

FOUNDATION OF FAITH!
GOD THE FATHER
PART 1

Over the last couple of weeks we began our study in a series I have called, Foundation of Faith. And in those studies we just covered the introduction. And thus, what we will be doing for the next several months or more is to look at, “What does the whole Bible teach us today about any given topic?” or what is known as Systematic Theology. The Word Theology just means the study of God’s existence, his nature and his attributes!

Why do we need to even know this stuff? Because we need to understand who God is, we need to know what His truth is; we need to know what the Christian faith is all about. Peter warns and admonishes us by telling us, **“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”**

II Peter 3:17-18.

It is a warning about the false teachers, the false doctrine that is out there. Thus, we know the truth and we are being warned to avoid the lies that are out there and not only to avoid them but to grow in the Lord. You see, as you know truth the errors will be exposed, they will be seen as lies.

Not only that, but as we learn these truths we will be able to defend our faith, apply our faith, explain our faith to those who don't know the Lord. That is what Peter admonishes us to do in I Peter 3:15, **“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”**

It is hard to defend something you don't know. It is hard to apply what God wants you to do if you don't know what it is. It is hard to explain what you believe if you are not sure where it is in the Bible. Thus, this is an important subject, this Systematic Theology because it truly has fallen on hard times. It is not seen as important, it is seen as academic and not for the lay people. But it is for us because it is God's Word and from Genesis to Revelation we should know the truths of God, all of them! That is why I have spent the last 15 years going verse-by-verse through the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation and we are on our second time around! Truth does matter!

This morning we are going to begin our first topic regarding our Foundation of Faith, and it is important. We are going to begin a several week study on God the Father or the first person of the Holy Trinity! In the study of God the Father sometimes the word “Theology” is used, but the correct word is “Paterology”. This word comes from two Greek words that mean “father” and “word”. Thus, Paterology is “the study of the Father” and more specifically for us, God the Father. And, as we will see, the focus is on the Father and it will be distinct from God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, as we will cover those issues as we look at them separately, the other two persons of the Godhead or the Holy Trinity.

Now before we begin looking at God the Father, let me share this story with you.

We are told:

Have you not heard of the madman who lit a lamp in the bright morning and went to the marketplace crying ceaselessly, "I seek God! I seek God!" There were many among those standing there who didn't believe in God so he made them laugh. "Is God lost?" one of them said. "Has he gone astray like a child?" said another. "Or is he hiding? Has he gone on board ship and emigrated?" So they laughed and shouted to one another. The man sprang into their midst and looked daggers at them. "Where is God?" he cried.

"I will tell you. We have killed him - you and I we are all his killers! But how have we done this? How could we swallow up the sea? Who gave us the sponge to wipe away the horizon? What will we do as the earth is set loose from its sun?" Friedrich Nietzsche, 1889

Nietzsche's point was not that God does not exist, but that God has become irrelevant. Men and women may assert that God exists or that He does not, but it makes little difference either way. God is dead not because He doesn't exist, but because we live, play, procreate, govern, and die as though He doesn't.

- C. Colson, *Kingdoms in Conflict*, p. 181

You see, just because you are denying the existence of God, doesn't mean He doesn't exist. Now as God's Word begins, in Genesis 1:1, you will see that the Bible does not start out with a lengthy explanation to prove the existence of God! It just starts out by saying, "**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**" Why didn't God spend some time proving His existence before He spoke of His creation of the heavens and the earth, of all life?

First of all God created man with intelligence and thus, He created man with the ability to know that if there is an act of creation there must be a Creator who did this. Thus, God gave man the ability to accept or reject Him as God, but not to sit in judgment in regards to His existence! Think of it like this:

It is possible for a person to contend that a poem is nothing but black marks on white paper. And such an argument might be convincing before an audience that could not read. You can examine the print under a microscope or analyze the paper and ink but you will never find something behind this sort of analysis that you could call "a poem." Those who can read, however, will continue to insist that poems exist.

- Bruce Shelly, Christian Theology in Plain Language, p. 38

It is as the Psalmist tells us, "**The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.**" The Living Bible puts these two verses, Psalm 19:1-2, like this, "**The heavens are telling the glory of God; they are a marvelous display of his craftsmanship. Day and night they keep on telling about God.**" Yes, God exists because creation cries out that there is a Creator, there is a designer, there is a God!

