

FOUNDATION OF FAITH!
GOD THE FATHER
PART 10

Over the past several weeks we have been doing a study on God the Father in our series on Foundation of Faith! And we have looked at His natural attributes. We have looked at His moral attributes. We have seen, to the best of our ability, who God the Father really is. We hopefully got to know Him better. We hopefully got to see who He was and what He is like. And as we looked at God the Father, hopefully it caused us to live our lives in a way that would please Him, honor Him, and bring glory to Him!

Now some of you may be wondering how knowing God more could cause us to live a certain way? The answer is simple and I will show you with my own life. I have been with my wife for almost 33 years now and married to her for almost 32 years. I have gotten to know her very well over the years and I am still learning about her. And here's the thing. The more I know her, the more I love her and the more I love her the more I want to know her.

And because of all that, I do things that would please her, that would bless her. Now I am not perfect, you can ask her, but I think she knows, without a doubt, that I do things to bless her and please her. And, if we can do that with our spouses, we should be able to do that with our Lord as we get to know Him.

When I look at all that God has done for me, when I read about all that He is, His nature, His attributes, His character, I want to live to please Him, to bless Him. That just makes sense to me and I hope it does to you. You see, if you are living for yourself, to please yourself, to bring glory to yourself, there is something wrong with you. You are not doing what you were created to do, and that is for God's good pleasure! It should be a joy to serve Him, to bring Him glory and honor that is due His holy Name! It is not a chore or obligation; it is all based in love.

And when you think about it, it is based on the fact that He loved us first and thus, we respond to that love He has for us, at least we should! This morning we are continuing to look at how we are to respond to God in light of all that He is! We have looked at the following reasons so far. We are to walk in a way that would please God. We are to worship Him. We are to serve Him faithfully. And we must believe in faith. And we are going to continue looking at these ways we are to respond to all that God is this morning.

5. WE ARE TO EXALT THE LORD

Another way we are to respond to God in light of all that He is, is we are to exalt the Lord, we are to lift Him up in praise and honor that is due His holy name. In Psalm 46:10 we are told, **“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”**

Here we see the Lord admonishing us to “**be still**” and not just sit around and do nothing, but to be still and know who God is! How can that help me in the days we are living in? How can that help me when this world is a mess? How can that help me when immorality is increasing and those that stand up for righteousness are put down? How can that help me when I have lost my job? How can that help me when there is turmoil in my family? And, as you can see, that list can go on, but the bottom line is this, “How can that help me knowing that He is God?”

Because He tells us the end of the story, that the heathen nations will exalt the Lord. How does knowing the future help me in the present situation I am in? Because if He is going to be exalted in the end, if He knows the end of the story and He is victorious, then whatever I am going through He will see me through and thus, I will exalt Him as I am going through the storms of life!

Now I think I can safely say that each of us has faced some kind of storm in our lives and the reality is, we have faced many storms in our lives and there are more to come. Sorry, that is just the way it is. God did not promise us an absence of storms but that He would see us through those storms that come upon our lives.

Remember in Matthew 8:23-27 where we are told, “**Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We are perishing!’ But He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, ‘Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?’**”

As you read this you may think to yourself, “How in the world could they not believe?” Jesus cleansed the leper, healed the centurion’s servant, healed Peter’s mother-in-law and that is just in Matthew chapter 8! So if He could do all that, how could they not trust Him to see them through this storm?”

Please understand that as they set sail, a tempest or SEISMOS in the Greek, hits the area. It is a word we get seismology from, so you might say that this storm was a real shaker! The Sea of Galilee is 680 feet below sea level and to the north is snow covered Mount Hermon, 9,280 feet above sea level. So as a cold air mass descends down from Mount Hermon, through a small ravine in the valley and funnels into the Sea of Galilee, storms can erupt very quickly, and they can be intense with 25 foot waves! Those are big waves, especially for the boat they were on!

And thus, you can understand why the disciples are fearful. They thought the boat was going down, and they begin to yell at the Lord to do something, and the Lord is fast asleep after a full day of serving the people. So the Lord wakes up and tells his men that they had just a little faith, it was a rebuke! Now why did He say they had little faith? Again, think about all the miracles they had seen, and now, when things were affecting their own lives, they didn’t trust in the Lord.

What about you? Are you sharing the Lord and His Word with others as they go through difficult times, encouraging them to trust in the Lord, and yet, when it comes to your own life, you are not? That is hypocritical!

