

UNDERSTANDING GOD - Part 3

INTRODUCTION:

A. OPENING STORY...

A little girl was lying on the floor with her crayons and a large drawing pad when her father came into the room and asked, "What are you drawing, honey?" Without looking up, she replied, "I am drawing a picture of God." Her father smiled and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without a pause, she quickly retorted, "*They will when I am finished.*"

1. I'd like to be able to say that when I am finished with this series of sermons, you will KNOW what God is like...
 - a. Yet, when this series is finished, I will have but pointed your mind in His direction...
 - b. I will ***not*** be able to exhaustively describe an Infinite & Almighty God...
2. Like that little girl, I can draw a picture that attempts to portray a multi-dimensional infinite being in three dimensions.
 - a. I could preach every day for a million years and I would have but touched the hem of the garment.
 - b. God is infinite... therefore He will always and forever be beyond the grasp of the finite minds of men, angels, cherubims, seraphims, arch-angels, devils, demons, and any other sentient beings of which I have no knowledge!

B. WHAT WE KNOW OF GOD... WE LEARN FROM GOD...

1. Had God chose to remain afar & aloof; we could NEVER know anything about Him...
 - a. That's Deism...
 - b. God could remain forever obscured from us.
2. The God of the Bible chose to reveal Himself to us...
 - a. What He is like...
 - b. What He expects from us...
3. What we know ***OF*** God... We learn ***FROM*** God...
 - a. God has revealed Himself within Scripture...
 - b. He has made His Nature, His Power, and His Will observable by man...

Psa 19:1-4 The heavens are sounding the glory of God; the arch of the sky makes clear the work of his hands. Day after day it sends out its word, and night after night it gives knowledge. There are no words or language; their voice makes no sound. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world... ***BBE***

C. TODAY, "UNDERSTANDING GOD - PART 3"

1. Again, In less than 30 minutes...
2. I will attempt to explain the unexplainable...
3. The finite attempting to explain the infinite!
4. Keep in mind this...

Though God cannot be completely known by the finite, He has made Himself known...

God CAN be known!

Eze 20:5 "...Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day when I chose Israel and raised My hand in an oath to the descendants of the house of Jacob, **and made Myself known to them** in the land of Egypt, I raised My hand in an oath to them, saying, 'I *am* the LORD your God.'

God CAN be known... HE HAS REVEALED HIMSELF!

T.S. Today, we are going to continue to look at that picture of God...

A Picture drawn, not by a little girl with crayons...

A Picture drawn, not by a preacher...

A Picture drawn by God Himself...

DISCUSSION:

Quick Review...

GOD IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE...

God can never be completely comprehended by any created being... Angels, Arch-Angels, Cherubim, etc...

GOD IS ETERNAL...

God is the Uncaused Cause... He has always been...

GOD IS TRIUNE...

The Godhead consist of three separate persons...

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... All God, Godhead, ONE Nature...

GOD IS CREATOR...

Everything that exist in this universe is a result of God...

"All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made..." Jn 1:3

GOD IS SOVEREIGN...

God rules this universe...

"He is King of kings and Lord of lords..." I Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14

GOD IS INFINITE...

There is NO LIMIT to God...

His Power is Infinite... His Holiness... His Love... INFINITE!

GOD IS TRANSCENDENT...

God exist in, through, and outside the creation...

He is not bound by Gravity, Time, Space, Power...etc.

I. GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT...

A. SELF-EXISTENCE & ETERNITY ARE SIMILAR...

1. The Eternality of God demands the Self-Existence of God...
 - a. In other words, God eternally exist because HE IS GOD!
 - b. He eternally exists, IN AND OF HIMSELF!
2. His Existence - NOT dependent on anything outside Himself...
 - a. If there was something outside God that God depended on for His eternal existence, then *that thing* would be GREATER THAN GOD!
 - b. Hence, there would be something in the Universe that was Greater than God...
 - c. God's Eternality & His Self-Existence are simply HOW GOD IS!
3. Remember, God **IS**... All of these things... NOT God **HAS**... All these things...

B. GOD IS THE GREAT "I AM"

1. Moses - God had commanded him to go back into Egypt...

Exo 3:13-15 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM:** and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you.