Now, “The knowledge of God’s existence, character, and moral law, which comes through creation to all humanity, is often called “general revelation” (because it comes to all people generally). General revelation comes through observing nature, through seeing God’s directing influence in history, and through an inner sense of God’s existence and his laws that he has placed inside every person. General revelation is distinct from special revelation, which refers to God’s words addressed to specific people, such as the words of the Bible, the words of the Old Testament prophets and New Testament prophets, and the words of God spoken in personal address, such as at Mount Sinai or at Jesus’ baptism.” (Wayne Grudem, Bible Doctrine, p. 57).

And God continues to speak to us today as we are told in Hebrews 1:1-3, **“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”**

Who spoke to us in times past? God spoke! How did He speak to us in times past? He spoke in various ways – through angels, through men, by the mouth of a donkey, by illustrations such as Ezekiel lying on his left side for 390 days showing the iniquity of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and then on his right side for 40 days showing the iniquity of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, Jeremiah had a sash that he buried in the Euphrates River showing how this once profitable garment was now unprofitable and it illustrated how Judah and Jerusalem had become unprofitable because of their sin, their filth, He spoke by a burning bush, a still small voice and-so-on.

But now, in these last days, God speaks to us through Jesus who is called the Word of God. In John 1:1-2 we are told, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”** Thus, the last days began with God becoming flesh and dwelling among us and will continue on to His second coming. Now in saying that, who is speaking to us through angels or other things today then? Listen to what Paul tells us in II Corinthians 11:13-15, **“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”** We need to be careful and use the Word of God as our plum line or we will be deceived!

Folks, if Jesus is the Word of God, and He is, then as we read the Word of God and the Holy Spirit opens the Word of God up to our hearts, we are hearing from Jesus! We are living in a day when spiritualism, occultism has moved into the church and it is because we don't listen to God's voice, we are looking other places. Thus, Yoga, Transcendental Meditation, Hypnosis is brought right into the church! We hear of angelic messengers speaking to people, the virgin Mary speaking and yet we are told, **“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son . . .”** Hebrews 1:1-2a. I like what Guthrie said regarding this, “If men cannot learn about God from the Son, no amount of prophetic voices or actions would convince them.” You can't argue with that!

Also, in I Peter 1:10-11 we are told, **“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.”** In other words, God revealed things to the prophets that they wrote down but did not fully understand for it was not for them but another generation. For example, in Daniel 12:8-9 we are told, **“Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, ‘My lord, what shall be the end of these things?’ And he said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.’”**

But now, in these last days God has spoken to us and has opened our understanding to these things. Thus, the book is complete, despite what the Mormons may say or anyone else who wants to add to or take away from the Scriptures. In fact, the book of Revelation gives this warning to those who want to as John tells us, **“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”** Revelation 22:18-19.

I am amazed at the pride, the audacity, the arrogance of those who do add to or take away from the Scriptures and making Bible translations that edit the deity of Jesus, the prophecies of Jesus! And the warning of Jesus to those who try to lead people away from Him is this, **“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.”** Mark 9:42.

Thus, God has spoken to us through the Son and may we listen to Him as we read through the Scriptures. May we be drawn closer to God as we learn more of Him! And you see, it is just plain foolishness to think that all this has happened by some kind of random chance happening. Look at life, look all there is and what is seen, the evidence that is out there clearly shows us that there is a Creator, there is a Designer, there is a God! We can accept that or reject that, but it does not change the fact that He is real. In fact Paul reminds us in Romans 1:20, **“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”** And The Living Bible puts this verse like this, **“Since earliest times men have seen the earth and sky and all God made, and have known of his existence and great eternal power. So they will have no excuse [when they stand before God at Judgment Day].”**

You see, there is no excuse to deny the existence of God and because the evidence is before them and they have rejected it, they will have no excuse! And thus, the source of the knowledge of God is God Himself and He will reveal Himself to us through His Word and His Spirit as well as Creation, even though that is limited. And when I mean limited I mean it only shows us that there is a God, it does not show us who He is and what He desires, that is found in the Word of God, the Bible and by His Spirit speaking to us. Charles Ryrie put it like this. He wrote:

God Himself is the Source of our knowledge of Him. To be sure, all truth is God's truth. But that cliché should be more carefully stated and used than it generally is. Only true truth comes from God, for since sin entered the stream of history man has created that which he calls truth but which is not. Furthermore, he has perverted, blunted, diluted, and corrupted that which was originally true truth that did come from God. For us today the only infallible canon for determining true truth is the written Word of God. Nature, though it does reveal some things about God, is limited and can be misread by mankind. The human mind, though often brilliant in what it can achieve, suffers limitations and darkening. Human experiences, even religious ones, lack reliability as sources of the true knowledge of God unless they conform to the Word of God.

- Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, pp. 27-28

Now please understand that we are not here just to learn facts about God, we are here to know the person. You see, if you just know the facts about God and don't know the person, that is very limiting and really meaningless. Imagine if I knew everything about Julie, my wife, what color was her favorite, what she liked to eat, what she liked to do and-so-on, but I never had a personal relationship with her. That would be scary and she would not appreciate a relationship like that because it would not be a relationship, it, in a sense would only be academic in nature!

On the other end of the spectrum, imagine if I had a personal relationship with Julie and yet I did not know anything about her. That would be shallow and that too would be wrong. There is a balance that we must have. We must know the truths about God and we must also have that personal relationship with Him. And think about that, why did God become flesh, dwell among us, go to the cross of Calvary to pay in full the penalty for our sins? Not to keep us out of Hell, that is a benefit, but to re-establish our relationship with God because sin had separated us from God. In other words, so that we once again can have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ!

And here is the thing, the more you know about God the more you will desire to be close to Him and the more you develop that personal relationship with God the more you will want to know Him! That is spiritual growth. Now let me share with you a few purposes in regards to our knowledge of God, both factual and personal.

First of all the reason we are to know God is that He is leading us to eternal life, to the path that brings us to the kingdom of God. In John 17:3 Jesus tells us, “**And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**” Eternal life is found in Him, not some church or some program or some teaching, it is found in Jesus Christ because there is salvation in no other name!

John reminds us of the reason John 20:30-31 as he wrote his letter and said, “**And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**” And The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, “**There are also many other signs and miracles which Jesus performed in the presence of the disciples which are not written in this book. But these are written (recorded) in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ (the Anointed One), the Son of God, and that through believing and cleaving to and trusting and relying upon Him you may have life through (in) His name [through Who He is]. [Ps 2:7,12.]**”

And lastly, and there are many more, but in I Timothy 2:4-6 Paul tells us that it is God, “**who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**” So the first purpose of the knowledge of God, both factual and personal is to lead people to eternal life, which is only found in Jesus Christ.

The second reason we are to come to the full knowledge of God that is both factual and personal is we are to grow in the Lord; it helps to foster Christian growth. That is what we read in II Peter 3:18, **“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”** How is that done? It is done by Biblical knowledge or knowing the Word of God. In John 17:7 Jesus tells us as He was praying to the Father, **“Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.”** And in John 17:17 we are told, **“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”** And in John 8:31-32 Jesus said, **“ . . . ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”**

And not only are we to grow in Biblical knowledge but we are also to have a discerning spirit in regards to the things of God. We are told in I John 4:1-6, **“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”**

So we are to grow in our knowledge of God by knowing the Word of God and allowing God's Spirit to speak to our hearts in accordance with the Word of God!

The third reason we are to come to the full knowledge of God both factual and personal is God gives to us a warning of the judgment that is to come! In Jude 14-15 Jude tells us, "**Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.'**" There is a judgment that is coming against all those who have rejected the gift the Father has given to us, and that gift is Jesus Christ. So God's Word, as you come to know Him both in a factual and personal way, you will see that there is coming a judgment upon this world and that should cause you to have a heart of compassion for those that don't know Christ and share Christ with them!

And the fourth reason we are to come to a full knowledge of God in a factual and personal way is it helps us to worship Him, it promotes a true worship of God! Paul tells us in Romans 11:33-36, "**Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?' 'Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?' For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.'**"

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unfathomable (inscrutable, unsearchable) are His judgments (His decisions)! And how untraceable (mysterious, undiscoverable) are His ways (His methods, His paths)! For who has known the mind of the Lord and who has understood His thoughts, or who has [ever] been His counselor? [Isa 40:13,14.] Or who has first given God anything that he might be paid back or that he could claim a recompense? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. [For all things originate with Him and come from Him; all things live through Him, and all things center in and tend to consummate and to end in Him.] To Him be glory forever! Amen (so be it).”**

So as you come to the full knowledge of God, both factual and personal, actually we don't reach that full knowledge of God until we go to be with Him, but we are growing now, and this brings forth worship and praise unto God! It is as Psalm 34:1-3 tells us, **“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.”** May praise and worship flow from our lives unto the God who has created us for His good pleasure!

Okay, that was the introduction to our study on God the Father and now let's dig in and see the things the Scriptures teach us of our Heavenly Father.

1. HIS EXISTENCE

Here is one of those questions that many people ask, “Where did God come from?” Or the question may go like this, “Who created God?” And of course there are many other questions that people ask regarding this issue of the existence of God but the bottom line is this, nobody created God, He has no beginning and He has no end, He is eternal. In Psalm 90:2 we are told, “**Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**” How can that be, that He has always existed and He has always been God? The Bible does not tell us and thus, we must believe it by faith because God has said it in His Word and His Word is truth!