Secondly, Mark tells us of this event, **“On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, ‘Let us cross over to the other side.’”** Mark 4:35. Notice that Jesus said **“Let us cross over to the other side”** not “under!” Do you really think that the promises of God will fail? If you do, your faith will waiver and you will be anxious like these men because you do not trust the Lord.

And what does Jesus do next? He calms the Sea, and it blew them away! Should they have been blown away at what Jesus did? Absolutely not, especially when you see all the things that He did prior to this incident, but they were! How about you and me? When Jesus does that in our own lives does it blow us away? It shouldn't blow us away, but it should cause us to worship Him, exalt Him and thank Him, it should increase our faith! And, I guess it should blow us away, that God loves us and cares that much for us He is willing to calm the storms in our lives!

Let me share some other Scriptures with you that are dealing with the exaltation of our Lord, that He is to be exalted and we should be exalting Him. It is not that He is dependant on us exalting Him, nor does He need us to exalt Him, but we get to exalt our Lord and what a privilege, what an honor that is. May we not forget that!

In Exodus 15:2 we are told, **“The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him.”** This is one verse in what is called the song of Moses that was born out of what the Lord had done for the children of Israel. It was a song unto the Lord. Now what transpired prior to this song being written and sung? Remember that God had delivered the children of Israel from their bondage in Egypt. And as they journeyed toward Mount Sinai, the mountain of God, on their way to the Promise Land, Pharaoh has a change of heart and goes after his slaves with a massive army and he is not in a good mood!

The Bible tells us that 600 of his finest chariots along with 250,000 soldiers, according to Josephus, came against the children of Israel. Now God led the children of Israel to the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba. And on either side of them were mountains. Now, coming up from behind them was this massive Egyptian army and the children of Israel had no way to escape out of this one. They were sitting ducks you might say!

That caused them to complain to Moses, saying they were better off in Egypt. But Moses tells them God is going to deliver them as he parts the Red Sea and these 2 to 3 million people travel across on dry land. As the Egyptian army went after them, God brought down these waters upon them, not a few inches high but probably rising up 1,000 feet on either side of them, and 250,001 of the Egyptians, including Pharaoh, plus their horses were killed!

And as chapter 14 of Exodus closed, prior to the singing of this song in Exodus chapter 15, we are told, **“So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.”** Exodus 14:30-31. Thus, it is out of this great victory that God gave them over this massive Egyptian army that the children of Israel celebrate and give glory to God in this song of Moses.

The focus here in verse 2 of Exodus chapter 15 and on is *WHAT GOD IS*. Moses tells us that He is my strength, He is my song, He is my salvation, He is my God, He is a Man of war, and His name is *YAHWEH!* We should be able to say the same thing about our God! In knowing what God has done in our lives so far, how He saved us, How He loves us and-so-on; it too should cause us to sing out to the Lord, to exalt His holy name!

Look at Isaiah 25:1, which says, **“O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, For You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.”** Notice that Isaiah has made a decision to praise God, to exalt Him. How do I know that? Because it says, **“I will”** and thus, it is a choice that he has made. Too often people just don’t feel like worshipping God but worship is not to be based just upon feelings. We are to make a conscious decision to worship the Lord, to exalt His name and sometimes that is in spite of what we see before us or how we feel. It is based upon the reality of who God is.

It is as Spurgeon wrote, “If I did not praise and bless Christ my Lord, I should deserve to have my tongue torn out by its roots from my mouth. If I did not bless and magnify his name, I should deserve that every stone I tread on in the streets should rise up to curse my ingratitude, for I am a drowned debtor to the mercy of God - over head and ears - to infinite love and boundless compassion I am a debtor. Are you not the same? Then I charge you by the love of Christ, awake, awake your hearts now to magnify his glorious name.” How true that is!

But our worship, our exalting the Lord is also based upon what He has done. Notice what Isaiah says, “**For You have done wonderful things.**” Look at all that God has done and if that does not cause us to exalt Him, to lift Him up, nothing will. And think about this. God wants our worship, He wants us to exalt Him based upon our thoughts or our conscious decision and remember all that God has done, His great works. It is not just an emotional response as I have said!

And lastly, Isaiah tells us that His “**counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.**” What does that mean? It means that we need to understand that God’s Word is truth and what He has spoken will come to pass! Think about it, what is more reliable, what is more everlasting, what is more enduring than the Word of God? Nothing except God Himself! And so, because of all this, we should exalt the Lord, lift Him up!

