

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

A **MANNAHOUSE** RESOURCE



The Knowledge of God

**UNDERSTANDING THE
MAJESTY OF HIS LIFE AND PERSONALITY**

INTRODUCTION

There is no pursuit more valuable, exciting, transforming and enriching to the human soul than the pursuit of knowing God. The more we find Him the more we find ourselves and enjoy the experience of living we were meant to know. **The journey to know God is a journey to the very source of life, and every step provides discovery that waters our spirit with revelation and brings us into a deeper relationship with our creator.**

All of the books written by men about God with all of their insights still fall far short of revealing His fullness. As David exclaims in Psalms 145:3, "His greatness is unsearchable." This little booklet is meant only as an appetizer, something to stir us into the posture of seeking for more. Its contents mainly define His wonderful attributes, giving us some parameters to our seeking.

Our view of God must be elevated to behold Him as He has revealed Himself. Too many live life trying to conform Him to their own limited revelation and experience. Once we glimpse the awesome majesty and glory of His life and attributes we cease attempting to squeeze Him into our little package. His glory humbles us and defines our pursuit. The goal of this booklet is to increase our focus on the indescribable beauty of who He is and to capture our hearts for the pursuit of knowing Him.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Call to Know God	4	The Personal Attributes of God	19
Our Limitations in Knowing Him. . . .	5	God Revealed in Jesus Christ.	19
The Heart — Door to Relationship . . .	6	God is Love.	21
Both Personal and Transcendent	7	God is Faithful.	22
His Transcendent Attributes.	8	God is Good	23
The Trinity of God.	8	God is Just	24
God is Self Existent.	10	God is Merciful	25
God is Self Sufficient.	11	God is Full of Grace.	26
The Infinity of God	12	God is Holy.	27
God is Unchanging	13	God is All Wise	28
God is All Knowing	14	Our Compass	
God is Omnipotent	15	— His Unchanging Person	29
God is Omnipresent	16	The Power of Beholding	30
God is Eternal	17	Conclusion	31
God is Glorious.	18		

THE CALL TO KNOW GOD

“ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest (Heb. 8:11).”

It is the privilege and destiny for every believer to know the Lord! In every relationship there are varying levels of “knowing”. On one level a man knows the woman he eventually marries the moment he is first introduced, but he knows her much more after they have spent years of quality time together. Many are satisfied with a surface, introductory relationship with God, but we were created for more than this. **The mature Christian hungers for intimate fellowship and sets the course of his heart in pursuit of knowing God.** The apostle Paul, toward the end of his life and after many years of living close to God, still longed for more declaring, in Philippians 3:10, “. . . that I may know Him.”

God wants us to know Him! After the fall of mankind in Genesis 3, He repeatedly reveals Himself, culminating in the ultimate revelation of Himself in His son Jesus Christ. Through His Holy Spirit He manifests Himself to all who will receive Him. God also requires that we seek Him, that we turn our hearts toward Him with a consuming desire to know Him. “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart Jer. 29:13). **The revelation of His love, His majesty and His greatness is the drawing force upon our hearts to pursue a deeper relationship.**

OUR LIMITATIONS IN KNOWING HIM

In our pursuit of knowing God we begin with two significant handicaps. **First, in His transcendent glory and in the awesome quality of His infinite uncreated life, God is unlike anything or anyone that we have ever known.** Gazing into a starry night we are awestruck and soon find our minds overwhelmed with considerations of the vastness of the universe. The idea of millions of galaxies beyond what we see humbles our capacity to even imagine. God created it all and calls each of the stars by name (Psalms 147:4). Those recorded in scripture who have enjoyed heavenly visions of seeing His throne struggled to find adequate words and understandable reference points that would help them describe what they beheld. Ezekiel could only use the language of resemblance in describing what He saw, words such as “likeness”, “appearance”, “as it were”, and “likeness of appearance” (Ez. 1:13; 26-28).

Secondly, we rely too much on reason and understanding in our attempts to know Him. We are the created trying to understand the uncreated and the infinite. The result is that we reduce Him into our image and package Him in our own understanding. Frustration overwhelms us when things happen that challenge our mold. The reasonings of fallen men can never fully apprehend the wonder and majesty of an infinite, self-existent, omniscient God.

