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**Because  
He Is God**

**#1238-B**

**Series: The Character of God**

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INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

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# Because He Is God

Silence was the order of the night. Above, the glow of tiny stars seemed to stand like tiny sentinels on guard against the darkness. The sun's first rays of warmth and light were yet some three hours from casting their beams of hope into the chasm of black that surrounded all of life. And yet, the hope of all mankind once again seemed to rest upon the promise that light would yet come and extinguish the venom of darkness that made all of life so unmanageable.

The soldiers stood, prepared for the enemy to attack at any time. They knew that the black of night made them easy prey for those who lurked beyond that grove of trees that separated them from those whose goal it was to kill them. One young recruit, who had never seen combat before, huddled in his tent on his knees, hands folded as if praying. An old warrior, who had made war a way of life, laughed in derision at the youngster. "What are you doing, praying for victory?" the old trooper laughed. "No sir", the young private responded, "I was just prayin' that God would get his batteries recharged so the sun would come up a little sooner."

It sounds silly, but that concept of God is not unlike the one that pervades the church of the Living God today. We are not ashamed to pray; we are not ashamed to admit being afraid; we are not even afraid to acknowledge that it is God who lights the sun and extinguishes the darkness. But to many in this age of man-made technology and humanistic theology, mankind seems to live in fear that God's alkaline batteries that recharge the sun are inadequate to make it through the night as the enemy hovers over us, seemingly so ready to attack at any moment. And so the church makes big noises, but lives in anemic fear of the circumstances of life that appear to be crushing it on every side.

It is not as though we deny the existence of God. What we deny, by our actions, if not our lofty words, is the awesome acknowledgment of just how powerful, how wonderful, how incredibly beyond understanding our God is. We do live, Beloved,

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as though God's about to run out of steam. We do live as though the enemy is about to overtake the church because God's power can't recharge itself fast enough.

The world about us hears what we say about God's Calvary power, but what they see in our lives demonstrates that we belong to a God who is suffering either from an incurable disease or hopeless lethargy.

What we sing in our hymns about power and might and casting out the night sound like empty words of meaningless chatter when we are confronted with the gunfire of the real world on Monday morning. And so we either lean towards the coldness that accompanies hypocrisy, or we seek out new spiritual experiences that put God on some kind of a performance-based bandwagon to prove Himself on a daily basis.

Beloved, God is! And because He is, we need not fear the night. We need not fear the enemy's taunts. We need not fear the future. We need not fear that impending catastrophe that hangs over our life like a crushing cloud ready to dump its deluge of doom at a moment's notice. Because God is we need not fear at all!

As we begin looking at the specific attributes of God, our prayer is that our hearts will bow in utter awe at His majesty and His power.

Our first look at God's nature must take us to the very essence of His being...the fact that He IS God. Before we can look at His power, His wisdom, His love, or His grace, we must look at His supremacy: that aspect of His being that so sets Him apart from man that comparisons with man become meaningless. Beloved, God cannot be measured on any human scale. There are many aspects of His supremacy; and were we to give adequate time to each, we would be decades into eternity. But we must, at least, take an overview, because it is at this point in our study that we come to the inescapable conclusion that "our God is past finding out". It's much like looking at still photographs of the Grand Canyon. We can get enough of a glimpse to long to go there, but we certainly cannot catch even a tiny fraction of its awesome beauty. All we can do is take snapshots from the Word and try to get a two-dimensional, relatively well-focused image of God's supremacy. We won't be able to really drink it in until that day when we see Him face to face.

There are hundreds of ways to outline or divide this topic.

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The way we delineate His different attributes is not the issue. We must simply see them in ways that we can understand, so that we will be changed by them. Let us then proceed to look at those characteristics of God's nature that are not in any way reproduced in us because they are elements of His Deity.

Our title and our outline are as follows: Because He Is...God!

