of His glory to Moses on the mountain (**Exodus 33, 34**) ... it changed him!
6. God continues to reveal His glory in the world around us ... He has revealed His final Word to assure us ... the rest is up to us!
7. May we be able to truthfully say ...

"Please, show us Your glory!"



Seeing God's Glory ... Must Include The Comfort From His Presence!

Text: "If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me..." (Psalm 139:8-10)

Introduction:

1. In our last lesson (Lesson Seven) we arrived at a better understanding of God's omnipresence as it relates to our lives!
 - a. God is everywhere! When you wake up in the morning ... He is there! When you go through the activities of your day ... He is there! When you lay down at night ... He is there!
 - b. And the knowledge of this truth is very unsettling to the person who is living in darkness and sin ... or at least it should be!
2. Because God is not in any way limited by time or by space ... He is always with us! And the knowledge of this truth is very comforting to the person trying to do what is right.
 - a. It is this perspective regarding God's ability to be everywhere all of the time ... and the comfort that comes from that knowledge ... that we want to consider in this lesson!
 - b. You see ... the Bible teaches with great clarity that God is mindful of those who are trying to do what is right!

3. Questions: What does the word "comfort" mean?



Isn't it so that all of us would like to be comforted at different times in our lives ... whether its by our family or friends or fellow Christians?

4. King David counted on God's presence during the many troubling times of his life.
 - a. Please read and discuss his words expressed in **Psalm 34:17,18** ...



- b. You see ... these are the words of a man who walked with God ... found Him to be faithful ... even forgiving ... and certainly patient!
 - c. Questions: Is the Lord faithful to us?
Is the Lord forgiving of us?
Is the Lord patient with us?
 - d. Answer: Yes ... Yes ... Yes!
5. This leads us to the thoughts expressed by the Lord as recorded by the writer of Hebrews in **Hebrews 13:5** ...
- a. These are the same words the Lord spoke to Jacob in Genesis 28:15!
 - b. These are the same words the Lord had Moses speak to the nation of Israel in **Deuteronomy 31:6,8!**
 - c. These words are the words the Lord spoke to His servant Joshua in **Joshua 1:5!**
 - d. These words are the words of assurance King David shared with his own son, Solomon, before Solomon would become the next King of Israel in **1 Chronicles 28:20!**
6. Are we getting the point from all of this?
- a. You see ... the strength and the courage of Jacob, Moses, Joshua, the nation of Israel, Solomon and others ... would come from their confidence that their God was with them ... and that He would not forsake them!
7. This same promise (**Hebrews 13:5**) gives each of us hope ... hope for the present ... hope in the future ... and confidence that our God will always be there for us!
8. As we continue our adventure of discovering more of God's Glory ... let's take a closer look at some of the practical lessons we can learn and use in our daily lives.

I. Life Goes On ... Problems Will Always Be Near ...

- 1. Questions: Is there some sort of a crisis going on in your life?
Is the atmosphere of your home life in some way unstable?
Are you having trouble in a relationship?
Are you troubled about something?
- 2. Welcome to life on Planet Earth!



- a. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Job 14:1** ...
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3. We must arrive at that place in our hearts where we truly know ... truly believe ... that our awesome God is not only mindful of us ... but that He cares enough about us to help us! (See **Romans 6:12-18** with emphasis on **verse 17**).

- a. Questions: Have you arrived at this place in your heart yet?
Would you like to be there?

4. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed by the Lord through Isaiah in **Isaiah 43:1-3** ...



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- a. Many trials ... perils ... and difficult situations are symbolized by these words!
- b. The trials ... the perils ... the difficult situations had been very real to these people!
- c. God was offering through His prophet ... words of hope and reassurance ... words of comfort!
- d. We, too, experience trials ... perils ... difficult situations!
- e. We, too, are in need of reassurance ... and we have it from God!
5. The familiar words of the Psalmist recorded in **Psalm 23** reflected awareness of a caring and comforting Shepherd ... to the people then ... and to His people even now!
- a. You are encouraged to commit to memory the entire **23rd Psalm** ... and rest assured ... it will come back often to comfort you!

II. Practical Situations Where His Presence Will Comfort ...

1. Our Savior promises in **Matthew 6:4** ... that our Heavenly Father is aware of all that is done in secret ... and that includes the good ... the bad ... and the ugly!
2. To the person trying to please God ... hopefully that is you ... what wonderful encouragement this truth offers!
- a. God is fully aware of our efforts to please Him!

3. Question: Aren't there times in our lives when we do the right thing ... and no one else even knows ... including our parents ... our friends ... our brothers and sisters in Christ?
 4. Guess what? The Lord notices!
 - a. He is aware of the Bible Class teacher who is teaching the 'little ones' about God and His love!
 - b. He is aware of all the hugs and smiles and words of encouragement offered ... of the sacrifice of time and sometimes money to prepare the visuals for each class!
 - c. You see ... the all-seeing eye of the Lord is aware of the young person battling a personal weakness or temptation ... and winning over it!
 - d. The Lord is aware of the young mother trying to keep her family together when the odds seem to be stacked against her!
 - e. The Lord is aware of the choices a young person makes that may cost him/her popularity ... or a spot on the team ... or in the band ... because they are trying to do what is right!
 - f. Question: Can you think of similar situations that would reflect these wonderful truths? Discuss ...
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5. We need to thank our God more than we do ... for His watchfulness over us!
 - a. Questions: You have been thanking Him ... haven't you?
Would you start doing an even better job of expressing your appreciation for His watchfulness over you ... today?
6. Our God's omnipresence enables us ... if we so choose ... to rely on Him at every crossroad and circumstance in our lives!
 - a. Sometimes ... we take this truth for granted ... don't we!
 - b. Sometimes ... we ignore this truth ... don't we!
 - c. Sometimes ... we start focusing on other things ... like life and all that goes with living ... don't we!
7. What we need to learn is ... to practice the presence of God ... every day!

8. Consider the following situations where practicing the presence of God will really come in handy:

Number One: When confusion comes around ... He will guide us through the maze!

- a. “Why is this happening to me?”
- b. “I just don’t understand!”
- c. “What am I supposed to do with my life?”
- d. Do any of these expressions sound familiar ... be honest!
- e. Please read and discuss the confidence-building words of **Psalm 32:8** ...



f. God will help us through the confusing issues of life ... He will show us the way as expressed in **Psalm 119:105** ...

g. All of this ... because He is around to know ... to help ... to comfort!