THE HEART-DOOR TO RELATIONSHIP

Scripture teaches us that God can only be known as the Holy Spirit performs in the seeking heart an act of self disclosure (I Cor. 3:9,10). God must reveal Himself to us. All human efforts relying on the capacities of the natural mind with its rational thinking, philosophical analysis or theological wisdom will end in frustration or error. He hides Himself from the wise and the prudent and reveals Himself to babes, those who come to Him with the innocent trusting hearts of little children (Lk. 10:21).

The only two reliable avenues to knowing God are faith and love. Faith is an organ of spiritual knowledge and links us with who He is as He has revealed Himself. The revelation of Himself shines out to us throughout scripture and is completed in the person of Jesus Christ. Love links our hearts to His. It was love that sent the Son of God to us. It must be love that receives Him and consummates the relationship.

God rewards the seeking heart. King David received the highest of commendations because he was a man after God's heart (Acts 13:22). II Chronicles 16:9 tells us that the Lord shows Himself strong to those whose hearts are loyal to Him. Those who have excelled in knowing God have done so through the heart pathways of faith and love.

BOTH PERSONAL AND TRANSCENDENT

"No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him (Jn. 1:18)."

God is both transcendent and personal in His essential being and nature. **He is transcendent in that He exists above the material universe and has qualities in His being that we can only approach in our imagination.** He is self-existent, infinite, unchanging, omnipotent, omniscient, etc. Our minds, with the best use of our imagination, still fall short of any real sense of apprehending God in His transcendent qualities. In the essential state of His being, He really is above and beyond anything we have ever known or even can know. Meditating on God in His transcendence soon leaves reason and intellect behind and gives way to a state of awe and wonder.

God is personal in His essential being. **We, as created persons made in His image, can appreciate and know Him in His personal attributes because we share in them.** The difference is that our experience and expression of these attributes of love, goodness, mercy, faithfulness, etc. is always incomplete and inconsistent. God is the perfection of each of these attributes and expresses them perfectly in the very unity of His being. The ultimate knowledge of the person and personal attributes of God are available to us through a revelation of Jesus Christ. His coming in human flesh made the transcendent God both personal and knowable.

HIS TRANSCENDENT ATTRIBUTES

In the remainder of this booklet we will look at some of the major attributes of God, both transcendent and personal. For the purpose of this booklet an attribute is defined as what God has revealed as being true of Himself. **The revelation of His attributes come through three primary sources: in His creation (Rom. 1:19,20), in the Scriptures (II Tim. 3:16), and through Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:18).** We will begin with a list of His transcendent attributes. In doing so, we must approach with a sense of awe and worship, realizing that these are the aspects least understood by the intellect and best known through faith and humility.

1. THE TRINITY OF GOD

In considering the trinity of God we are immediately standing on the holy ground of divine revelation. The Bible declares in Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one!" And yet throughout the Bible we find three persons revealed in the Godhead: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:20; Lk. 3:22; II Cor. 11:14). Jesus acknowledged His complete unity with both the Holy Spirit and the Father (Jn. 14:16-21; 17:21).

The doctrine of the trinity is truth for the heart and really known only by those who take their place as recipients of divine revelation. It challenges the mind and stumbles the intellect, nevertheless the word of God must prevail over human reason and we must accept heavenly and spiritual realities as they are presented to us.

This truth of trinity in unity in one Godhead was addressed by the council of Nicea in 318. They adopted this statement, "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only begotten Son of God, begotten of Him before all ages, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, which proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and Son together is worshiped and glorified."

The Persons of the Godhead are one and in our considerations we must never divide the divine substance nor confound the persons. The Godhead has one will and each works together in complete oneness, harmony and unity . Though aspects of God's work are often attributed more to one than the other, in every case the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are working in agreement whether in creation, redemption or regeneration.

2. GOD IS SELF EXISTENT

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 (Exod. 3:14).'"

God has no origin, no beginning and no end. He is uncreated. In a state of revelation knowledge, the Psalmist declared, "Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God (Ps. 90:2)." Jesus opens and closes His revelation to the apostle John with, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord (Rev. 1:8; 22:13)."