I- He is Incomprehensible

II- He Is Supreme

III- He is God

### HE IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE

We begin our walk into the wonders of God's nature by acknowledging that while we are commanded to know certain things about God, we are capable of knowing Him only in part. Our finite minds and our sinful natures prohibit us from seeing Him as He really is, and yet we know that Paul's driving desire was "to know Him in all His resurrection power". God is incomprehensible. We cannot grasp the magnitude of who He is, and yet we must not allow the fact that He is incomprehensible to deter us from our search into the vast reaches of Scriptural revelation. As we stand at the shore of the Atlantic Ocean filled with awe at the expanse of it all, we suddenly realize that fathoming its depths and spanning its reaches are beyond our abilities. We simply cannot even imagine all that lurks beneath its surfaces; and were we to don the proper gear and plummet its depths, all we would know would be that which would be visible at the place we were at the time. Yet we do not shrink from learning all we can learn, knowing that the little we are able to grasp will but fill us with wonder all the more, and whet our appetites the more for what lies beyond our grasp. And so it is with God.

*His knowledge is incomprehensible...*

We cannot even begin to comprehend His magnificent knowledge. Paul wrote of it this way:

Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?

Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

(Romans 11:34-36 NIV)

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Paul is asking a significant question. He is asking who has ever dared to think that they comprehend the wisdom of God? Who has dared to claim they understand Him well enough to talk to Him as one who counsels another peer? Who has ever even so much as thought they knew as much as God about anything, including living their own life? How can they give God insight? In fact, how can they give God anything? What does He need that you have? Everything that exists came from Him, and everything that lives, lives by His power. And all of life exists only to return glory to Him. So, Paul concludes, “to Him be glory forever. Amen.”

Today’s so called “theology” that gives man more and more authority in determining God’s plan and God’s purpose, and places less and less emphasis on the infallibility of His absolutes and the leading of His Spirit is robbing the church of its dependence on the incomprehensible knowledge of God. You cannot even fathom how to begin to grasp how much God knows. It is beyond your ability to comprehend. He not only knows everything, He knew it before it happened, knows why it happened, knows how it will affect everything yet to come, and knows the deep ramifications of how what has happened will affect every person it touches down to the generations yet unborn.

And yet understanding that, we have yet to comprehend a tenth of a tenth of a tenth of a trillionth of the unfathomable wisdom and knowledge of God. That’s why Paul’s letter reads like this:

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

(Romans 11:36, 12:1 NIV)

God’s mind is beyond our comprehension. Likewise...

*His power is incomprehensible...*

Probably nothing about God is more removed from our ability to relate to human terms than His power. We simply cannot comprehend the power of God. If we did, we would not live such faithless, powerless, impotent spiritual existences. We would be on fire with Calvary power! If we could grasp even a fraction of a fragment of how powerful He is, our faces would be aglow with the light that power releases.

There is His creative power. The Psalmist wrote:

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O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise  
because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the  
moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that  
you care for him?

Oh, LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the  
earth!  
(Psalm 8:1-4,9 NIV)

Again in Psalm 19:1, we read:

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the  
work of his hands. (NIV)

And Psalm 102:25 says:

In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the  
heavens are the work of your hands. (NIV)

You and I belong to a God who only needed to breathe a word and the heavens in all their splendor flowed from His heart into being. The clouds formed silken pillows upon which the angelic host would one day lay their heads. He uttered a word and the sun hurled itself forth from the Light of His eyes and became the beacon man would need to distinguish day from night. He breathed into it, and such warmth flowed forth that its glow sends heat into the atmosphere enough to set the planets ablaze. But He spoke again, and the thermostat of eternity was forever fixed in the sun's soul, and it sends out only enough heat to warm us, rather than enough to destroy us. He moved His hands, and the stars flew from His fingertips into the heavens to become tiny sentinels marking the horizon with an echo of God's love. Such power spoke them into being. Such love made each of them different and gave each of them a name of its own.