Number Two: When fear raises its ugly head ... He will calm the fears!

a. No matter what the situation ... no matter how difficult or trying the circumstances might be ... God is there ... He is aware ... and He can/will comfort you!

b. Question: Will you allow Him to occupy that preeminent place in your heart and life?

c. Please read and discuss the words of **Isaiah 41:10** ...



d. You see ... these are words of comfort ... coming from a faithful and trustworthy God!

e. This is exactly what the apostle Peter was encouraging early Christians in **1 Peter 5:6,7** ... to do!

f. They were to “*cast their care upon Him!*”

g. Also note the words of the apostle Paul written to Timothy in **2 Timothy 1:7!**

- h. Questions: Are you listening to these truths?
Do you believe them to be so?

Number Three: When temptation comes calling ... He will help us to say "No"!

- a. Please read and discuss the sobering words of warning Peter offers in **Peter 5:8,9** ... **1**



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- b. Our adversary ... the devil ... will try anything ... say anything ... exhaust all means ... to divert our attention away from God!
- c. Warnings: Never underestimate the evil one!
Never overestimate your own ability to not be led astray!
- d. Make no mistake about it ... temptations will come to each of our lives ... and will do so often! Please note the words recorded in **James 1:13** ... with emphasis on "*when*".
(1) James does not say "if" ... he says "*when*"!
- e. Mindfulness on our part ... every day ... of God's presence will give us strength and the conviction to face temptation with a resounding, "No"!
- f. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed by the apostle Paul in **1 Thessalonians 5:21,22** ...



9. Learn to practice the presence of God ... believe that He is faithful ... trust the truth that He will now allow you to be tempted beyond your ability to withstand it!

- a. Please read and discuss ... and even memorize ... the words of **Corinthians 10:13** ... you will be glad you did! **1**



10. You see ... there is so much comfort to be gained from the truth of God's omnipresence!

Conclusion:

1. Though our awesome and wonderful God is incredibly near ... James reminds us that we have a personal responsibility to respond in **James 4:8** ...
2. In **Acts 16** ... we find Paul and Silas in the deep recesses of a cold ... dank ... odorous prison cell.
 - a. They have been beaten ... locked in stocks ... yet ... they are singing praises to God!
 - b. Questions: Is that not amazing?
How were they able to do this?
Why were they singing praises in such a difficult situation?
 - c. The answer lies in their unwavering faith in a God who cared about them ... cared for them ... and who comforted them always!
3. This is the very same God we have the opportunity to believe in ... look to ... and serve daily!
4. We ... yes ... we ... have a God who cares so much that He will never leave us! Make sure you don't leave Him! Note the words of **Romans 8:38,39** ...
 - a. He is ... our ever-present God!
 - b. What an incredible truth to know!!
5. Truly the words expressed by Moses in **Exodus 33:18** are to be so with us ...

“Please, show us Your glory!”



Seeing God's Glory ... Includes Amazement At His Infinite Knowledge!

*Text: "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to Him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen." (**Romans 11:33-36**)*

Introduction:

1. Jjust as Moses needed to see God's glory in **Exodus 33:18** ... so do we!
 - a. And when we look around at our world ... when we open the inspired pages of God's Book ... the Bible ... we see!
 - b. We see His glory ... just as He said we could in **Psalm 19:1** ...
2. To refresh our memories of the thoughts expressed in **Exodus 33:18** ...
 - a. The nation of Israel has left Egypt ... they are encamped at the base of Mt. Sinai ... Moses is up on the mountain top ... the people are below constructing a golden calf ... the Lord is obviously very displeased ... Moses realizes there is a real problem.
 - b. In the course of this conversation between the Lord and Moses (staggering to even consider, isn't it?) ... the Lord God tells Moses among other things, "... I know you by name!" (**Exodus 33:17**)
 - c. God was saying, "I know who you are ... Moses!"
3. The fact is ... God knows everything ... about everything ... and about every one!
 - a. Questions: Do you ever have trouble remembering faces ... remembering names?
How well do you know yourself?
How well do you know your family?
How well do you know your friends?
How well do you know the Lord?
 - b. Questions: Do you know where your parents are right now? What they are doing right now?
Do you know what the person sitting next to you or across from you is really thinking?

- c. Rest assured ... God knows the answer to each one of these questions ... and that is absolutely amazing!
4. As we continue our pursuit of Seeing God's Glory ... we realize that it is beyond our limited ability to *fully* grasp the greatness of God ... but we must try ... **every day!**
- a. And the wonderful truth about all of this is ... we can understand enough to cause us to stare in complete awe and wonder!
 - b. And then drop down on our knees in worship and praise unto His High and Holy name!
5. We are impressed ... we can become star-struck in the presence of some famous actor ... actress ... athlete ... etc.!
- a. What about in the presence of the Creator and Sustainer of life ... who cannot be compared with anyone else!
 - b. Please read and discuss the thoughts being asked by our awesome God in ***Isaiah 40:25*** ...



- c. And, as if His question even needed an answer ... Jehovah gives us one in ***Isaiah 46:9-11*** ...



6. You know what? No one ... nothing ... can compare to our God! He needs no advice or counsel ... from anyone ... about anything!
- a. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in ***Isaiah 40;13,14.***



7. So ... let's consider some truths about our God's knowledge ... knowledge that includes all of the answers to all of life's questions (***2 Peter 1:3***) ...

I. An All-Knowing God ... Who Gets It!

1. Questions: How much does God really know?
Is He ever confused about anything in this world ... or about anything in our lives?
Does He really understand what it is like to be living here on Earth?
Does He know anything about being a better son or daughter? Father or Mother? Athlete or Student?
Can He really offer us good information about relationships that is reliable?
Does He really know how we think and feel?

2. Knowing everything ... about everything ... about everyone ... is omniscience! And God is the only One who has it!

- a. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **1 John 3:20** ...



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- b. You see ... not only does He know everything ... He is the source of all knowledge!
 - c. His knowledge ... well ... it is completely accurate ... truly trustworthy ... it is pure and undefiled by any human distortion!
 3. Just as the apostle Paul writes in **Romans 11:33**, "*Oh, what a wonderful God we have! How great are His riches and wisdom and knowledge.*"
 4. There are folks who spend their entire lives trying to understand ... solve and resolve ... what are considered to be the mysteries of life!
 - a. But for our all-knowing Father in Heaven ... there are no mysteries!
 - b. It has been estimated by those who 'know' ... that mankind's knowledge base doubles every few years! That's really impressive ... but even at this rate ... man is only discovering about his life ... about his world ... about this universe ... **things God has always known!!!**
 - c. You see ... He doesn't need to 'learn' anything or figure anything out!
 - d. Our great God has total awareness ... complete insight ... infinite understanding ... and universal comprehension!
 - e. Yes ... God knows everything ... PERIOD!!
 5. Ok ... now, let's try to get a glimpse into the extent of God's knowledge and wisdom ... then learn what our response should be to all of this knowledge of God's Glory!