Now, in saying that God is the one who is to be lifted up, He is to be exalted, what did Lucifer try to do? He tried to lift himself up, didn't he! In Isaiah 14:12-15 we see the fall of Lucifer, who is known now as Satan, the Devil and many more evil names. Isaiah tells us, **“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.”**

Here we see Lucifer exalt himself, lift himself up and, if you remember what Jesus said in Luke 10:18 of this incident, “. . . **‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’**” Satan was the anointed cherub, in charge of the angelic realm, God's number one created being and in charge of worship in heaven. He was full of beauty and wisdom. And yet that was not enough for him. And because of pride, as we can clearly see, he lost his position before God. His name, Lucifer, means “day star” or “son of the morning”. Think of it this way. As you look at the brilliance of a star in the early morning, suddenly it vanishes as the sun rises. Lucifer started out brilliant but has faded, and will eventually fade away completely!

And I want you to notice these five “**I wills**” of Lucifer. He was not forced to do this, but this came from his heart and was manifested in his words and deeds! Pride has filled his heart. No longer is he concerned with the will of God, but his own will, for he wants to be God. Now that lie is seen in the Garden of Eden when it was waved before Eve, and she bought into it. Hinduism focuses on becoming gods. The New Age is into this idea also. M. Scott Peck said, “God wants us to become himself (or herself or itself). We are growing toward godhood. God is the goal of evolution.”

And now that same lie is being brought into the church with amazing success! Earl Paulk says “Dogs have puppies and cats have kittens, so God has little gods.” Kenneth Copeland proclaims “You don’t have god in you, you are one.” And Benny Hinn pronounces, “I am a ‘little Messiah’ walking on earth.” Now as much as they like to promote this lie of the devil, the Scriptures are clear to the fact we are not God, nor will we ever be God! In Isaiah 44:6-7 we read, “**Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them.**” You see, there are no other God’s no matter what they may say!

Listen carefully to what Lucifer is saying here, these five “**I will**” statements:

- ***I will ascend into heaven:*** In other words, he is saying that “Heaven will be my home and my place of honor.” He is taking it away from the Lord!

- ***I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:*** Notice his point here. He is saying that, “I will be enthroned, and will be exalted above all other angelic beings.” In other words, he is the top dog. Now he was in charge of all the angels, but that was not good enough, he wanted a title, he wanted to be known for who he is and thus, he again was taking away from the Lord and exalting himself!
- ***I will also sit on the mount of the congregation:*** Notice how bold he is getting here as he continues to exalt self. He is basically saying, “I will sit in the place of glory and honor and attention.” He is the top one, all glory and honor and attention is his! Do you think there is a pride issue here? You bet there is!
- ***I will ascend above the heights of the clouds:*** The word, “**clouds**” should be in the singular and read, “cloud” and I believe this is speaking of the Shekinah glory, the glory of God, that he will rise above it, ascend higher than God! Think of it like this, “I will continue to rise, even in heaven, until all see me in my bright shining glory.” And there is one more to go, if you can believe that.
- ***I will be like the most high:*** In other words, “I will be glorious, and be set equal to God, far above all other created beings.” Talk about your boldness, the pride and yet, how many people today try to sit upon the throne of God themselves!

And when Lucifer was having these things grow in his heart, it is when he fell from glory and the same can happen in our own lives. It is as Grogan wrote, “It is a strange paradox that nothing makes a being less like God than the urge to be his equal, for he who was God stepped down from the throne of his glory to display to the wondering eyes of men the humility of God.” You see, God alone deserves the worship and praise; He alone should be exalted or lifted up. What a lesson for us to learn, to make sure He is the one we lift up and not ourselves or anyone else!

Just a few more verses before we move on. First of all in Psalm 118:28-29 David reminds us, **“You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”**

Oh to have that kind of love, that kind of passion for the Lord that it just bursts forth from our lives and reaches up into heaven, to the very throne room of God and blesses Him. And here is the reality, if He is not your God, then it does not matter how much lip service you give to Him, how much praise you give to Him, it won't matter to Him. In fact, if you don't know God chances are you are not going to lift Him up or exalt Him because you don't know Him. It is because we know Him that we exalt Him! Listen to how J. Vernon McGee put it in regards to our worship, our exalting the Lord. He wrote,

My friend, I wish I could somehow express to you the fact that you and I ought to praise the Lord. In my flesh I am cabined and contained and have all kinds of hang –ups. I wish I could open up like a flower and express my praise and thanksgiving to my God! Oh, my friend, to fall down and worship Him, to praise *His* name and glorify *Him* is all important. He loved us and gave Himself for us. May our love today go out to Him in adoration and praise.