The idea of no beginning or end does not settle easily on created minds living in a world where everything begins somewhere at sometime. Just the consideration of it takes us to the edge of natural reasoning, where we look out and try to see what we are unable to see. As children we always received answers to the questions of "Where did I come from?" or "How did that house get there?" When we finally asked the question, "Where did God come from?" our curiosity could not be satisfied with the answer. The question itself is evidence of our own creaturehood. The inability to digest the answer, "God always was, He had no beginning!" is proof of the unbridgeable gulf between the created and the creator. God is self existent, owing His life and being to no one or no thing.

3. GOD IS SELF SUFFICIENT

"The Father has life in Himself (Jn. 5:26)."

God alone exists in a state of completeness. He has life in Himself. All other living things receive their life and existence from Him (Genesis 1), but He alone has life in Himself.

He is self sufficient and has no necessary relationship with things outside himself. Before anything was created God was complete and fulfilled in Himself. Were it possible for Him to change His mind and eliminate all of creation tomorrow, the "life He has in Himself" would be unchanged. The Godhead would continue in dynamic harmony, peace, joy, self-fulfillment, and eternal pleasure.

Once God created, He became personally, passionately, and responsibly committed to His creation and His desires and intentions for it. Though sufficient in Himself, His desires for created life combined with His overflowing love bring Him to total personal involvement with His creation.

4. THE INFINITY OF GOD

“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable (Ps. 145:3)”

King David, the author of Psalm 145, was a seeker of God, a man who spent long hours in meditation and worship, and one who received the highest of compliments when God called him “a man after My own heart. . . (Acts 13:22).” **Like all who embark on the journey to know God, David reached the point where human thought can no longer go and declared that “His greatness is unsearchable” or in other words “you are infinite!”** The word “infinite” means lacking limits or bounds; extending beyond measure or comprehension; endless, immeasurable.

Whatever God is and all that God is, He is without limit. He is infinite in not only His natural attributes (knowledge, power, wisdom, etc.), but also in His moral attributes. He is the utter fullness of love, wisdom and goodness. All that He is is without growth or development. He lives in a state of ultimate fullness that cannot be adequately qualified by thought or word.

The created mind again must give way to the adoring heart to effectively approach God in this consideration. We that live in such limitations are permanently handicapped from mentally exploring beyond a certain point. At this point we cry, “Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!”

5. GOD IS UNCHANGING

"For I am the Lord, I do not change (Mal 3:6)."

In the midst of a creation that is in constant flux, what a comfort to know that we serve a God who does not change. What peace it brings to the Christian's heart to know that our heavenly Father never differs from Himself, never is controlled by negative emotions, and never changes in His kindness and love toward us. The perfections of His perfect life and being prohibit any need to change, mature, or vary from His purposes.

God's life does not change. He does not grow stronger or weaker, older or younger nor does He gain or lose power. **God's character does not change.** He never becomes less truthful, loving, merciful, just or good. **God's truth does not change.** The most brilliant philosopher or scholar is always growing in his field and ever aware that there is much he does not know. The word of the Lord is truth and will never pass away (Mt. 24:35).

God's ways do not change. His ways are established by His perfect character and His infinite wisdom and love and therefore have no need to ever mature or alter. God's purposes do not change. What God does in time He has settled in eternity past based upon the counsel of His own wisdom and will.

6. GOD IS ALL KNOWING

"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account (Heb. 4:13)"

The Bible testifies repeatedly to the omniscience of God. He possesses perfect knowledge and therefore has no need to learn anything. In fact He has always known everything that can be known. To quote A. W. Tozer in *The Knowledge of the Holy*, "God knows instantly and effortlessly all matter and all matters, all mind and every mind, all spirit and all spirits, all being and every being, all creaturehood and all creatures, every plurality and all pluralities, all law and every law, all relations, all causes, all thoughts, all mysteries, all enigmas, all feeling, all desires, every unuttered secret, all thrones and dominions, all personalities, all things visible and invisible in heaven and in earth, motion, space, life, death, good, evil, heaven, and hell (p.56)."