II. God's Knowledge Relates To His Own Abilities ...

1. Questions: Do you ever wonder why you do what you do?
Do you ever wonder why you think about the things you think about?
Do you really understand your own personality?
Ever have a problem understanding someone else?
2. Now ... for just a moment ... try and imagine what it would be like to have any kind of lasting relationship with a god who possessed a short-fall of knowledge ... unclear understanding ... and indecisiveness about his abilities ... or limitations regarding you, others and the world you live in. Discuss the ramifications of this scenario ...
 - a. In Japan ... the Shinto shrines are where the people tie messages to the tree branches so they can let their gods 'know' of their particular needs!
 - b. You see ... these folks have not experienced the joy of knowing God ... who knows everything ... about them ... and about their needs!
 - c. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **1 Corinthians 2:10-12** ...



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3. If our God didn't know Himself fully ... if He didn't know everything about His creation (including us) ... then, how could He help us with **all** of our problems!
 - a. If a ruler did not know his own authority ... if he didn't know the borders of his kingdom ... how could he rule effectively!
 - b. The fact is ... God has no borders! He is the "*I AM that I AM!*" (**Exodus 3:14**)
 4. Sometimes folks are heard to say "He/she really doesn't know their own strength" ... meaning they don't understand what they are fully capable of!
 - a. There is no such problem with our God!
 - b. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed by the apostle Paul in **Ephesians 3:20,21** ...



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5. No one ... absolutely no one ... is capable of fully understanding God's magnificence ... except God Himself!
 - a. But we can sure live the rest of our lives trying to gain even more and more knowledge of Him!

- b. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed by the apostle Paul in **Philippians 1:9-11** (emphasis on verse 11) and also **Philippians 3:7-11**.



- c. Paul wanted to come to a deeper ... fuller ... more perfect knowledge of the Lord!
- d. Questions: Do we want the same for ourselves?
And what about for other folks as well?
So ... how do we accomplish these objectives?
- e. Answer: Study ... learn ... share with others what you've learned!
- f. You see ... that's exactly what Andrew did in **John 1:35-42** ...
6. There is just so much more for us to "know" about God's infinite knowledge ... so in our next lesson we will consider His knowledge about Creation ... about us ... and about His wisdom that He shares with us!
7. We hope you will be looking forward to this next study ...

Conclusion:

1. David said it this way in **Psalms 139:1-6**, "O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it."
2. Knowledge of our God's knowledge is so overwhelmingly encouraging that we, too, should be moved to offer words of praise!
3. Knowledge of our God's knowledge is so reassuring ... so motivating ... that each of us should get busy and influence others, as in **Matthew 5:16** and **1 Corinthians 6:19,20** ...
4. Each of us has the wonderful privilege and opportunity to reflect His image in our own lives as in **Romans 8:29** ...
- a. Questions: How are you being influenced by the morals of our world?
Are you trying to influence the world with God's morals?
- b. Questions: Do you really believe that God knows everything?
Do you truly believe that God knows best?

5. If you believe ... if you have genuine faith ... then you need to spend even more time in study and meditation of God's Book ... the Bible!
(See **Romans 10:17**; **2 Timothy 2:15**; **Psalm 1**)
6. Then ... you ... me ... us ... we can all rise to the wonderful place of being instruments of His wisdom! Is there any higher purpose?
 - a. Please note the value of God's wisdom according to Solomon, who possessed more wisdom than any other man who walked on the face of this Earth except Jesus Christ, as he writes "*For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.*" (**Proverbs 8:11**).
7. The most valuable reality a young person ... even older persons ... can attain is the insight to arrange their life by the standards of God's truth!
8. Moses asked of God, "**Please, show me Your glory**" ... and God said, "I will!"



Seeing God's Glory ... Helps Me To Understand He Really Knows All About Me & My World!

Text: "As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust." (Psalm 103:13,14)

Introduction:

1. It's called omniscience ... a big word used by those in the 'know' to describe being "all-knowing" ... and only God has this level of knowledge!
2. If you have ever "Googled" on the Internet ... you know that you can have almost instant access to a world of information!
 - a. Our God doesn't need a computer ... because all knowledge derives its origin from Him!
3. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Psalm 147:1-11** ...



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- a. Questions: What does this passage say about God's understanding? Are there any limitations to His knowledge ... to His understanding ... to His wisdom? Would He be God ... if there were limitations? So ... what should these thoughts do for our own hearts and lives?
 4. Moses asked the Lord while on the mountain, "*Please, show me Your glory*" (**Exodus 33:18**).
 5. As we continue our exploration of God's Glory ... we want to take a glimpse into our God's knowledge of this world we live in ... and of the knowledge God has demonstrated in the bodies we live in ...

I. God's Knowledge Of This World We Live In ... Is Perfect Because He Made It!

1. Our purpose in this portion of the study will NOT be to defend Creation ... but to very simply declare Creation!

2. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Isaiah 40:26** ...
 - a. Questions: Have you ever given thought to just how big our universe really is?
How did we really get here?
Did God create this world in only six days?
How did He do this ... anyway?
How did God know what would work and what would not?
 - b. This world of ours ... is so large ... and this universe is so far-reaching into outer space!
 - c. It is these kinds of thoughts ... if we're not careful ... that can lead us to view God as being distant ... being far away ... or far-removed from our lives and needs! Not so!!
 - d. According to **Isaiah 40:26** ... we are able to see a good glimpse of God's personal knowledge of His creation!
 - e. Questions: According to Isaiah ... what does God do with all the stars and planets?
What does this tell you about God's relationship with this universe we are apart of?
Do you have any idea how many stars there are in space?
3. Questions: Do you know anything about cars ... not the movie ... but real cars?
How did we get them?
Who made them?
Did they make themselves?
4. Suppose we were on the showroom floor of a car dealership looking ... admiring ... touching ... smelling ... a brand new Corvette!
 - a. Now ... as we're experiencing this first hand ... suppose I lean over to you and say something like, "You know, there are folks who believe this Corvette is a result of someone's design ... but I know differently!"
 - b. As I continue, "You see, the real story about this Corvette is that many many years ago ... all this iron, plastic, glass, rubber, leather and wire came up out of the ground! Yep ... and each of these formed their own shapes and sizes to fit into place perfectly!"
 - c. Well ... you get the picture ...
5. Some people believe that our well-ordered universe came about as the result of some sort of massive explosion that scientists call the "Big Bang."