He breathed another word and the earth came out of nothing. He did not take something He had and redesign it. He made it from nothing and fashioned it just as His heart desired. Into its crevices, pre-formed in eternity past, He poured just enough of a precious creation called water to sustain life and to paint an indelible portrait of Living Water yet to come. He poured it in love, and rivers rose out of nothing; oceans filled with God's life came forth. He spoke again, and the waters reached their prescribed boundaries and went not an inch beyond. Think about it, Beloved;

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all of life came forth from His lips, and yet we have not seen nor even considered a tiny portion of His creative power.

One day soon, He will speak again and a new heaven and a new earth will flow down from God out of heaven. All things will become new, and all because our Creator God said it. Is it any wonder we are admonished to read His precious Word? If what He says possesses that much power, how can we not appropriate that power daily by drinking of His awesome utterances?

The power of His righteous judgment is beyond our understanding, as well. If we fathomed only a tiny, tiny fragment of that power, we would not toy with sin as we do. God is so patient; yet beyond His patience lies judgment. And because His love is so real, we ignore His awesome Righteousness. Oh, but, dear one, when His patience has run its course in this world and in our individual lives, He must move His hand of discipline. And were He not to temper that discipline with grace, we would all be destroyed. Read what Habakkuk said:

He stood, and shook the earth; he looked, and made the nations tremble. The ancient mountains crumbled and the age-old hills collapsed. His ways are eternal.

The mountains saw you and writhed. Torrents of water swept by; the deep roared and lifted its waves on high.

Sun and moon stood still in the heavens at the glint of your flying arrows, at the lightning of your flashing spear.

In wrath you strode through the earth and in anger you threshed the nations.

You came out to deliver your people, to save your anointed one. You crushed the leader of the land of wickedness, you stripped him from head to foot.

(Habakkuk 3:6,10-13 NIV)

Why we no longer have a fear of God's wrath I do not know. In Job 26, we read:

Death is naked before God; Destruction lies uncovered.

He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing.

He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight.

The pillars of the heavens quake, aghast at his rebuke.

By his breath, the skies became fair; his hand pierced the

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gliding serpent.

And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! Who then can understand the thunder of his power?  
(Job 26:6-8;11;13-14 NIV)

The God of Eternity has not lost His power. Still, he but speaks and the heavens tremble. He coughs and thunder shakes the skies. He blinks an eye and the world is flooded with showers of rain. He smiles and the rains cease. Gentle winds begin to blow. He frowns and the winds intensify until they shake the very foundations of the earth. And yet, the thunder of His power, who can really grasp it?

Do we who so toy with sin even consider the thunder of His judgment power? Will that power not one day be unleashed in just a portion of its righteous wrath? And will not the entire earth and all that is in it be consumed instantly in the raging inferno of the anger of a Holy God? Will not Satan and his demonic host be sentenced to an eternal imprisonment where the fire is never quenched? And will not God's amazing power keep him in the midst of those flames forever?

Oh, Beloved, the power of our God. The wisdom of our God. These are just two of a seemingly unlimited list of His attributes that man cannot even fathom. We cannot comprehend the mind of God or the authority of God. It is beyond our understanding, so we put it into the reducing chamber of the fleshly mind and reproduce the attributes of man in some kind of accelerated fashion and call it "theology".

### HE IS SUPREME

Though His ways are "past finding out" and we cannot comprehend the "thunder of His power", we are nonetheless to give our lives to progressively coming to "know Him". He is supreme. That means that what He is, we aren't. What we are, He's not. God isn't a "better" man. We aren't "lesser Gods". Yes, we were created in His image, that is, to reflect His likeness; but man chose to rebel and mar that image. But even had Adam not sinned, he would not have been a co-god with Jehovah. The lie of Satan in the garden was "what right does God have to tell you what to do?" The answer was "every right...He's God, you're not." We possess none of the attributes of God apart from His indwelling Spirit, and even "in Christ" we only possess those qualities of God that He chooses to impart to His creation; we simply were not made to become



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creators. We are the creatures.

