

GOD – HIS EXISTENCE, HIS CREATION AND HIS NATURE -2

In connection with having a relationship with God, consider these eight spiritual truths:

1. God exists and wants to have deep fellowship with you (Genesis 1: 1; 3: 8; 12:1-3; John 15: 1-17; 17: 20-21; James 2: 23; John 14: 23).
2. Everyone needs a Savior because man is sinful (because of the fall), separated from God and cannot save himself (Romans 3: 21-26; Ephesians 2: 8-10).
3. Everyone needs love and forgiveness (John 3: 16; 1 John 4: 7-12; Acts 2: 38; 22: 16; John 8: 1-11).
4. You are not always going to be here and after death the judgment will come so you need to prepare for eternity (Hebrews 9: 27; Matthew 24: 36-44; 25: 1-13).
5. You need to give your life to God so that you can be forgiven and have purpose in your life (Ephesians 1: 7; Acts 22: 16; 1 John 1: 7; Psalm 138: 8; Ephesians 1: 4).
6. Jesus died for your sins, was raised from the dead and is God's only provision for sins (1 John 2: 2; John 3: 16; Acts 2: 38; John 1: 10-13; Romans 5: 9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:1-58).
7. By his grace God has given you a way to be saved – receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be united with him through believing, repenting, confessing and being baptized. After you have received God's grace in this way, God promised that you would receive forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit in your heart (gift or baptism of the Holy Spirit). You will also be a Christian or Christ follower, in God's church, reconciled to God, redeemed, and clothed with Christ (**Galatians 3: 27**). All this is Christ's work in you (**Colossians 2: 11-12**).

Romans 3: 23-24 says: *"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."*

John 14: 6 - Jesus said, *"I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* **Romans 6: 23** says, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* **Romans 6: 3** says, *"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?"* In **Acts 2: 38** Peter told the people, *"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. And you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* **Romans 10: 9** says, *"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* **Jesus said**, *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" - John 5: 24.* **John 3: 16** says, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* Jesus said, *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" - John 10: 10.* John says in **1 John 5: 13**, *"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."*

8. It is important that you continue to trust God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit every day in deep devotion through prayer, study of God's word, fellowship with other Christians and sharing your faith with others (Proverbs 3: 5-6; John 14: 1-2; Romans 8: 26-27; Philippians 4: 6-7; Psalm 119: 97, 105; 1 Timothy 4: 16; 2 Timothy 1: 15; 3: 16; Hebrews 10: 24-25; Matthew 28: 19-20).

5. TO FULLY ANSWER THE QUESTION OF WHO GOD IS WE MUST LOOK AT JESUS BECAUSE JOHN 1: 18 SAYS HE REVEALS THE FATHER.

What aspects of God, as demonstrated by Jesus, do you see in these verses:

The first three are answered for you to show you how to answer the others.

John 1: 14 – Answer: God is for us so much that he sent his Son in the flesh to reveal himself to us. So, we see the care, love, and deep understanding of God through the incarnation of Jesus.

John 3: 16-18 – Answer: We see the deep love of God by his giving his only Son to us so that we might believe in him and have eternal life. We also see that God is a God who wants to save instead of condemn.

Mark 1: 40-45 – Answer: We see that God is compassionate on those the world casts out and are afraid to touch. God touches the untouchable. God cares about our loneliness, feelings of shame and sickness.

Mark 2: 1-12 _____

Mark 2: 13-17 _____

John 8: 31; 10: 7-10; 5: 24 _____

John 8: 45-47 _____

John 5: 1-15; Mark 7: 9-13 _____

John 8: 1-15 _____

John 8: 26-27 _____

1 John 4: 10-12; Acts 2: 36-39 _____

John 3: 18; 5: 28-30; Luke 13: 1-8 _____

Luke 4: 14-27 _____

1 Peter 4: 12-19 _____

Luke 23: 34; Romans 5: 6-8 _____

Luke 23: 39-43 _____

John 2:12-25 _____

Mark 4: 1-20; 7: 17-23 _____

1 Peter 2: 19-25; 3: 13-17; 2 Timothy 3: 10-12 _____

2 Corinthians 13: 4 _____

Matthew 28: 19-20 _____

ANSWERS TO THE VERSES ABOUT JESUS WHO HELP US UNDERSTAND WHO GOD IS.

John 1: 14 - God cares that we know him through the human nature of Jesus.

Mark 2: 13-17 - God's love for all people, even those who are considered to be the worst sinners. Levi was a hated tax collector, but Jesus called him to follow him anyway. Jesus even had table fellowship with sinners so he could bring them to God.

John 3: 16-18 - God wants to save people, not condemn.

Mark 1: 40-45 - God cares for the ones society shuns.

Mark 2: 1-12 - God cares for the sick, both spiritually and physically.

John 8: 31; 10:7-10; John 5: 24 - God desires that people have true freedom and have life abundantly both here and eternally.

John 8: 45-47 - God considers it important to tell the truth even if people do not listen

John 5: 1-15; Mark 7: 9-13 - God cares about people more than religious commands or activities.

John 8: 1-15 - God cares for the everyday physical needs of people.

John 8: 26-27 - God desires that people seek eternal life instead of just working for food for this life.

1 John 4: 10-12; Acts 2: 36-39 - God's incredible love for the whole world as seen in his sacrifice of his Son on the cross and His giving us a way to be saved.

John 3: 18; 5: 28-30; Luke 13: 1-8 - God tells us the truth about eternal punishment and heaven even if it is hard to hear.

1 Peter 4: 12-19 - We see through the sufferings of Christ that God cares about our sufferings because the sufferings of Christ give us a deep way to understand our own sufferings.

Luke 23: 34; Romans 5: 6-8 - God is full of love, grace and forgiveness.

Luke 23: 39-43 - God is concerned that people have second chances

John 2:12-25 - God does not always fit our categories.

Mark 4: 1-20; 7: 17-23). God's emphasis on the heart more than the outward things

1 Peter 2: 19-25; 3: 13-17; 2 Timothy 3: 10-12 - God speaks openly about how difficult the way of Christ will be. In other words, God does not just speak of how good things are going to be in our lives if we become followers of Jesus. He is clear in letting us know that persecutions will come.

2 Corinthians 13: 4, "**For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you.**" God's power is seen in his turning weakness into strength like he did when he turned the weakness of the cross into victory and power by raising Jesus from the dead.

Matthew 28: 19-20 - God has a concern for the lost and that all nations hear the gospel.

Recommended books on the subject of God:

If you would like to read a very good book on God and his nature the book called *Knowing God* by J. I. Packer is great. Another good book is, *You God is too Small* by J. B. Phillips. This book explains about some false conceptions of God and then explains what an adequate view of God Isaiah If you would like to go even deep on this subject of God please read the book, *Great is the Lord*, by Ron Highfield (2008). *The Jesus I Never Knew*, by Phillip Yancey. Note: For the answers to the above verses see appendix-3.