- a. According to this theory ... prior to there being stars or planets ... all of the energy and matter of this universe were bottled up in one big ball ... it exploded ... and bang ... planets, stars and galaxies appeared!
- b. Questions: So where did the original matter and energy come from? Why is it that explosions today ... only create destruction rather than order and design?
- c. It is foolish to believe this universe we are members of ... created itself!

6. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Psalm 14:1** ...



- a. The “fool” of this passage is not intellectually deficient ... but morally deficient!
7. Our awesome God knows everything there is to ever know about Creation ... about our universe ... about our planet ... and about our very lives!
8. When one reads from the Scriptures ... when one reads the Bible record about the earliest hours of time for our world ... you will find answers to origin, purpose, and design! (**Genesis 1:1**)
9. Back to **Psalm 147:4** ...
- a. Astronomers tell us there are numerous galaxies ... each possessing billions of stars!
 - b. Our God ... knows each of them by name! Yet most of us struggle with remembering the names of everyone in our classes at school ... or at work ... etc.!
10. How much does God know? Read **Psalm 147:5** again ...
- a. Very simply ... God knows absolutely everything!
 - b. There is not even a speck of information ... not one piece of data that our God cannot immediately recall!
 - c. What an awesome God we serve! You do serve Him ... don't you?
 - d. All of this unlimited knowledge of our God ... well ... it's way beyond being a genius ... it's being omniscient ... it's being “all knowing”! It is being God!!

11. Before we move on ... consider the following examples of God's amazing and infinite knowledge of our world:
- a. Long before man would even know that he would need oil ... God stored oil in the earth! Oil ... to fuel our engines!!!
 - b. Before men knew what it was to be cold ... God stored coal and gas in the earth for man's warmth ... and planted trees for man to build houses for shelter!
 - c. Please read and discuss the thoughts found in **Isaiah 45:18** ...



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- d. Also read and discuss the thoughts found in **Psalms 8:3-4** ...



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- e. Now ... read and discuss the following passages of Scripture:
Ecclesiastes 1:7; Isaiah 40:22; Isaiah 43:16 ...
12. Our amazing God ... knows everything about everything ... and that's why we would do well to listen and obey Him, as in **Proverbs 1:7** and **Proverbs 3:5** ...
- a. Questions: Would you be willing to listen and obey God?
If not ... why not?

II. Our Awesome God Knows ... All About Us!

1. Nothing about any of us escapes the eyes of the Lord! He knows more about you and me ... about us ... than we will ever know about ourselves!
2. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **Isaiah 49:15,16** ...



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3. Our God ... with His infinite knowledge ... even keeps up with the number of hairs on our head according to **Matthew 10:30!**
- a. And please note the context in which this statement was being made by Jesus ... it was to reassure the apostles that the Father was mindful of their every need!

4. Questions: When were you born?
What was the day, the year, the time?
How much did you weigh?
How long were you?
What color were your eyes?
What color was your hair?
Did you have a lot of hair at birth?

5. Now ... turn to **Psalm 139** for a few moments ...

- a. The Bible is chocked full of Scripture to assure and reassure us ... that He was aware of and involved in the intricate planning and detail of every one of us!
- b. The words of **Psalm 139** do not just apply to David who wrote them ... they apply to each of us who read them!
- c. Even though this shepherd boy who eventually became a king ... lived several thousand years before a man by the name of Charles Darwin (1809 - 1882) ... he possessed an appreciation for the wonders of life itself far surpassing that of a man who was sure he had all the answers!

6. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed by Paul in **Acts 17:28** ...



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- a. You see ... God was present when you and I were first fashioned in our mother's womb! (**Psalm 139:13-16**)
 - b. God knew ... to whom we would be born ... and when!
 - (1) He hid each of us in a blanket comprised of soft tissue and gave us a heart beat!
 - (2) For a number of days ... He was the only One who knew we even existed!
 - (3) The skillful and loving hands ... the same hands that shaped man from the dust of the earth in the beginning ... knit us together!
 - (4) Long before your parents saw the first sonogram ... God had already watched you develop ... He watched you suck your thumb for the first time!
 - c. Question: Are these thoughts not absolutely amazing to realize?

7. We are the result of our Heavenly Father's marvelous and extraordinary workmanship!
 - a. He designed us ... He made our bodies wonderfully complex in every way!
 - b. Our bodies contain at least sixty million cells!
 - c. Our nose can distinguish up to 10,000 various aromas!
 - d. Our tongue has around 6,000 taste buds!
 - e. Our body has so many blood vessels ... that their combined length ... are you ready for this ... could encircle Planet Earth two and a half times!
8. God has created each of us with a customized DNA blueprint ... found within each cell!
 - a. One estimate even suggests that if our own individual blueprint were to be printed out ... well ... you better head for Office Depot or WalMart ... it would take approximately 200,000 pages!
 - b. And our God ... He knows every word on every page ... for every one of us!
9. David applied the fact of God's knowledge personally!
 - a. Questions: Shouldn't we do the same?
As a matter of fact ... shouldn't we always read the Bible ... study and meditate on it's truths ... listen attentively in Bible Class and in Worship Services ... with the idea of making a personal application?
10. Yes ... our God knows everything about us ... what we do (***Psalm 139:2***) ... what we think (***Psalm 139:2***) ... where we go (***Psalm 139:3***) ... and what we say (***Psalm 139:4***)!
 - a. We should be so very thankful for His infinite knowledge!
11. God knows our thoughts before we think them ... He understands our emotions before we feel them ... He anticipates our decisions before we make them ... and He realizes the effects of our words before we even speak them!
12. What an awesome "all knowing" God we have the opportunity to serve!

Conclusion:

1. Please read and consider the words and thoughts expressed in ***Psalm 33:13-15*** ...
 - a. Mothers usually know by intuition the motives behind their children's actions and words!
 - b. If that is usually true of a mother ... then how much more is it true of our Heavenly Father!
(1) It is perfectly true ... that's how true it is!
2. Our God ... well ... He knows everything about us!
 - a. Questions: How does this understanding about God's knowledge make you feel?
In what ways would your life be different ... if you were completely aware that nothing can be hidden from God?
3. God sees the good ... the bad ... and the ugly in each life lived!
4. Please consider the thoughts and words expressed in ***Jeremiah 17:9,10***... and relate them to your own life! You will be glad you did!
5. As we reflect on God's Glory ... how can it not be said, "*Please, show me more of Your glory*" ... with the confidence that He has ... He does ... and He will!!!

“Please show us Your glory!”



Seeing God's Glory ... Leads To Recognition Of His Perfect Holiness!