Only when we progressively envision the difference between us and God do we progressively come to worship. Job finally got the picture. The message Jehovah had to keep telling him was: “Where were you when God was creating? Why can’t you have an arm like God’s? Why can’t you order it to rain; or fashion the snowflake; or arm the lion with strength and power? If you’re so smart, Job, why can’t you do what God can do? It is because you’re not God, Job.”

The Scripture records that when the light finally broke through in Job’s mind, he cried out to God and repented in dust and ashes. And so will we. He is God. Because He is God, His indescribable power and His incomprehensible wisdom are the keys to releasing in us a portion of that power, allowing us to live holy lives; and by releasing a fraction of that wisdom, allowing us to make godly decisions and have insight into spiritual things.

Oh, that the church of today would recapture a vision of who God is. We are so busy organizing for God and promoting for God and acting for God and singing for God and preaching for God that we begin to reverse our roles and see our feeble attempts to be religious as necessary additions to the program of eternity. Beloved, God does not need us. We need Him. He is self-sufficient. Even before there was man, God was. Even before the sun shone, God was. Before ever there was night or day there was God. And because He can never change, if He did not need man then, He does not need man now. He created us as a free, sovereign act of His divine will.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will,

In order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11,12 NIV)

He chose to create us; He chose to call us; He chose to love us, even in our sins. But, He does not need us to be complete. Try to envision God, not as a struggling Deity trying desperately to maintain control in a losing battle in your life, or in the struggle over control of this planet, but rather as Isaiah did:

He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this

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world to nothing.

(Isaiah 40:22,23 NIV)

We get so caught up in the traumas of day-to-day living, of broken homes and broken hearts and broken dreams, of children, and churches, and houses and cars, of appointments and “deals” and last-minute interruptions, that we think God is down here struggling like us to get through the day. We forget that God made the day. If God needed more time, the sun would stand still once again. If God needed more light, He could create ten more suns, hundreds of moons, and billions of stars. If God were ready and His plan was complete, Satan’s bold attack on our lives and our fellowships would be meaningless. The God who is would simply blink an eye and this world, as we know it, would cease to be. The enemy would be imprisoned for eternity in a hell created just for him, and all of life would be restored to the kind of holiness God meant life to have when He spoke it into being.

God’s not in trouble, but we are, the minute we stop realizing who He is. He is supreme. He is self-sufficient. He does not need us to be complete. He is self-existent. He is sovereign. He is God. And, oh, what a change will take place in the mediocre, lukewarm lives some of us live when we finally grasp who He is.

I’m going to ask you a question: “How important is it to you to know God in all His fullness?” Important enough for you to spend the rest of your life searching His Word for clues to His being? Important enough for you to worship Him day and night for who He is? Important enough for you to stop playing church and trying to “do for God” long enough to acknowledge that you can add nothing to Him, but He can be everything to you?

### HE IS GOD!

He is...God! That’s what matters. And because He is God, nothing else matters. Moses had the big picture. We read those incredible words:

The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.  
(Exodus 33:11 NIV)

Here was a man whose fellowship with the living God was so intimate, so continual, that his God was literally his best friend. That ought to have satisfied just about anyone, but not Moses. We read:

Moses said to the LORD, “You have been telling me, ‘lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send

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with me.' You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.'

If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

The LORD replied, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."  
(Exodus 33:12-14 NIV)

"Teach me your ways so that I may know you and continue to find favor with you." What a prayer to pray these next few months. "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." What an answer from the Creator God Himself. But that did not satisfy Moses. He so longed to know His God more personally, that we read:

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory!"  
(Exodus 33:18 NIV)

Here was God's reply:

And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

"But," He said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

Then the LORD said, "There is a place near Me where you may stand on a rock.