How many of you understand all that takes place in a nuclear fusion? Some of you may because that information is attainable for us, but for the most part, we don't know. All we know is the effects it has when it goes off; we have a thermal fusion explosion! Just because we may not understand all the details of this device, does it make it fake or unreal? Absolutely not because the device is not dependent upon us knowing how it works!

I realize that was a little crude comparison but I think you get the idea. Just because we don't understand how God can always exist, that He is eternal, doesn't make it fake or unreal. It is not dependent upon us understanding it, it is just a fact and we believe it by faith! And for those of you who want facts before you believe because you don't want to place anything just on faith, guess what? When you came in here this morning, you rested your bottom upon a chair that you had faith would hold you. We all have faith and we exercise it in many different ways but when it comes to God, many times we refuse to exercise it.

In Exodus 3:13-14 we are told, **“Then Moses said to God, ‘Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?’ 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.’”**”

In other words, this title or name, “I AM” speaks of God being self-existent. He is not called, “I WAS” or “I WILL BE” or “I USED TO BE” or even “I’M GONNA BE” but “I AM!” Thus, God is eternal He has no origins and he answers to no one! Matthew Henry makes this point regarding God. He wrote, “The greatest and best man in the world must say, By the grace of God *I am what I am*; but God says absolutely – and it is more than any creature, man or angel, can say – *I am that I am.*” Thus, God has no origins and His existence does not depend on anyone!

And so the starting point for us, the starting point that God has given to us is God, who was in the beginning and everything else stems from that point! You see, apart from God you have taken away the starting point and thus, what man has done today is that starting point is some kind of big bang, some kind of cosmic explosion that brought forth everything we see. Really, explosions don't bring about order but disorder. Explosions don't bring about life; they bring about death and destruction. If you doubt that, then look at the footage and the aftermath of the Mount St. Helen's explosion back on May 18, 1980. During that volcanic explosion this mountain exploded with such great force that it flattened everything within 150 square miles. The blast was 500 times stronger than the nuclear bomb that leveled the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Millions of tons of rock disintegrated and disappeared into a cloud reaching 10 miles into the sky. A wall of mud and ash some 50 feet high came crashing down this mountain. That did not bring order or anything good, but just death and destruction in its path and yet we are to believe that the Big Bang, which goes against everything we know about explosions, brought forth order and life! That is faith!

Is this such a big deal? I think it is! A. W. Tozer wrote regarding this attitude of not thinking about God, meditating upon Him and who He is. This is what he had to say, "Few of us have let our hearts gaze in wonder at the I AM, the self-existent Self back of which no creature can think. Such thoughts are too painful for us. We prefer to think where it will do more good – about how to build a better mousetrap, for instance, or how to make two-blades of grass grow where one grew before. And for this we are now paying a too heavy price in the secularization of our religion and the decay of our inner lives."

We have developed a theology today, if we can call it that, where we tell God what to do, that He is accountable to us, and that is very wrong. By doing that we take away the idea that He is God, that He is the Great I AM! And by doing that we make God accountable to us for what He is doing, to defend His actions. Folk's, like it or not, this is the reality, God does not have to explain anything of Himself to anybody, He is God, He is the Great I AM!

And don't think that God is dependent upon us. A. W. Tozer again makes this powerful point that we need to understand. He wrote, "Were all human beings suddenly to become blind, still the sun would shine by day and the stars by night, for these owe nothing to the millions who benefit from their light. So, were every man on earth to become an atheist, it could not affect God in any way. He is what he is in himself without regard to any other. To believe in him adds nothing to his perfections; to doubt him takes nothing away."

I think that is important to understand, God does not need us, but He chose to create us and He created us for His good pleasure. God is self-sufficient, He is the eternal God and apart from us, He still is. On the other hand, apart from God, we are nothing and we are dependent upon Him!

If you take anything away from this study, please take this away with you. Treasure this. That He is the Great I AM, the self-sufficient one, He is not dependent upon us at all and when you have that perspective, that correct perspective, you will be able to worship Him the way He deserves to be worshiped. But also understand, if we worship Him or not, it does not change who He is, it does not diminish His glory! We get to worship Him, and what a privilege, what an honor it is!

Okay, so let's say that God exists, and He does, where does God live? Is there a particular place that God lives? The Bible teaches us that God's presence fills the universes. His presence is everywhere. Solomon said in I Kings 8:27, "**But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!**" Solomon built this amazing temple to worship God, it was magnificent, and yet, at the dedication of this temple Solomon rightly recognized that God cannot be contained in a temple or some building, that is not possible because His presence fills the universe.