The fact of God's omniscience can inspire both terror and joy. To those who have something to hide and refuse to walk in the light, the thought of His all seeing eye causes constant uneasiness and the inability to free themselves of conviction. **To those who walk in truth and under the grace of God, the thought of His constant knowledge and caring heart brings sweet comfort and deep security.**

7. GOD IS OMNIPOTENT

"And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, 'Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!' (Rev 19:6)"

The above declaration of the unlimited power of God is being joyfully proclaimed by those who are standing before Him in eternity with a clear view of His magnitude, majesty and glory.

When we say that God is omnipotent we mean that He has all power. **God possesses what no person or creation can possess, only He alone: incomprehensible and inexhaustible power, a potency and might that is absolute.** All power resident or demonstrated in nature is a manifestation of what He has delegated and given out. Yet when He gives power, He in no way depletes Himself. All that He gives still remains His own and returns again. He is forever omnipotent.

Because we are members of His covenant family, Christians can both rest and rejoice in the omnipotence of God, knowing that His power is available to us to work and perform all of His will (Eph. 3:20). He sovereignly holds and controls our past, present and future as we yield to Him.

8. GOD IS OMNIPRESENT

"Where can I go from your Spirit, and where can I flee from your presence? (Ps. 139:7)."

King David asks this rhetorical question to call attention to the futility of trying to escape from the omnipresence of God. God is uncreated spirit (Jn. 4:24) and fills all of His creation with His presence. The word "present". means to be "here, close to, next to." The word "omni" means "universality". **To be omnipresent is to be universally present. God is present, next to everyone, close to everything.**

A man named Hildebert of Lavardin states it like this, "God is over all things, under all things; outside all; within but not enclosed; without but not excluded; above but not raised up; below but not depressed; wholly above, presiding; wholly beneath, sustaining; wholly within, filling (The Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer, p.74)."

The fact of God's omnipresence personalizes the universe and man's relationship to it. All matter originates in God's Spirit, flows out of Him and is spiritual in its essence (Jn. 1:3). Our five senses limit our experience of reality to the material world, but when our spirits are regenerated by the Spirit of God, His omnipresence becomes available to us in manifestations of His personal presence (Gal. 4:6).

9. GOD IS ETERNAL

***"For thus says the High and Lofty One,
Who inhabits eternity ... (Isa 57:15)"***

God reveals Himself to man as an eternal God, a being without beginning or end, an uncreated infinite Creator. When God says that He inhabits eternity He is speaking in time language that we can understand. In fact, eternity is not a state of being separate from God but rather an attribute of Him that "fills all in all (Eph. 1:23)". **He exists, infinite, self existent, self sufficient, unchanging, and eternal, apart from anything else.**

Though God discloses to us that He possesses endless being, the combined revelation of His other attributes would bring us to this same conclusion. Moses, after having witnessed His power and glory cries out in Psalms 90:2, "Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." His dimension of power, sovereignty, creativity, infinite knowledge and wisdom witnesses to the power of eternal, divine life.

In Isaiah 57:15, God declared His eternity to humble our hearts. He "inhabits eternity" but He also dwells "with Him who has a contrite and humble spirit." **A heart of humility linked with the God of eternity brings spiritual renewal and a proper ordering of the period of time allotted to us on earth.**

10. GOD IS GLORIOUS

"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power (Rev. 4:11)."

When we speak of the glory of God we are referring to what He is like in his infinite and wonderful being and also what He does as a result of His absolute moral perfection. In the above scripture the living creatures closest to His throne are overwhelmed with the revelation of the quality of His life and nature. **The inherent glory of God is that which resides within the divine nature, the unified expression of all of His personal and transcendent attributes; the external glory of God is that which is expressed in and through His creation.**

The Greek word for glory, "doxa", refers to the nature and acts of God in self manifestation. God has revealed himself in His creation (Ps. 19:1), in personal manifestations to Israel (Ex. 19:18, 40:34; Ez.1:28; Lk. 2:9), and in the moral perfections of His Son, Jesus Christ (Jn. 1: 14). His glory now shines through the lives of those who have received of His grace and walk in the power of a changed life (Eph. 3:20).

Every believer, especially those with a seeking heart, can enjoy an increasing revelation and experience with the glory of God in their own spiritual life through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (II Cor. 3:18).