2. God's Self-Existence is defined in His very Name!

"I AM THAT I AM! I AM!"

C. GOD IS A GOD OF NO ORIGIN...

1. Novatian said, *"God has no origin"*
2. Tozer said while speaking of God's Self-Existence...

*"It is precisely this concept of no-origin which distinguishes That-which-is-God from whatever is **not** God."*

Origin is a word that can apply only to things created. When we think of anything that has origin we are not thinking of God. God is self-existent, while all created things necessarily originated somewhere at some time. Aside from God, nothing is self-caused."

D. RELEVANCE...?

1. Jesus claimed the same Self-Existence as God...

Joh 8:52-59 Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?"

Jesus answered, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.**" Then they took up stones to throw at Him;"

- a. Jesus claimed for Himself the same title God the Father had given Himself in Exodus 3... **"I AM!"**
- b. The Jews understood His claim... stone Him!

2. Tozer asked the Question of Relevance...

"What possible meaning can the self-existence of God have for me and others like me in a world such as this and in times such as these?"

To this I reply that, because we are the handiwork of God, it follows that all our problems and their solutions are theological. Some knowledge of what kind of God it is that operates the universe is indispensable to a sound philosophy of life and a sane outlook on the world scene."

- a. Tozer was saying that if you don't understand something of this Self-Existent God...
- b. The World is insane and has no reason!

3. The self-Existence of God is Relevant because...
 - a. Something or Someone HAS to be self-existent without cause and eternal!

Remember - NOTHING COMES FROM NOTHING!
 - b. God is THE GREAT "**I AM!**" The one... Who was, is, and is to come!
 - c. The Self-Existence of God gives the universe purpose and explanation.

Why is it here?
How is it here?
Why am I here?
 - d. God's Self-Existence makes MY existence make sense!

II. GOD IS SELF-SUFFICIENT...

A. ISN'T SELF-EXISTENCE & SELF-SUFFICIENCY THE SAME?

1. No...

Self-Existence touches the Eternality of God and the fact that He is the Uncaused Cause...
2. The Self-Sufficiency of God points to the truth that God does not **NEED** anything to exist or to continue to exist forever...

B. GOD NEEDS NOTHING...

1. *(EXMP) Have you ever heard a Young Man or Young Woman say, "I don't need anything or anybody!"*
 - If you're older, you realize that kind of statement comes more from pride, ego & ignorance rather than knowledge...
 - We DO need certain things...
(Food, Water, Clothing, Shelter)
 - Despite the pride and ego of the Young Man or Woman, we are **NOT** Self-Sufficient!
2. Only God can claim absolute Self-Sufficiency!

Psa 50:10-12 [God] "For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness."

C. GOD IS LIFE...

1. Everything springs from this life-giving God...

Joh 5:26 "...the Father has life in Himself,..."

 - a. Tozer said, "He [Jesus] thus in a brief sentence sets forth **truth** so lofty as to transcend the highest reaches of human thought. God, He said, is self-sufficient; He is what He is in Himself, in the final meaning of those words."
 - b. Your life is a result of God's Self-Sufficiency and His Grace!
2. No one can boast Self-Sufficiency but God alone!

D. RELEVANCE...?

1. God holds the Universe together...

Col 1:13-17 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, **and in Him all things consist.**

(CEV) God's Son was before all else, and **by him everything is held together.**

(MSG) He was there before any of it came into existence and **holds it all together right up to this moment.**

2. Every Second you continue to breath... is because God is Self-Sufficient!

III. GOD IS OMNISCIENT...

A. OMNISCIENCE = ALL-KNOWING...

1. God possesses perfect knowledge of ALL things, past, present, future, alternate realities.
 - a. There is nothing that God does not know...
 - b. Not only does God know all things, He knows all things EXHAUSTIVELY!
2. The past, present, and future perfectly, completely & absolutely...

Isa 46:9 I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done.

3. God even knows alternate realities...

Mat 11:20-24 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, **they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.** But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, **it would have remained until this day.** But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

- a. God's omniscience is such that He can tell what would have happened under a different set of circumstances!
- b. This is called Middle Knowledge...
(It robs you of excuses..."If I would have known...")