We see this again in Psalm 139:7-10, "**Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.**"

Now please understand that I am not speaking of pantheism, where God is in everything, the trees, the plants, the grass, but that His presence fills the universe, it cannot contain an infinite God! He knows what is happening at all times, He is completely aware of everything!

Now in saying that, there is more regarding the place where God dwells. The Bible clearly teaches that God's dwelling place is Heaven and even though His presence fills the universe, He resides in this place that is known as Heaven. Thus, Heaven is real but it is not material or geographical as we might think. It is not a place like Manitowoc or Chicago, but it is real and when we as Christians go to sleep or these physical bodies go back to the dust of the earth, we will go to be with the Lord in Heaven, a real place!

We are told in Isaiah 63:15, “**Look down from heaven, And see from Your habitation, holy and glorious. Where are Your zeal and Your strength, The yearning of Your heart and Your mercies toward me? Are they restrained?**” So Heaven is a real place and it is the place where God dwells even though His presence fills the universe!

Okay, we know that God exists, we know where He lives, but what is God like? That is important for us to know. In John 4:24 Jesus tells the woman at the well in Samaria, “**God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**” Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts this verse, “**God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (reality).**”

Here is what we know of God the Father, that He exists as a Spirit. Now Jesus is not speaking of the Holy Spirit here, but of God the Father. We know that when we read that God is Spirit it does not mean that He is like Casper the friendly ghost. It is saying that God the Father is not confined to one place, but He is omnipresent or as we have said, His presence fills the universe! You can read of Him in Revelation chapters 4 and 5 as He is seated on the throne in Heaven!

What we also see here is that God is not a man, He is not human, He is not made up of flesh and blood! Nor is God just pure energy! Keep in mind that Jesus is answering this woman’s question about where to worship God and Jesus is telling her that God is not limited to one location but He must be worshiped in spirit and truth or you must be saved and you must worship Him according to that which He has said in His Word because He is Spirit and not a spirit, one of many spirits! He alone is God!

The bottom line is this. God the Father does not have a physical body as we would think, nor is He made of any kind of matter as we might presume, like the rest of His creation. He is not just energy or thought but all we can say for certain is that God is Spirit! I don't think we will fully understand this until we go to be with Him and see Him face to face because this kind of existence is unlike anything else in His creation. And, obviously it is far superior to all our material existence.

Wayne Grudem summed it up like this. He wrote in regards to God being Spirit, "God's spirituality means that God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has no parts or dimensions, is unable to be perceived by our bodily senses, and is more excellent than any other kind of existence." (Ray Grudem, Bible Doctrine, p. 86).

Now in John 6:46 Jesus makes these interesting remarks about the Father as He tells us, "**Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.**" Only one has seen the Father and that is Jesus, why? Because God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all and we cannot approach a holy and righteous God in our sinful condition. And yes, if we come to Christ our sins are cast as far as the east is from the west but these bodies will have to be redeemed one day because flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God! We also see this in John 1:18, "**No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.**"

We also see this in Exodus 33:20 as Moses wanted to see the face of God and we are told, **“But He said, ‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’”** Obviously Jesus has seen the Father, they have always existed together and thus, Jesus is able to say in John 10:30, **“I and My Father are one.”** If you want to know the Father, then get to know Jesus because He is an exact representation of the Father, if you have seen Jesus then you have seen the Father!

Let me close this morning with this and we will pick back up looking at God the Father next time, as we look at his nature. We are told,

Imagine a family of mice who lived all their lives in a large piano. To them in their piano world came the music of the instrument, filling all the dark spaces with sound and harmony. At first the mice were impressed by it. They drew comfort and wonder from the thought that there was Someone who made the music--though invisible to them--above, yet close to them. They loved to think of the Great Player whom they could not see. Then one day a daring mouse climbed up part of the piano and returned very thoughtful. He had found out how the music was made. Wires were the secret; tightly stretched wires of graduated lengths which trembled and vibrated. They must revise all their old beliefs: none but the most conservative could any longer believe in the Unseen Player. Later, another explorer carried the explanation further. Hammers were now the secret, numbers of hammers dancing and leaping on the wires. This was a more complicated theory, but it all went to show that they lived in a purely mechanical and mathematical world. The Unseen Player came to be thought of as a myth. But the pianist continued to play.

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I pray that as you look at the evidence you can see God through His creation, that there is a God and as you read His Word that you would come to know Him and love Him.