THE PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Then God said, "Let us make man in Our image ... (Gen. 1:26)."

Although God lives in the transcendent glory of His uncreated, eternal being, He is also personal. We were created as "persons" in His image, with all of the qualities and characteristics of personhood. We have thoughts, feelings, hopes, desires, goals, free will, etc. **The Bible reveals a personal God reaching out to His creation, demonstrating all of the characteristics of personhood that we experience as human beings, except without sin.** All of the qualities of His personhood are perfectly integrated and expressed in the unity of His divine being.

GOD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST

"No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him (Jn. 1:18)."

Prior to the coming of Christ, God revealed Himself through isolated manifestations of His glory and presence, through His law and the prophets, and in His dealings with His people. In the fullness of time the wonder of wonders occurred: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us," in the person of Jesus Christ, "the only

begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn. 1:14).”

Hebrews 1 :3 intensifies our understanding of the Son’s revelation of the Father by describing Him as, “who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person.” Jesus in His character, His heart, and the other qualities of His personhood perfectly declared the person of the Father to us.

To declare is to make fully and completely known. **Jesus, in His life and ministry, was the express image, the complete perfect expression, of the personal attributes of God.** In John 14:9 He tells Philip, “he who has seen me has seen the Father.”

In the incarnation God wrapped Himself in humanity and revealed the essence of His being as a loving, kind, good, just, merciful, powerful, wise, and approachable person. **God has revealed Himself as both infinitely transcendent but also intensely personal in the core of His divine nature.** Today in the Godhead, on the throne of eternity, sits the Son of God permanently identified with humanity through the incarnation and His glorified body (Heb. 1:3; Eph. 1:20-23). His passionate desire is to reveal Himself and to declare the personal love and ministry of the Father to us.

1. GOD IS LOVE

***"He who does not love does not know God,
for God is love (1 Jn 4:8)."***

Love is an essential attribute of God. Love is something true of God but is not God. **God expresses acts of love because His essential nature is love.** God's nature of love shows itself in deep, even unfathomable affection for all created beings. His love shows itself in infinite and unwavering good will. His love wills the good of all and never wills harm or evil to any. His love desires our everlasting welfare and all of His acts are done to secure it.

Both heavenly and human beings were created with a free will in order that we could enjoy and fellowship the love of God forever. When sin entered the world, God already had a means for reconciliation in place in His heart. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son . . . (Jn. 3:16)." **The pain, suffering, struggle and tribulation of this fallen world often confuse us and blind us to the heart of love that beats in heaven for us.** His love is consistent, unfailing and pure because "God is love" in the core of His nature.

2. GOD IS FAITHFUL

"For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you' (Heb. 13:5)."

God is faithful in the core of His being. Since He is immutable (unchangeable), His faithfulness can never change. Men and women become unfaithful out of selfish desires, fear, weakness, loss of interest, or by the pressures of others. None of these forces can affect God who is infinitely self sufficient and good. **God is always acting in total love and faithfulness in the midst of a fallen world of sinful humanity.**

When Christ left this world He promised to never leave or forsake us. He is fulfilling this promise today through His ever present Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts and through His constant intercession for us from the throne of God. Hebrews 7:25 tells us that "He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."

The true issue is never whether God is faithful, but whether we will discredit His faithfulness by imposing requirements upon Him that go against His purposes.

3. GOD IS GOOD

"Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do' (Lk. 23:34)"

The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, benevolent, and full of good will toward all men. In the core of His being God is tenderhearted, sympathetic and inclined to give blessings. He takes great pleasure in the happiness and well being of His people. His divine goodness is self caused and owes itself to nothing outside of Himself.

Even on the cross, while suffering excruciating pain and public humiliation, Jesus, from the goodness of His essential nature as God, intercedes for his persecutors. In Matthew 5:44, when He commands us to "do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you", he is inviting us to step into the goodness of God. This is the God who "makes the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust (Jn. 5:45)."

God's goodness is seen most clearly in His forbearance, His willingness to express extreme levels of patience, kindness and longsuffering in order to bring humanity to repentance and restoration (Romans 2:4).