- J. Vernon McGee, *Thur The Bible*, Vol. II, p. 846

I like that and I agree with him, I wish I could just burst forth with all kinds of praise and adoration and exaltation unto the Lord to the fullest, but I come up short. I know in heaven it will be far different but I pray the Lord would help me to exalt His wonderful name more and more and give to Him the glory that is due His name!

And lastly, in Psalm 99 look at verses 5 and 9, “**Exalt the Lord our God, And worship at His footstool — He is holy. . . . Exalt the Lord our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the Lord our God is holy.**” Psalm 99:5, 9.

Here again we see the Psalmist exalting the Lord, but why? Because He is holy, He is pure, there is no darkness in Him at all and thus, He deserves to be exalted. You see, God is good, He is wonderful, He is faithful, His lovingkindness endures forever, in other words, He is holy and thus, doesn't that cause you to want to praise Him, exalt Him? If not check your pulse to see if you are still alive! And thus, we are to exalt the Lord in light of all that He is. **WE ARE TO EXALT THE LORD!**

6. GIVE HIM OUR LIVES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE

The last one we will be looking at this morning is that in light of all that God is we are to give him our lives as a living sacrifice. Paul picks up on this in Romans 12:1-2 as he tells us, “**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**”

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].”**

In knowing all that Paul has shared with us regarding God and what He has given to us, Paul is urging us to live a life that is pleasing to God. Morris put it this way: “When he uses this pattern Paul is saying that the Christian life is dependent on the great Christian doctrines.” You see, we don’t live a life that is separate from the Word of God but a life that is according to the Word of God!

Now in saying that, please understand that is not what our children are being taught out in the world. I will give to you one example. Alan Bloom, in his book, *The Closing of the American Mind* wrote,

Relativism is necessary to openness: and this is the virtue, the only virtue, which all primary education for more than fifty years has dedicated itself to inculcating . . . [To impress (something) upon the mind of another by frequent instruction or repetition; instill, To teach (others) by frequent instruction or repetition; indoctrinate].

The true believer is the real danger. The study of history and of culture teaches that all the world was mad in the past; men always thought they were right, and that led to wars, persecutions, slavery, xenophobia [dislike of foreigners], racism, and chauvinism. The point is not to correct the mistakes and really be right; rather it is not to think you are right at all.

The students, of course, cannot defend their opinion. It is something with which they have been indoctrinated. The best they can do is point out all the opinions and cultures there are and have been. What right, they ask, do I or anyone else have to say one is better than the others? . . . The purpose of their education is not to make them scholars but to provide them with a moral virtue – openness.

- Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*, p. 26

Again, you might not think this is a big deal, but it is. What we are saying is that there is no truth, everything is relative, there are no rights or wrongs and thus, you can do whatever you want. Does that impact the way we live? Of course it does and that is why our kids are being taught this stuff, this garbage. One professor told his class, trying to undermine a student's religious beliefs, which will cause him to live a certain way, said this, and this is a quote! He said,

Our ethics are based on the ancient belief that there are supernatural forces at work in the world, that these supernatural forces provide the basis for ethics, that we have moral responsibility based on free will. This is all false. And even people who think it is true must recognize that there is no longer consensus on these beliefs. . . . I tell my religious students to look at the person sitting on each side of them. . . . Chances are, at least one of those persons doesn't share their belief in God that provides the ultimate foundation for ethics. There is no going back to a world in which our ethics can be based on a revelation of what God demands of us.

- G. Liles, quoting Cornell Biologist
William Provine in "The Faith of an Atheist,"
p. 61

You see, what we believe will be manifested in the way we live out our lives. If there are no absolutes, if there are no truths, if everything is okay then I will live out my life in a way that pleases me. How is that working? Just look at the people of this world and you will see how that is working and it is not good, it is evil!

On the other end of the spectrum, if God has told me how to live, since He is good, since He is holy, since there is no darkness in Him at all, then if I live out my life to please God, it will be good! You see, there are absolutes and they are found in the Word of God. We can choose to follow them or reject them but there are consequences to what we do.

