

6. Learning More about God

When you became a Christian

Certain things you knew about God

Existed

God the Son — Jesus — died for your sins

Probably — God the Holy Spirit is now present in your life

Fill out your understanding of God

Three “attributes” — qualities

Goal: paint a picture of God’s majesty and grandeur

Call us to reverence, awe — worship

Warn: God cannot, ultimately, be known — “incomprehensibility”

God is beyond our ability to fully understand

God through Isaiah: “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (55:9).

Heaven — God always infinite

But God has revealed some things to us about himself

1. “OMNISCIENCE”

“Omni” meaning “all” — knows all

Ps 139:1-4

Thoughts — words before spoken

Future — Isaiah 46:9-10

Can you and I really grasp what this means?

Knows everything about everybody / thing

Past, present, and future

Acquainted with the movement of distant galaxies

As well as the number of hairs — thoughts before think

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!” (Rom 11:33).

We can't fully understand his omniscience, but aren't you glad that he is

Nothing is going to happen to you / Church that will surprise him

He will never misread or misunderstand you — better than know yourself

2. “OMNIPRESENCE” — PRESENT EVERYWHERE — PSALM 139:7-12

Not that God is huge — he is bigger than huge

Has no spatial dimensions — John 4 — God is spirit (≠ a spirit)

No place in our reality — or God's reality — where God is not present

Not that he is standing here or sitting there — localized

“In him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

Fan hit me — comparison between Spirit and wind in John 4

Just as I exist in wind / air, so also I and everything else exists in God

Not pantheists

You and I exist in God — He is everywhere — separate from creation

Not spread thinly throughout creation

Not a little here and a little there

God exists in his fullness in every place throughout reality — stars & your heart

Full attention when you pray

Can't fully grasp — aren't you glad that God is omnipresent?

Even if we want to, there is no place we can run and hide — rocks

There is no place where God is not present to help, love, or encourage

Even in our thoughts.

3. "OMNIPOTENCE" — OMNI-POTENTATE — ALL POWERFUL

"Sovereign"

God exercises his sovereign rule — kingly — over his creation

Psalm 139:13-16

Forms life — wrote down the days of your lives before you existed

"Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases" (Psalm 115:3).

Can't fully grasp — aren't you glad that God is omnipotent?

Book of Revelation is true — God will win over Satan

"Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Rom 8:38-39)

Even in the midst of pain — entrust ourselves to an all-powerful God (1 Pet 4:19)

THIS IS OUR GOD — OMNISCIENT; OMNIPRESENT; OMNIPOTENT

This is our heavenly Father — into whose arms we have leapt — in whose arms we live

SO HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THIS REVELATION? WORSHIP

What is worship?

Worship is not singing — although song can become an instrument of worship

English: “Worth ship” — attributing worth

Hebrew/Greek: “bow down; serve”

“Bowling all that we are before all that he is.”

“Our faithful response to God’s gracious revelation”

Our appropriate response to the revelation of the attributes/activity of God

Cycle of revelation and response

Worship begins with hearing attributes/activities — with clarity

Clarity of the revelation in architecture, speakers, preaching, reading, and prayer

Clarity in singing (lyrics are correct — not overpowered by melody)

Worship is then responding appropriately

Not spectator sport — can’t sit in the stands (must respond)

Not entertainment — worship is not about me and how I feel — read book

Isaiah 6:1-8

(Seraphim know how to worship)

1. God’s holiness & Isaiah’s sin (worship) — so God reveals more

2. God’s mercy — humbly receive forgiveness — proper response

3. Will (work to do) — “Here am I. Send me.” — didn’t know what He would say

Normative—true worshippers understand God’s will, mercy, holiness, & our sin

CHALLENGE: NEVER LET GOD BECOME SMALL

Think we know more than he does

Think we can hide from him in our sin

Isn't powerful enough to help

As you grow in your Christian walk

May your understanding of God grow with you

God is without limitation

Wisdom: omniscience — us better than we know ourselves — still loves us

Presence: omni-present — no spatial dimension — I/galaxies exist in him

Power: omni-potent — mighty to save

May we never just sit there and not respond

May our response always be appropriate for what God has revealed to us

Acknowledge his holiness and our sin

Receive his mercy

Do his will, regardless

When we get to heaven

See him clearly — not dimly but face to face

Spend eternity growing in knowledge, trust, love, awe, reverence, *worship*

Aren't you glad you are his child?