B. THE BIBLE POINTS TO GOD'S OMNISCIENCE...

Job 37:16 Do you know the balancing of the clouds, the wondrous works of Him **who is perfect in knowledge.**

Hebrews 4:13 And **no creature is hidden from his sight**, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Psalms 147:4,5 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: **His understanding is infinite.**

Psa 44:20,21 If we had forgotten the name of our God, Or stretched out our hands to a foreign god, Would not God search this out? For **He knows the secrets of the heart.**

1 Jn 3:19-21 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; for whenever our heart condemns us, **God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything.**

Mat 10:26-30 "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.... And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

1. God perfectly & exhaustively KNOWS all things!
2. He knows how many hairs you have on your head!
(His job there is easier for some than others)

C. GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW...

1. God knows what you did last night... at exactly 10:20 PM...
...He knows where you were...
...He knows the very thought(s) in your mind...
...If you were speaking, He can recall your words...
2. God knows what you did last year...
...at exactly 10:20 PM on August 8th, 2019...
...He knows where you were...
...He knows the very thought(s) in your mind...
...If you were speaking, He can recall your words...
3. God knows what you did 20 Years ago...
...at exactly 10:20 PM on August 8th, 2000...
...He knows where you were...
...He knows the very thought(s) in your mind...
...If you were speaking, He can recall your words...

NOW MULTIPLY THAT BY EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY HOUR OF EVERYDAY OF EVERY YEAR OF EVERY LIFE x 7 BILLION!

NOW MULTIPLY THAT BY A UNIVERSE OF STARS, PLANETS, ASTEROIDS, COMETS, ETC... (He knows what's under every rock on every planet!)

NOW MULTIPLY THAT BY AN UNSEEN REALM FILLED WITH ANGELS, ARCH-ANGELS, SERAPHIM, CHERUBIM, BEYOND NUMBER!

NOW MULTIPLY THAT BY THE THOUGHTS OF ALL CREATURES IN ALL WORLDS IN ALL REALMS!

4. If you can follow that illustration to its limited but immense depth... you've only touched the idea of Omniscience!

Psa 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

D. RELEVANCE...?

1. We forget that God is watching...

Psa 33:13,14 The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth;

2. Actually, God's Omniscience can work in our favor as much as it can work against us...

Tozer...

In the divine omniscience we see set forth against each other the terror and fascination of the Godhead. That God knows each person through and through can be a cause of shaking fear to the man that has something to hide - some unforsaken sin, some secret crime committed against man or God. The unblessed soul may well tremble that God knows the flimsiness of every pretext and never accepts the poor excuses given for sinful conduct, since He knows perfectly the real reason for it. "Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance."

And to us who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope that is set before us in the gospel, how sweet is the knowledge that our Heavenly Father knows us completely. No talebearer can inform on us, no enemy can make an accusation stick; no forgotten skeleton can come tumbling out of some hidden closet to abash us and expose our past; no unsuspected weakness in our characters can come to light to turn God away from us, since He knew us utterly before we knew Him and called us to Himself in the full knowledge of everything that was against us.

3. God KNOWS You... Completely... Exhaustively... Warts and all... and He still calls you!
4. God IS Omniscient!

IV. GOD IS OMNIPOTENT...

A. OMNIPOTENCE = ALL-POWERFUL

Rev 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia: for the Lord God **omnipotent** reigneth."

1. The Word translated here is the same word for "Almighty"
 - a. It is used 10 times in the NT...
 - b. The Parallel word in the OT... El Shaddai... "God Almighty"
2. The word, "Almighty" - 57 times in the Bible ...always and **ONLY**... in reference to God!
God ALONE is ALMIGHTY!

3. Tozer...

Sovereignty and omnipotence must go together. One cannot exist without the other. To reign, God must have power, and to reign sovereignly, He must have *all* power.

Since He has at His command all the power in the universe, the Lord God omnipotent can do anything as easily as anything else. All His acts are done without effort. He expends no energy that must be replenished. His self-sufficiency makes it unnecessary for Him to look outside of Himself for a renewal of strength. All the power required to do all that He wills to do lies in undiminished fullness in His own infinite being.

4. The Universe is 93 billion light years across...
God could have made a billion universes and He would not be one iota weary/tired!

B. UNDERSTAND THE LIMITS OF POWER...

1. There are some things God cannot do...

God **cannot** lie...

