

Tell Me All Your Thoughts on God

Focus: God is TRUSTWORTHY because He will never change

Ps. 53:1.... Fool says “No God”

Many people believe in form of god...

People have always wanted to connect with God – but are unaware of who God was, they approached God through a series a man-created rituals and fears.

A.W. Tozwer says, “What a person thinks of God is the most important determining aspect of his or her life.” Our decisions, dreams and actions are based on what we think of God.

Our idea of God may lie buried under the rubbish of religious notions and may require an intelligent and active search before it is finally exposed for what it is. It may be only after a long journey that we are likely to discover what we actually about God.

The only answer is God is not like anything; He is not exactly like anything or anybody. We can only answer that question with the knowledge that God has revealed Himself. Our minds cannot comprehend the fullness of God, so God has revealed the attributes of Himself in terms that help us connect to all that God is.

Left to ourselves we tend to immediately reduce God to manageable terms. We want to get Him where we can use Him, or at least know where He is when we need Him. We want a God we can in some measure control. We need the feeling of security that comes from knowing what God is like, and what He is like is a course of composite of all the religious pictures we have seen, all the best people we have known or heard about, and all the sublime ideas we have entertained.

Through out human history – we have many stories about god, but what has God revealed about himself...one of the first occurrences Exodus 3...

Explore God’s Story: Ex 3 (vs. 2-6, 13-15) → Moses meets God...

Context → Moses is shepherding on Mt. Horeb – called the mtn of God.

Moses probably thought he was alone – he probably felt defeated, alone, insignificant, lost... stranded in the wilderness watching over his flock yet another dusty, dirty day.

When God showed up...

- God waited until Moses turned aside to call his name (vs. 2-4)
- God required Moses to take off his shoes – holy ground requires change (vs. 5-6)

Challenge to Follow #1 → When God shows up ... do we take notice; are we willing to turn aside from what we are doing to look deeper, are we willing to change ourselves to meet God?

After God has Moses' undivided attention, God laid out his plan; the task Moses was created to do. God reveals He is aware of Israel's suffering in slavery – they thought God had forgotten but God was aware of their pain and now wanting to change their situation.

Vs. 7-8 → Notice how personal God is: I have seen, I have heard, I'm concerned I have come down...

Vs. 12 → Moses is overwhelmed but God assures Moses that he will be with him
To which Moses has just one question

Can you picture this discussion – flaming bush in the background, holy hush was hanging thick in the air. Barefoot and trembling, Moses somehow musters up the courage to ask God to produce some personal identification...

Vs. 13 → **Moses asks same question we all do... who are you?**
→ **Underlying question... CAN I TRUST YOU (GOD)?**

This is our question/struggle too... Life is hard, full of tension and struggles with others

You can't blame Moses... Before Moses was going to go back and lead a resistance against Pharaoh – Moses needed a lot more information about the One who was sending him and who would be going with him.

Since the beginning of time, God has been **referred to as Yahweh**, meaning Most High God – a title so revered by the Jewish generations preceding Moses, they would rarely write the full name – usually just abbreviating it. But *that title was more a description* rather than a personal name.

No one knew God's name... as far as we know... no one dared to ask

Vs. 14 → Who did God reveal himself to be... I AM
The Hebrew word for I AM is hayah – carries the idea of the very breath of God
The English translation is the verb TO BE – or simply BE
Not great grammar but powerful theology.

God knew it was imperative for Moses to know who He was – that He was I AM. I AM is the present tense, active form of the verb "to be".

As God's name, it declares some important attributes: that He is **unchanging, constant, unending, always present, always God.**

Vs. 15 → God wants us to know his name too... God includes us in the story.

Let's look at these attributes more closely:
I AM ... God reveals He is ETERNAL

- God dwells in eternity but time dwells in God. He has already lived all our tomorrows as He has lived all our yesterdays.
- God was not created ... no “made in” mark stamped on him – that blows our mind
- Moses later said of God “From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.” (Ps 90)
 - o It could be said “From vanishing point to vanishing point.” The mind looks backward in time till the dim past vanishes, then turns and looks into the future till thought and imagination collapse from exhaustion; and God is at both points, unaffected by either.

ILL: *Object Lesson:* Hands around a ruler... we view time as History (marks on a ruler); God is outside but surrounding Time... He has no beginning and no end
 God is not affected by Time is Knowledge that God is FAITHFUL to us!
 He won't stop being God!!

I AM ... God reveals He is DOESN'T CHANGE

Discuss: everyone we trust changes... bad moods, changing feelings, bad hair days

ILL: Fear of commitment... Many don't want to get married because the most sacred love they ever have known – changed... what if one day Debbie stops loving me?

Because God is Eternal and All-Powerful ... nothing can change him!
 God can't get any better – he won't grow old or decay, can't be overcome ... HE IS AS HE HAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE...

James 1:17 → Because God doesn't change – we are kept safe...

*The Knowledge that God doesn't change is Knowledge that God is FAITHFUL to us!
 He is the same to us yesterday, today and forever*

If God has always existed – not created; none greater, and nothing will ever change that ... God is **SUPREME**

ILL: Adam asked about scientific laws the other day – about gravity: can it ever be broken... he didn't realize everytime he flies in a plane he breaks the law of gravity to some degree... but the law of gravity still wins in the end. But something more powerful than an airplane – a rocket ship can break the law of gravity and put a man in space spinning away...

Job 42:2 → *“I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.”*

Ps. 115:3 → *“Our God is in heaven, he does whatever pleases him”*

Next week we will study God's Power that knows no limits

Focus: God is TRUSTWORTHY because He will never change

Ex 6:2-3 → I appeared to Abraham, Issac and Jacob = but did not make myself known
→ But he has revealed himself to Moses – and He has revealed himself to you and to me

Visualize the Principal (SO WHAT?)

Jer. 9:23,24 → We should seek to have the right understanding of who God is!
→ Don't trust in our wisdom (grades), strength, or riches ... ouch that describes us today

But rather trust what we know of God ...

For He has proven himself TRUSTWORTHY

Ps. 52:8,9

He is trustworthy for who He is

He is trustworthy for what He has done

He is trustworthy for what we know He will do (based on the reputation of his name)

Challenge to Follow #2

Seek to grow in our understanding of God...

... it is important to have the right thinking/beliefs about God

→ Spiritual Habit = Scripture Reading... One to One Bible reading with a mentor

How do we respond to a God who never changes?

- **with Humility** → To admit that there is One who lies beyond us, who exists outside all of our categories, who will not be dismissed with a name, who will not appear before the standard of our reason, nor submit to scientific inquiries; this requires a great deal of humility
- **with Honesty** → To be honest about all that God is and to not bring God down to our level where we can manage him and limit him
- **with Hope** → God is faithful in his protection

Closing ILL:

God was telling Moses and is telling us...

I AM the center of everything

I AM running the show

I AM the same every day, forever

I AM the owner of everything

I AM the Lord

I AM the Creator and sustainer of life

I AM the Savior

I AM more than enough

I AM inexhaustible and immeasurable

I AM God

For every cry, there is an answer

Can anyone help me? I AM

Who could possibly be smart enough

to figure this mess out? I AM

What's the latest/greatest thing? I AM

Nothing's real anymore! I AM

I'm not sure who's on my side? I AM

Nobody's listening to me? I AM

Nobody cares about me? I AM

If we fail, who will get the job done? I AM

I'm not sure why I'm here? I AM