4. GOD IS JUST

*"And there is no other God besides Me,
a just God and a Savior (Isa. 45:21)."*

God is just because God is love. Perfect love wills perfect righteousness. **Justice is moral equity, the sense of what is right and ultimately good for all of created life.** Judgment is the application of equity and fairness to moral situations. God acts justly from that which is inherent to His nature not according to any external law or reasoning. Because He is all knowing, His sense of justice never lacks necessary information. Because He is infinitely wise, His judgments are perfectly integrated with His purposes.

Nowhere is the perfect justice of God more magnificently displayed than in His dealings with the sin of mankind. Christ's death satisfied the requirement of divine justice for sin while allowing God's mercy to triumph in regards to all those under sin. God's love and goodness culminated in Christ taking the full brunt of divine justice in His perfect humanity.

We must be careful about expecting God to move in reference to our limited sense of justice. **He will always act justly but His reasons come from within Himself, and with the best and highest purposes in mind.**

5. GOD IS MERCIFUL

“Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” “She said no one, Lord” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more (Jn. 8:10).”

Whether in the Garden of Eden or the Garden of Gethsemane, God is seen as both merciful and just. All of His dealings with mankind are in mercy and love. He deals in justice when His mercy has been rejected.

Mercy is an attribute of God. It is a deep and inexhaustible energy within His nature which rises out of His love and disposes Him to show compassion, kindness and forgiveness. The world in bondage to sin has given occasion for God to show His great mercy. If there had been no sin, no rejection of God, He would still be merciful, but its revelation would be largely concealed to created life.

God’s immeasurable love is always seeking for places where justice and mercy can kiss and the sinner can go free. The words, “neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more”, are continuously and joyfully spoken over the lives of those who live under the banner of God’s mercy through Jesus Christ.

6. GOD IS FULL OF GRACE

“And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace (Jn. 1:16).”

God’s mercy and grace arise from His goodness and love. Grace and mercy are related but not identical. **The mercy of God is His goodness confronting human sin, guilt and misery. His grace is His goodness directed at our inability and our debt.** Grace is the good pleasure of God that disposes Him to give favor to the undeserving. As we receive His fullness, we receive grace upon grace. This grace comes in a continuing flow of strength and spiritual enabling that allows us to comprehend and grow in the destiny God has for us.

Romans 5:17 tells us that “those who receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. We are called into full partnership with God as His children and members of the Body and Bride of Christ. **It is His grace that enables us to receive revelation, stand in the truth and be enabled by the Holy Spirit to be transformed into the image of Christ.**”

We avail ourselves of the grace of God by receiving what He declares to be true about ourselves in Him. A humble open spirit, seeking in faith the blessings He has ordained for us receives grace to grow in Him and reign in life.

7. GOD IS HOLY

***"And they do not rest day or night saying:
'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty' (Rev. 4:8)."***

Angels and seraphim are closer to a revelation of the holiness of God than we because their heavenly realm gives them experience and access to the glories of His throne. And yet they also lack full understanding. **When we speak of the holiness of God we address a subject that created life cannot fully know or appreciate.** God is absolutely holy with a perfection of purity in His uncreated being that can fill us with awe and worship but cannot be fully grasped by anything created. God's holiness is not a standard by which He lives. He is the standard. He is holy with an infinite fullness of purity that is incomprehensible.

Because of His holiness He would be unapproachable except for the wondrous work of grace he has accomplished for us through Jesus Christ. The blood of Christ presents us before the Father as righteous and sanctified, able to stand in His presence with an imputed holiness we could never accomplish on our own (I Cor. 1:30). The very uncreated Son of God endured the temptations of our humanity, without sin, making the throne of grace constantly open to our need (Heb. 4:16).

8. GOD IS ALL WISE

"To God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever (Rom. 16:27)."

Trust in the wisdom of God is absolutely basic to faith and to giving Him the honor that is due to Him. A. W. Tozer defines wisdom as "the ability to devise perfect ends and to achieve those ends by the most perfect means (The Knowledge of the Holy, p.60). **God's wisdom is most directly related to His moral perfection, His nature of love and His omniscience.** All of His acts are done in wisdom because of the integration of these three attributes of His being. He is not tainted by sin or selfishness; His acts are motivated by the awareness of ultimate good; He sees and knows all that can be seen and known. Because His understanding is infinite, His wisdom is boundless.