Heb 6:18 ...it was impossible for God to lie,...

- God cannot fail to fulfill a promise... If He did so, He would be a liar...
- That's why I KNOW the 2nd Coming will happen... "*I will come again...*"

God **cannot** change...

Mal 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; ...

- This means God cannot stop being God...
- He will never change or cease to be!

2. Some things are **NOT** subject to Power...

2 Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

1 Ti 2:3,4 ...God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

God wants ALL MEN to be saved... Yet MOST will be lost...

Mat 7:13,14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

- Most people will be lost...

- That is NOT God's Will...

BUT because God has Sovereignly decreed that men should have "Free Will" as to their accepting or rejecting of God...

Man's "Free Will" is NOT subject to Power...

This doesn't diminish from God's Omnipotence, on the contrary, it compliments it...

God is powerful enough to allow His creatures to have freedom of choice and provide them with a means by which they can return to Him and be saved!

3. God is Omnipotent... ALL POWERFUL!

C. THE SCRIPTURES ARE CLEAR...

Job 42:2 I know that **thou canst do everything**, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.

Jer 32:17 Alas, Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and **there is nothing too hard for thee:**

Jer 32:27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: **is there anything too hard for me?"**

Isa 43:13 I am God and always will be. **No one can escape from my power; no one can change what I do."**

D. RELEVANCE...?

1. God has delegated all Power and All Authority to Christ...

Mat 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth...

Joh 5:22 "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:"

2 Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Jud 1:14,15 "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all..."

2. There IS a Great Day coming!
3. You will stand before an ALL-POWERFUL Judge who has ALL AUTHORITY, and Your Eternal Destiny will be decided by your actions here...

Mat 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

4. When you and I stand in Judgment before this ALL-POWERFUL God... I dare you to look over at me and say, "His Power is NOT relevant!"
5. God is Omnipotent!

V. GOD IS OMNI-PRESENT...

A. OMNI-PRESENCE = GOD IS EVERYWHERE...

1. This must not be confused with Pantheism...
(The belief that God is everything and everything is God)
 - It Pantheism is true then I am God...etc...
 - Pantheism is not taught in Scripture...
2. The Bible DOES teach that God is Everywhere at one time and at all times...
 - Remember, God sits outside the limits of space & time...
 - He is not subject to time, gravity, space, distance, matter...
 - He exists IN & BEYOND all THINGS!
3. He is Omni-Present!

B. THE BIBLE POINTS TO THIS TRUTH...

Psa 139:7-10 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Jer 23:23,24 "Am I a God at hand," saith the LORD, "and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him?" saith the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" saith the LORD.

1 Ki 8:27 [Solomon] "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

1. God is Everywhere at Every time...
2. He is here... in a unique and special way...

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

C. RELEVANCE...?

1. For the Christian, this Special Presence of the Lord, as mentioned by Christ, is sacred...
 - a. God is with you, no matter what you are facing!
 - b. He is with you every moment...

Mat 28:20 ...lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
 - c. One of the most comforting passages to the Christian is Ps 23...

Psa 23:1-6 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: **for thou art with me**; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.
2. The Omnipresence of God is MOST important to the Christian... It is our comfort!
3. IS GOD WITH YOU... IN A SPECIAL WAY?

CONCLUSION:

A. UNDERSTANDING GOD...

1. I'm Finished... for this lesson...

Like the Little Girl with the Crayons drawing a Picture of God, I hope you can see Him a little more clearly...

2. God wants you to KNOW HIM!

B. THERE'S MORE... BUT...

1. I'll close with this story...

A four-year-old was at the pediatrician for a check up. As the doctor looked down her ears with an otoscope, he asked, "Do you think I'll find Big Bird in here?"

The little girl stayed silent.

Next, the doctor took a tongue depressor and looked down her throat. He asked, "Do you think I'll find the Cookie Monster down there?"

Again, the little girl was silent.

Then the doctor put a stethoscope to her chest. As he listened to her heart beat, he asked, "Do you think I'll hear Barney in there?"

"Oh, no!" the little girl replied. "Jesus is in my heart... Barney's on my drawers."

2. If we listened to your heart this morning, what would we hear? Better yet, **who** would we hear?
3. Who's in your heart?