*Text: "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings; with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory.'" (**Isaiah 6:1-4**)*

Introduction:

1. He was a prophet of God who prophesied and taught primarily to the Southern Kingdom of Judah after Israel had divided.
 - a. His name means "The Lord is salvation."
 - b. He is quoted directly in the New Testament over 65 times ... more than any other prophet!
 - c. He is mentioned by name over 20 times!
 - d. He was a prophet of God living under the reign of four different kings.
2. The prophet's name ... was Isaiah! And he was a great prophet ... who lived and taught during some very difficult times!
 - a. He was called into service during the year of King Uzziah's death (**Isaiah 6:1**).
 - b. He received the prophecies recorded in **chapters 1-5** after his call.
3. Isaiah saw kings on a first-hand ... face-to-face basis ... he knew the priests and important officials of his day ... but NONE of these experiences would rival what he saw in **Isaiah 6!**
 - a. You see ... it is on this occasion that He sees the Creator ... He sees God!
 - b. And the response he offered gives us great insight into how he felt ... what he experienced ... and the ways his life was about to change!
 - c. Please read **Isaiah 6:2-9** ...
4. When Isaiah saw himself in contrast to the unspeakable glory of God ... this soon-to-be prophet of God ... realized his true condition! (**Isaiah 6:5**)

5. God's holiness ... well ... it is a transforming truth to say the least!

6. Questions: What does the word "holy" mean?



What is meant by God's holiness? _____

Is it different from our holiness? _____

Are we holy people?

Are you a holy person?

7. Question: Why do we even need to study about God's holiness?

Answer: Because of what it reveals about God Himself ... and because it will help us to understand His expectations of each one of us!

8. Questions: Do you really want to know what God is like?
Do you really want to know how God views this world of ours ... and what goes on in it on a daily basis?
Do you really want to know how He views each one of us?

9. If your answer is "Yes" to the questions just asked ... let's begin to look more closely at God's holiness ...

I. Holiness ... What Is It Exactly?

1. Question: Would you consider it to be a compliment ... if someone called you a "holy" person?

2. Whether or not you would view such a reference to be important ... "Holy" is the title given to our amazing God! See **Psalm 111:9** ...

3. So ... what does the term "holy" mean ... and especially with reference to God?

4. "Holy" defined: The Hebrew root word for "to be holy" means to cut or to separate."

a. In the Old Testament ... it is revealed that our God is above, and He is separate from all that He created!

b. God is exalted above absolutely everything and everyone in holy majesty!
(1) Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in
Exodus 15:11 ...



- c. Very simply stated ... God is without sin!
 - d. God doesn't conform to some standard ... He is the standard!
 - (1) He never does wrong!
 - (2) There are simply no degrees to His Holiness ... He is perfectly Holy!
 - e. Now ... let that sink in for just a moment ...
 - (1) He is completely free of contamination of any sort!
5. Let's go back to **Isaiah 6** ...
- a. Questions: What caused the prophet to exclaim, "*Woe is me, for I am undone*" (**Isaiah 6:5**)?
What was it that prompted such an humble exclamation?
 - b. Answers: The answers are found in the word repeated by the seraphim three times ... "*Holy, Holy, Holy*" (**Isaiah 6:3**)!
 - c. Repetition in the Hebrew language served as a tool to emphasize some truth ... in this case ... the truth of God's holiness!
6. When the angels worship in Heaven ... they do not say, "Eternal, eternal, eternal," or "Faithful, faithful, faithful"!
- a. They say, "*Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty*" (**Revelation 4:8; Isaiah 6:3**)!
7. So ... as we can see ... the Bible affirms the truth of God's holiness ... and it is still difficult for us to fully comprehend it!
- a. Questions: Do you have trouble trying to explain God's holiness?
Do you have difficulty in explaining God's absolute purity and holiness?
8. Everything ... everything God does ... bears the imprint of His holiness! And His holiness never varies ... it never changes!
9. In view of these amazing truths about our God ... let's consider God's Glory from the perspective of His holiness ... and its relevance in our own lives ...

II. The Relevance Of God's Holiness ...

- 1. Number One: It assures us that God is completely trustworthy!
 - a. Questions: Have you ever been taken advantage of?
Have you ever felt like someone was using you or perhaps trying to manipulate you?

- b. These kinds of experiences are just not pleasant to go through ... and the fact is ... they do happen in dealing with others!
- c. But they will NEVER happen with God!
- d. Please read and reflect upon the words recorded in **Psalm 102:25-27** ...



(1) You see ... the unchangeable God will outlast His creation ... He is forever trustworthy!

2. Number Two: His absolute holiness guarantees that He will always deal honorably with each one of us!
- a. Because our God is who and what He is ... we will never have to wonder whether His will ... His plans ... His purposes ... will end in disappointment!
 - b. Please read and discuss the following passages of Scripture: **Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Psalm 46:1-3** ...



- c. Now ... read the words of **Numbers 23:19** ...
 - (1) In contrast to the unreliability of people ... for whatever the reasons ... God is completely reliable!
 - (2) He does not change ... including in His holiness ... therefore, His Word will always be true! (**1 Peter 1:24,25**)

3. Number Three: Because of His absolute holiness ... He is our model to look to!
- a. You see ... our God has no shortcomings ... no weaknesses ... no flaws either exposed or hidden!
 - b. Consider the words recorded in **James 1:13** ...



- (1) Question: What does James mean when he writes, “... for God cannot be tempted by evil ...”?
- (2) Answer: By reason of His holy nature ... He has no capacity or potential to do ... say ... or think ... anything even resembling evil!

- c. What an awesome God we serve!

4. Additional considerations:



- a. Please read and discuss the words recorded in **1 John 5:1-6** ...
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- b. *“Light”* is used regularly in the Scriptures to describe purity ... rightness!
- c. Our God is absolutely pure ... with not one dark or evil thought ... not one questionable or shady statement or act!
- d. Question: Can you imagine? Well ... it is so!
- e. And ... because He is light ... He affords each one of us the opportunity to become *“children of light”*!
- f. You see ... we can be His people! (**1 Peter 2:9-11**)
- g. But with blessing comes responsibility ... so ... take a close and personal look at the words recorded by Peter in **1 Peter 1:15,16** ...
- (1) Holiness is to characterize every Christian’s “new” life in Jesus Christ!
 - (2) We ... as Christians ... are now associated with the Holy God ... and must now treat Him and His Word ... with respect and reverence!
 - (3) Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in the following passages of Scripture: **1 Peter 1:16,17; Leviticus 11:44,45; Romans 6:12-13** ...