In accomplishing mankind's redemption, God revealed a fullness of wisdom that staggers the minds of men and angels (1 Pet. 1:10-12). Through the life and death of the incarnated Son of God, He was able to satisfy the demands of divine justice, extend mercy to fallen sinners, restore mankind to sonship, and eternally link us to Jesus Christ as His beloved bride. **His wisdom prevailed over the most hopeless situation converting it into a scenario of abundant life, hope and destiny.** No matter how things look in this fallen world, we can trust that all of God's acts are wrought in perfect wisdom.

OUR COMPASS-HIS UNCHANGING PERSON

“...The Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning (Jms. 1:17).”

A true revelation of God in His transcendent and personal attributes will liberate the human soul. **A study of human history will reveal that no people have ever risen above their view of God.** Ultimately the worshiper becomes what he or she believes God to be. The same is true in Christianity. A right concept of God is critical to spiritual maturity. It is imperative that we seek to know and to honor God as He has revealed Himself to us, especially through Jesus Christ.

Once we know Him in some degree of accuracy, He becomes an anchor to the human soul. We are no longer tossed about with the tempests of life and the lies of the enemy that seek to undermine our trust in the steadiness of who He is. Until then, good circumstances validate that He is good and bad ones that He has somehow forsaken us.

God does not change and in Him is “no variation or shadow of turning”. All of the qualities and attributes of God listed in this booklet are as true of Him on our worst day as they are on our best. **The heart is liberated when it breaks through the discouragements and confusion of our circumstances and embraces the unchanging, loving, all wise, omnipotent King of glory.**

THE POWER OF BEHOLDING

"But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (II Cor. 3:18)."

We have been predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29). This process of being conformed is administrated by the Holy Spirit through increasing our revelation of and relationship with Jesus Christ. **The more we see Christ in the glory of His person, the more transforming potential is released in our life.**

Our most fruitful effort as believers is to fix our heart and mind upon Jesus Christ in pursuit of beholding Him. To behold Him is to fix our attention on Him and to keep Him in constant view. The Holy Spirit is constantly revealing Christ to us. There are special times in the word or in worship or prayer when the sense of His glory and majesty is especially strong. **We should seek to drink in and spiritually absorb all that is mirrored and communicated to us by the Holy Spirit.** We should turn our hearts and minds to Him frequently throughout the day in devotion, meditation or conversation. Beholding is becoming! Beholding Him connects our life with the flow of HIS life increasing our spiritual health and fulfillment.

CONCLUSION

In this booklet I have attempted to briefly examine some of the major attributes that are true of God. My hope is that this effort will serve to whet the appetite of the reader to seek both to understand and to know the Lord more deeply.

The pursuit of knowing God is an awesome undertaking but it has immense rewards. Our ultimate destiny is to know Him and to enjoy Him forever. **Every inch of ground that we cover in drawing closer to Him results in a life of deeper peace, joy, spiritual communion and ministry fruitfulness.** As in any relationship, the ground we take must be occupied and maintained in order to keep it.

My understanding of the attributes of God has been especially helped by the following two books: *The Knowledge of the Holy* by A.W. Tozer and *The Nature and Character of God* by W. A. Pratney. Many of the insights in this booklet have come through these two men. I highly recommend them.



CAMPUS LOCATIONS

PORTLAND CAMPUS

9200 NE Fremont St
Portland, Oregon 97220

TIGARD CAMPUS

12244 SW Garden Pl
Tigard, Oregon 97223

MILL PLAIN CAMPUS

14311 SE Mill Plain Boulevard
Vancouver, Washington 98684

EUGENE CAMPUS

89780 N Game Farm Road
Eugene, Oregon 97408

ONLINE SERVICE

[live.mannahouse.church](https://www.live.mannahouse.church)
Youtube and Facebook

WWW.MANNAHOUSE.CHURCH 503.255.2224



SCAN FOR SUNDAY
SERVICE TIMES

WRITTEN BY: TERRY EDWARDS

COPYRIGHT © 1996 CHRISTIAN EQUIPPERS INTERNATIONAL | WWW.EQUIPPER.COM