"When My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

"Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but My face must not be seen."  
(Exodus 33:19-23 NIV)

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD.

(Exodus 34:5 NIV)

In that brief exchange between God's man and man's God, lies the key to intimacy with our Lord, and the key to appropriating His transforming power as we journey through the magnificent forest of towering giants of glory, looking at who He is.

1- Notice that Moses had already established a kind of intimate, personal, daily walk with God that serves as a pattern for all of us for all time.

He wasn't looking for God to do something magnificent so he

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could trust Him. He already had learned to trust Him, day by day. So close were they, that “the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend”. There was nothing between them. No barriers. Moses had spent the last forty or fifty years getting to know God in the dry and barren wilderness of loneliness, and in the fire of spiritual leadership. In both cases, he had continued to walk with God.

That’s the secret. We are always wanting God to reveal Himself in some kind of supernatural way to either excite us or guide us. God wants us to spend such constant, quality time in His presence day by day that we know Him simply from being in His presence. We would rather do almost anything else. He would rather we do almost nothing else.

### 2- Notice that Moses knew Jehovah’s Word.

In verse 12, he said, “Lord you have been telling me...” In other words, “Based on your own words, I hereby make this request..” There, you see, is the secret to power in prayer: so knowing the mind of God through the Word of God that you can pray for the will of God without apology.

### 3- Notice what Moses asked for. He asked God to teach him His ways, so he could know Him and continue to please Him.

This was the driving desire of this man’s heart. He wasn’t coming to God for “quick-fixes” to make his hard life easier. He only wanted to know God more intimately, and he knew that to do that, God would have to “teach him His ways”.

Going to God to learn of His ways is not the way most of us pray. Most of us go to God to tell him of our ways. No wonder we miss that level of intimacy that Moses experienced. Moses knew that God was God! He knew Him as his friend, but never did He even imply he was his Friend’s equal. And so his heart’s desire was to know the Father’s ways. The Father’s ways are higher than ours, for the Father is God. Moses didn’t want to be God, he wanted to know God so he could please God.

### 4- Notice Moses’ incredible final request.

Here was a man so close to his God that Jehovah spoke to him as a friend. Here was a man bold enough to ask that God teach him His ways. Now, in gentle boldness, Moses asks the question of questions: “Father, show me Your Glory!” I suspect that all the

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courts of heaven fell silent at that request. I wonder if the angels did not cease their anthems of praise for only a moment and fold their wings in awe. God's friend asks God to reveal who He is.

5- Notice God's response. He did not scold Moses for asking. He said three things.

- a- *"I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My Name."* God said, "Moses, I will reveal My nature to you. I will tell you who I am." (Thank you for asking.)
- b- *"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."* He reminded Moses that He was God. He said, "I'll show you who I AM, but first I will remind you that I AM. I AM the Creator God who demonstrates mercy and grace according to His own sovereign will because He is God."
- c- *"You cannot see My face."* God said, "Moses, I'll show you who I am, but you are not equipped to see Me in all My glory. One day, you will. One day, the veil will be removed, and you will see Me face to face. But for now, Moses, "There is a place near Me, where you may stand on a rock. When My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by."

Oh, dear Christian, here is the heartbeat of knowing God. Here is God's man or woman so desirous of knowing God intimately that he or she literally falls on his face before God and His Word and prays to be "taught the ways of God".

These are not easy prayers to pray. God sometimes has to take us to deserts far away to teach us His ways. God sometimes has to take from us what we thought we had to have to teach us His ways. God sometimes has to lead us through waters deep or by drying brooks to teach us His ways. But if we ask Him sincerely, He will teach us.

But the greatest joy of all comes when we can, in the midst of being taught His ways, honestly take His Word before Him and pray, "Lord, show me Your Glory! Lord, I want to know who you are." Then humble yourself and be prepared. He will allow His goodness to pass before you, and He will proclaim His Name... "The Lord". Never will He be less than God. He will have mercy on whom He will; He will demonstrate compassion on whom He will, because He is God.