Conclusion:

1. Our God asks the question through His prophet Isaiah, *“To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?”* (**Isaiah 40:25**)
 - a. As if His question really needed to be answered ... God gives the answer in **Isaiah 40:6-9** ...
 - b. You see ... there is no one else who can compare with Him!
 - (1) No one gives Him advice!
 - c. It is our great God who *“... puts down one; and exalts another.”* (**Psalm 75:7**)
2. Questions: Do you have a better understanding of God’s holiness ... now?
Do you have a deeper appreciation for His holiness ... now?
3. After Isaiah’s encounter with God’s glory in the temple (**Isaiah 6**) ... Isaiah certainly did!

- a. When Isaiah views the holiness of God up close and personal ... he didn't puff out his chest ... he didn't flex his muscles ... he didn't brag or boast!
 - b. No ... what he did was ... he fell on his face before the Lord ... and begged for mercy! (**Isaiah 6:5**)
 - c. And he became ... with God's wonderful mercy ... a spokesman for God! (**Isaiah 6:8**)
4. Questions: Have you ever been in the operating room of a hospital when the high-wattage lights are turned on? It's unbelievably bright ... Have you seen the searchlights of a police helicopter light up the night ... making it like day? It's an incredible sight.
5. In the same way ... when Isaiah saw the glory of God and how brightly it shown ... he was able to view his own soiled soul ...one marred by sin (**Romans 3:23**) ... and he was never the same!
- a. God asked for a servant to serve Him ... and Isaiah said, "*Here am I ... send me*" (**Isaiah 6:8**)!
6. We cannot stand in the presence of God without acknowledging His holiness ... and seeing our own sin!
- a. You see ... the closer you approach the light ... the brighter it shines on you!
 - b. True recognition of God's holiness ... leads to true presence of humility!
7. Hannah ... in praise and heart-felt joy ... was led to express the beautiful words of **1 Samuel 2:2-3**, "*No one is holy like the Lord, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the Lord is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.*"
- a. Question: In consideration of His holiness ... can you be led to express these same sentiments? I sure hope so.
8. Moses said to Jehovah, "*Show me Your glory.*" God says, "*I have ... and I will!*"

"Please, show us Your glory!"



Seeing God's Glory ... Includes Awareness Of When God Became Flesh!

Text: "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him. Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."
(John 14:7-11)

Introduction:

1. We serve a great and wonderful God ... don't we!
 - a. Questions: You are serving Him ... aren't you?
If not ... why not?
If yes ... do you have any regrets?

2. In this series of studies ... based on the request by Moses on Mount Sinai for God to show him His glory (**Exodus 33:18**) ... we have looked more closely at some of the attributes that Jehovah God has ... that God alone possesses!
 - a. Question: Can you name some of those attributes that have been considered and discuss their meaning to you and your life ...

 - b. We have ... in only a brief way ... been humbled by the majesty of our God!
 - c. We have caught just a glimpse of His awesome strength and power!
 - d. We have become aware of His presence ... a presence that is everywhere!
 - e. We have learned there is absolutely nothing He doesn't know!
 - f. And we have discovered His absolute holiness ... having no flaws, cracks, or even the ability to be tempted by evil ... to do evil!

3. Wouldn't you like to see God? Who wouldn't ... except those who have chosen not to believe and obey Him!
4. Well ... in this lesson we are going to see how God became flesh ... in the Person of Jesus Christ!
5. Jesus Christ ... is the Son of God ... but He is also the "Son of Man" (see **John 1:1-14**) ...
 - a. Jesus Christ was not just a great man ... He was not just a great teacher!
 - b. Jesus Christ is God in the flesh! (**John 1:14**)
6. So ... let's open our Bibles ... and our minds as we learn more of how God has revealed Himself to us ... through the life of His "*only begotten Son*" ... Jesus Christ! (**John 1:18**)

I. Assuring Words For Troubled Hearts (John 14:1-11)!

1. The scene described in **John 14** is a continuation of the events recorded in **John 13**.
 - a. It is the upper room ... where Jesus washed the disciple's feet! (**John 13:1-20**)
 - b. It is the upper room ... where Jesus announces there is a traitor among the apostles ... Judas! (**John 13:21-30**)
 - c. It is the upper room ... where Jesus announces to His apostles that He is about to be separated from them! (**John 13:31-35**)
 - d. It is the upper room ... where Peter is informed by the Lord that he will deny the Lord three times! (**John 13:36-38**)
2. Questions: So ... how would you have felt if you had been one of these men who had just spent some three years with Jesus on a daily basis?
How did the apostles feel?
What were they thinking?
3. Questions: Do you suppose the apostles were trying to figure out where He was going?
Do you suppose they were wondering if they could go with Him?
How could they get to where He was going?
4. The writer ... John ... tells us in **John 14:1** their hearts were "*troubled!*" So would have our own hearts!

5. Jesus gives them words of comfort ... something He was so proficient at!
 - a. And the words of comfort ... they are words about Heaven!
 - b. Heaven is a real place ... not the figment of someone's imagination!
 - c. Questions: Do you believe in Heaven?
If so ... why do you believe in Heaven?
6. Heaven is the place where God dwells ... and where Jesus sits at the right hand of His Father!
 - a. Heaven is described as a Kingdom in **2 Peter 1:11** ...
 - b. Heaven is described as an inheritance to be received in **1 Peter 1:4** ...
 - c. Heaven is a country according to the writer in **Hebrews 11:16** ... and also a city in **Hebrews 11:16** ...
 - d. And Heaven is described as a home in **John 14:2** ...
7. The word "Father" is used by the writer of the Gospel of John some 53 times in chapters 13 - 17. And the point of this information is this ... Heaven is the "*My Father's House*" according to Jesus Himself!
 - a. You see ... it is home for God's children!
 - b. I want to go there ... do you?
 - c. I don't want to miss it ... do you?
8. So ... as we continue our journey to see more of God's glory ... let's take a closer look at the conversation that takes place between Jesus and the apostles in **John 14:7-11** ...

II. **When You Have Seen Jesus ... You Have Seen The Father (John 14:9)**

1. One of the most important truths of the Bible is this: we do not have to wait until we get to Heaven to know the Father!
 - a. You see ... in answer to the question of what is God like ... when you have come to know Jesus Christ ... you have come to know the Father!
2. When the divine sculptor became human clay ... the attributes of God were explained and demonstrated in very human terms!



- a. Please read and discuss the thoughts expressed in **John 1:18** ...
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- b. The word “*declared*” (NKJV) is the root word from which we derive the term “exegesis” or “to interpret.”
- c. The apostle John is saying that all that Jesus Christ is and all that He does ... interprets and explains who God is ... and what God does!
- d. This is an amazing affirmation! It is such a wonderful truth about Jesus Christ! You see ... Jesus Christ explains God to us!

3. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Colossians 1:15** ...



- a. The important word relevant to our study is the word “*image*.”
- b. The Greek word is “*eikon*” from which we derive our English word icon ... like the icons on your desktop or laptop computer!
- c. It means “copy” or “likeness.”
- d. Jesus Christ is the perfect image ... the exact likeness of God!
- e. Jesus Christ is in the very form of God according to **Philippians 2:6** ... and He has been so from all eternity!
- f. Very simply ... Christ is the representation of ... the manifestation of ... God!
- g. Jesus Christ is fully God in every way!
4. The truth is ... one cannot come to know God without knowing His Son ... Jesus Christ (see **John 14**)!



Note: There continues to be a great deal of discussion in the religious world about the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ. Any teaching that denies His complete deity ... any teaching that denies His complete humanity ... is false teaching!

III. Jesus Reflects The Perfect Nature Of God ...

1. Questions: Was Jesus just a good man who said and did a lot of good things?
Is Jesus really the Son of God?
Does it matter?
2. When you examine the life of Christ ... you see He was perfect in every way!
 - a. And this is exactly what Jesus was pointing out to Thomas and the rest of the apostles in **John 14:7-11!**
 - b. Jesus was saying ... His words ... His works ... came from the Father and as a result revealed the Father (**John 14:10,11**).
3. Jesus Christ is all powerful ... even as our Heavenly Father is all powerful!
 - a. Please read and discuss the thoughts of **Colossians 1:15-17 ...**



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- b. You see ... according to this passage ... Jesus has incredible power! He had a part in the creation of the universe!
 - c. He *“holds everything together”* (**Colossians 1:17**)!
 - d. Question: What in the world does this statement mean?
Answer: Just what it says!
 4. Jesus demonstrated His power ... time after time. Who else but the Incarnate One could do the following things:
 - ☞ calm a storm (**Matthew 8**)!
 - ☞ make a mute person speak (**Matthew 9**)!
 - ☞ feed 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish (**Matthew 14**)!
 - ☞ walk on water (**Mark 6**)!
 - ☞ bring sight to the blind (**Mark 10**)!
 - ☞ heal a paralyzed man (**Luke 5**)!
 - ☞ raise a boy from the dead (**Luke 7**)!
 - ☞ heal incurable hemorrhaging (bleeding) (**Luke 8**)!
 - ☞ cleanse lepers (**Luke 17**)!
 - ☞ turn water into wine (**John 2**)!
 - ☞ make the lame walk (**John 5**)!
 - ☞ raise a man from the dead (**John 11**)!

5. The miracles of Jesus ... when considered fairly ... ought to do more than just convince a person that Jesus is who He said He was!
 - a. These miracles should cause us to say like Thomas said, *“My Lord and my God!”* (**John 20:28**)
6. Jesus urged His apostles to *“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”* (**John 14:11**)

Conclusion:

1. Question: So ... do you believe Jesus is who He says He is ... the Son of God?
If not ... why not?
If you do believe ... will you share this message with others who need to hear the “good news” of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
(**Romans 1:16**)
2. We can know the Father and Maker of this universe we live in ... for Jesus has revealed Him to us!
 - a. It is through His own holiness, majesty, knowledge, and every other attribute that we are able to see what characterizes the God of Heaven!
3. Jesus Christ ... in His earthly life ... demonstrated the character of God! He has shown us the Father! Jesus was and is God!
4. When Philip asked to see the Father ... Jesus told him that he had already seen the Father!
 - a. The ultimate answer to the question of ... “who God is” ... is found in Jesus Christ the Son of God!
 - b. You see ... He is God!
5. Moses asked Jehovah to *“show me Your glory”* ... and God did!
6. Philip asked Jesus to *“show us the Father”* and Jesus answered “I already have!”

**“I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me”**



Seeing God's Glory ... Means We Must Each Make The Call Regarding Our Own Faith!

Text: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5,6)

Introduction:

1. Questions: Have you ever thought about the difference between someone who is successful and someone who is not?
Name someone you know who is really successful. _____
How do you think that person became so successful?
Do you want to be successful? In what?
What do you want to do with your life?
2. Those people who succeed in life make a decision somewhere along the way to become somebody special!
3. Becoming a child of God ... a servant in the kingdom ... making Jesus Lord of your life ... means that you have made the deliberate choice to serve God!
 - a. You see ... serving God makes you special! See **1 Peter 2:9** ...
4. During this series of studies ... we have caught only a brief glimpse of God's power, His knowledge, and His presence. Hopefully ... we have all been impressed with who God is and with what a wonderful God we have the opportunity to serve!
5. Questions: What does it take to reach your full potential in a particular sport?
What does it take to reach one's full potential in the band?
What about in acquiring one's education?
And what about in the work environment?
6. Question: What does it take for someone to reach their full potential as a Christian?
7. The questions just asked might have a number of the same answers (i.e. practice, obedience, discipline, etc.). But another big prerequisite for living to your full potential is having your own faith!
 - ☞ Faith in God to believe in Him completely!
 - ☞ Faith in God to love Him with all of your heart!
 - ☞ Faith in God to serve Him with your entire being!
 - ☞ Confidence in God to truly believe that He always knows what is best!
 - ☞ Trust enough in God to be willing to follow wherever He leads you!
 - ☞ Confidence in God enough to believe you can do whatever it takes because God is there to help you!

7. The Lord has great expectations for each of us! Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Jeremiah 29:11** ...



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- a. Question: What does this passage tell us about God's expectations of us?
Are these expectations too great?

8. In God's eyes ... you are a person of great value!

- a. Question: How important does God really think you are?

- b. Answer: Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed by Jesus in **Matthew 10:29-31** ...



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9. Let's examine in this last lesson how each of us can **See God's Glory** with more appreciative eyes and obedient hearts.

I. God's Faithfulness Leads To Confidence ...

1. Each of us can begin to recognize the value of our own lives when we begin to **exercise** our own faith and understand what it is that God wants and expects of each one of us!

- a. Questions: Do you like to exercise?
What good does it do for us to exercise regularly?
What happens when we don't exercise as we should?

- b. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed by the writer of Hebrews in **Hebrews 5:12-14** ...



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- c. Questions: What was wrong with these early Christians according to the text just read?
Can we make these same mistakes in our own lives today?

2. It is the same kind of principle that is so true when it comes to our faith in God ... we can fail to exercise our faith as we should ... and then, we become spiritually out of shape!
 - a. Question: How can we develop a deeper faith in God in our own lives? What kind of faith did it take for David to go down into the valley and face Goliath? Would you like to have that same kind of faith? You can ... you know!
3. The first step is always the most important step ... so, in this case ... the first step is to try to understand God better ... because God is the source of faith! Please read the words of **Psalm 117** ... slowly and carefully ...
4. God's faithfulness ... His ability to always be counted upon ... causes His love and mercy to continue towards each one of us!
 - a. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Lamentations 3:22-23** ...