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Because He is...God, He can demonstrate His glory only to the degree that we are able to receive it. We are able to receive it, Paul said, *"...in ever increasing splendor, from one degree of glory to another"* (II Corinthians 3:18, The Amplified Bible). What will He say? What will He do when we ask to see His glory? He will respond, "Beloved, there is a place near Me where you may stand on a rock. When My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with My hand. Then I will remove My hand, and you will see...just as much of My nature as you are able to receive."

God is supreme! He is God and there is no other. He is not like us, and we must not fashion Him as such, or we lose the capacity to behold His glory. But though He is God, and we cannot grasp all He is; if we ask, and if we listen to His Word, He will find a place near Him. He will place us on "the Rock", and He will reveal His goodness and His mercy and His grace to the degree He knows we can appropriate it.

Dare we settle for anything less? Dare we live out our Christian lives having never longed to search out the depths of His nature? I think not. I think, perhaps, it is time for some of us to humble ourselves as never before and simply pray this one sentence to God. "Lord, show me your glory!" He will.

Let's pray.

*Our Father and our God,*

*Who You are is beyond our ability to comprehend. When we begin to think of Your power, our minds race in a million directions, and then we realize that we cannot even begin to fathom the beginning.*

*We think about Your wisdom, Father, and how awesome it is and our minds cannot grasp it. And, yet, though we cannot totally comprehend who You are, we can progressively know who You are through Your Word. And so we thank You.*

*Some of us, Father, like Moses, want to come to You this morning and bow at Your feet and thank You that You speak to us face to face through Your Word, even as a man speaks to his friend.*

*Beyond that, Father, we need to ask You to teach us Your ways, whatever it costs, whatever it takes. Draw us into the heavenlies beyond the ways of man into the ways of God. Give us understanding.*

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*And beyond that, Father, there may even be some here this morning that from the depths of their souls are crying out, "Oh, dear God, show me Your glory". May You, in the days to come, take those and place them in the cleft of the rock close to Your side and allow their eyes to behold increasingly more and more of the wonder of the God who Is. And as we behold Your glory may we rest because You are everything.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

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A Challenge to Further Study

1- Review the four reasons we must search out the attributes of God on a deeper level. They were:

- a- To learn to worship more perfectly
- b- To have our character transformed by appropriating His.
- c- To get a grasp on the source of the absolutes so our obedience is not predicated simply on what we have been told to do, but also on the nature of the one who lives within us.
- d- To learn to relax and let God be Himself by realizing that because He is...we need not fear, we need not worry, we need not rebel. We need only...rest. Ask God to make these four areas real to you as we progress through this study.

2- Do you agree that we cannot fully fathom the nature of God? Do you believe that His very character is incomprehensible? Then tell God that. Pray back to God Romans 11:34-12:1, and worship.

3- Memorize Psalm 8:1-4. Ask God to use it to give you a right understanding of His nature compared to yours.

4- Meditate on Isaiah 40:22,23. Envision the majesty of God as you do. Then stop and ask God to give you a more awesome understanding of His Glory.

5- Read and re-read Exodus, chapters 33 and 34. As you do, personalize that passage by praying back to God the prayers that Moses prayed. As God answers Moses, listen carefully. He is responding to you, as well. Ask Him to show you His glory. Ask Him to place you "near Him" in the cleft of the rock as He passes by. Ask Him to show you all of His goodness in the days to come that your finite eyes can behold. Ask Him. And then, bow before Him and expect Him to do so. He delights to reveal His glory to us, but He requires that we ask, before He will.

6- Stay in God's Word daily. Search it out for the attributes of God. Ask Him to demonstrate His nature through His Word. Thank Him in advance for doing so. Expect to be changed. You will be.

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(09.21.17)