- b. The two words "*never fail*" describe God's faithfulness! You see ... the bedrock of a person's faith is the realization that God keeps all of His promises!
 - c. God's truthful, faithful character ... makes these truths so!
 - d. Questions: Can your friends always be counted on?
Can you always be counted on?
Isn't it true that we are often disappointed by others and that we often disappoint others as well?
Has God ever disappointed us?
6. Please read and discuss the following passages of Scriptures and list some of the things that God is faithful to do in your life: **1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; 1 John 1:9** ...

7. You see ... God's faithfulness and the fact that He never changes (see **Malachi 3:6**) ... should bring about a deeper faith in God to each of our lives!
 - a. Example: Let's say you really needed some help in math, and a friend offered to meet you after school and help you with the problems. If he/she didn't show up ... how would you feel?
 - b. Example: Now ... if they missed two or three appointments ... would you keep on trying to meet with them? If not ... why not?
 - c. Example: But if they made every meeting ... and helped you with the problems and helped you to understand the concepts involved in solving them ... wouldn't you begin to think, "Hey, here's someone I can really count on!"
8. Faith in God develops the same way in a person's heart and life! God has already proven time after time that He can be counted on by people ... if only they will trust Him!
 - a. Question: Can you think of a few examples in the Bible where this happened?
9. When God says He will do something (His faithfulness again) ... He always does it! And because God is faithful ... you can develop a true trusting faith in Him yourself!
 - a. You see ... He will forgive us as we repent of our sins!
 - b. You see ... He will never leave us or forsake us!
 - c. You see ... He will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to deal with temptation!

II. What About Our Own Faith ...

1. The Book of Hebrews speaks of what God wants from each one of us when it talks of faith as trust and obedience ... as in **Hebrews 11:6** ...
2. Questions: So ... what is faith exactly?
What does it mean when someone says they have faith in you?
What is the Bible's definition of faith?
 - a. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Hebrews 11:1** ...



3. Faith is confidence that God will do what He says and that we will receive what He promises! It is the conviction that God will triumph!

4. Let's consider an example of what faith is not:
A man walks across Niagra Falls on a tightrope! People applaud ... he walks across it again with a wheelbarrow ... people are getting real excited about what they are seeing. Do those people have faith that the tightrope walker knows what he is doing? You might think so ... but suppose he asks for a volunteer from the audience to go across the falls in the wheelbarrow he is pushing!
 - a. You see ... that's the test of just how much the people believe in him! Genuine faith isn't sitting back and watching others! It is developed by acting on it! Which is exactly what each of the persons mentioned in **Hebrews 11** did!

5. Now ... let's consider an example of what faith is:
Suppose you get sick and you go to the doctor. He examines you and tells you that you have some sort of an infection ... and he/she writes out a prescription for you. You say you believe in him/her and that you trust them. When does this trust you have in the doctor become reality? When you have the prescription filled, and you take all of it, and get well!

6. Everyone has faith in something ... whether it's with reference to the airplane you are flying in ... or to the pilot flying the plane ... etc.!
 - a. What is really important ... in the spiritual realm ... is the object of your faith!
 - b. Remember this: Jesus Christ is the only object of your faith who will never let you down!

7. Let's take a closer look at what Bible faith really is ...
 - a. Faith is confidence! Read **Hebrews 11:1** again ...
 - b. Questions: What do you think the following phrases are referring to:
 "Things hoped for ..."? _____
 "Things not seen ..."? _____
 - c. Question: How can we "be sure" of such things as those being referenced in **Hebrews 11:1**?
 - d. Faith is believing in your own mind! Please note **Hebrews 11:6** ...
 - e. Questions: What are the two things you must believe to be so, in order to have your own faith?
 Can someone else believe these things for you?
 If not ... why not?
 So ... what is the most important thing you can do for God ... and really for yourself?

- f. Abraham was known for his faith. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Romans 4:18-21** ...



- g. Questions: What does it mean to be “*fully convinced*”?
Are you fully persuaded that God can and will do what He promises to do?
Why or why not? _____

- h. Faith is doing God’s will yourself! When you look at **Hebrews 11** ... what is the one thing that each one did in order to meet with God’s approval? **They acted! They obeyed!**

- i. Note the words used: “Abel **offered** a sacrifice” ... “Noah **prepared** an ark” ... Abraham **offered** up Isaac” ... Moses **left** Egypt ... etc.!

- j. Please read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in **Hebrews 5:8,9** as they relate to our own lives ...



III. How These Truths Apply To Our Own Lives ...

1. We can learn a great deal from the example Christ has set for us (see **1 Peter 2:21-22**)!
The one factor that allowed Jesus to be what He was and to do what He did was His obedience to His Father ... in every way!
- a. Jesus was obedient in every detail of his life (**John 6:68**) ...
- b. Even in death ... Jesus was obedient (**Matthew 26:36-46**) ...
- c. Question: From these several passages ... what motivated Jesus to obey His Father?
- d. Define obedience as you see it expressed through the life Jesus Christ ...

2. The results of believing in God and Jesus Christ ... and in experiencing God's Glory ... is very simply ... the experiencing of true greatness in the kingdom yourself!
 - a. You will be wiser! (**Matthew 7:24-27**)
 - b. You will experience and enjoy God's love and fellowship! (**John 14:23**)
 - c. You will come to know Jesus better and better! (**John 14:21**)
 - d. You will be a winner over the world ... sin ... and death! (**1 John 5:4**)

Conclusion:

1. As we have seen ... our God is totally awesome ... totally trustworthy! In a world that is passing away ... God remains the Eternal One ... who is all-powerful ... who is all-knowing ... who is everywhere present!
 - a. In a world that is decaying ... God remains forever the same!
2. Yes ... God can be trusted with every aspect of your life! The question is: Do you trust Him? Will you trust Him? Everything we do costs something (time, money, energy, etc.)!
 - a. The next real question is: Are you willing to pay the price and make it personal?
 - b. You see ... if a football team wants to get to the state championship in December ... they must practice in the sweltering heat of August!
 - c. You see ... if a student wants to make good grades in order to attend a good college or university ... he or she has to give up certain activities and pay the price!
 - d. If you want to have your own faith you must read ... study ... meditate upon God's Word! You simply must ... spend time with God!
(**Romans 10:17; Psalm 1**)
3. And ... if you really want to go to Heaven when this life is over ... you absolutely must carry out the words of **Matthew 6:33** ...
4. Truly ... our God is great ... He is good ... His is righteous ... He is "I AM ..."

“Please ... show me Your Glory!”