But why should we live unto God? Because of all the mercy He has shown us, like justification, sanctification, election, adopted into the family of God, God's Spirit indwelling us, the love of God and so much more that you can read about in the first 11 chapters of Romans. It is as Harrison said: "Whereas the heathen are prone to sacrifice to obtain mercy, biblical faith teaches that divine mercy provides the basis of sacrifice as the fitting response." You see, how can we not live unto God with all the mercy He has bestowed upon us?

Now Paul tells us that we are to be a living sacrifice unto God. That is our lives are to be placed on the altar to be offered up as a burnt offering, totally given to God, and it will be a sweet smelling sacrifice unto God as we do. Too often we give God portions of our lives but not our entire being. He wants it all and as we do, He gives it back to us so we may bring Him glory! As we give ourselves to God, Paul tells us that it is our "**reasonable service**" or literally "**spiritual worship**" for the word "**service**" in the Greek is LATREIA (lat-ri'-ah), which speaks of the worship of God! So not only is a life given to God reasonable service but it is also our reasonable or spiritual worship unto God! And think about it. God has given to us life and a new life that is found in Christ, we should place our lives onto the altar of sacrifice for His use, place our lives into the Masters hand!

Now as you look at Romans 12:2 you see the contrast between living a life as you please and living a life as a sacrifice unto God. Being **“conformed to this world”** speaks of becoming like this world, influenced by this world, this system of man apart from God whose ruler is the Devil himself as Paul tells us, **“whose minds the god of this age has blinded . . .”** II Corinthians 4:4. It is easy to just stand there and let the world press you into their mold. But Paul is telling us that we need to resist being put into their mold because, as Paul said in Romans 8:6-8, **“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”**

As you surrender your life unto God as a living sacrifice, you will not be conformed to this world but you are being **“transformed by the renewing of your mind.”** The word **“transformed”** in the Greek is METAMORPHOO (met-am-or-fo'-o) and it speaks of a metamorphosis that is taking place in our lives. The only other two places this word is used in the New Testament is in Mark 9:2-3 where we see the transfiguration of Jesus and we are told, **“Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.”**

The other place is in II Corinthians 3:18 where we are told, **“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.”**

You see folks; the Scriptures were not given for our information, but our transformation! It is easy to be conformed to this world, just sit there and allow the world to mold and shape you into their image, a world that is in opposition to God whose leader is the Devil! On the other hand, it is a lot harder to resist the world’s influences and allow the transformation of God to take place in our lives.

I like the way Jon Courson put it as he said:

Are you a thermometer – adjusting to the temperature of the culture, or are you a thermostat – changing the climate of the culture? If you are a conformer, a thermometer, you’re in for perpetual frustration because by the time you take the temperature and figure out what’s hot, by the time you change your look, or buy the car, or redo your house – the world will have moved on, leaving you out of style. Truly, this is a great mystery to a lot of Christians. They try to make their ministries relatable by analyzing what the world is doing in order to emulate it. But by the time they figure it out and implement it, the world has moved on. That’s why Christians are known for being out of style.

What’s the key? Don’t be a thermometer. Be a thermostat. Don’t be a conformer. Be a transformer. Say, “I’m in a whole different place than you are, world. I’m living for eternity. I’m preparing for heaven.”

- Jon Courson’s Application Commentary, p. 970

Folks, as we behold the face of God, as we spend time with him, as we surrender our lives to Him, our lives will be transformed into the image of God, a metamorphosis will take place. This begins the moment we get saved and it continues on through our entire lives until we go to be with the Lord! In other words, the new nature that God has placed in our hearts will manifest itself in our lives!

What is **“that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”**? We may know it but many times it is not seen in our lives, we have the head knowledge of what God wants, but because we refuse to surrender, to apply, we are not being transformed into the image of God but conformed into the image of this world! To live in the will of God is to know all that God has for us, to yield ourselves as a sacrifice unto Him, resisting to be conformed to this world but submitting to the transforming power of God in our lives – it is reading and applying the Word of God. You see, as we do it is then you will be able to prove what the will of God is for your life, to live holy lives unto Him as He shows us. Are you willing to submit and be transformed or to resist and be conformed?

Listen to J. B. Phillips translation of Romans 12:1-2, it is powerful. He said: “With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give Him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him and acceptable by Him. Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the Plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.” I like that!

Now, what we have given to God, our lives, we tend to make such a big deal about. "I am sacrificing for the Lord!" Really, do you really know what God has done for you? All He asks of you is to give Him your life; He has already laid His life down for you. Listen to this story regarding David Livingstone. We are told,

People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply acknowledging a great debt we owe to our God, which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny? It is emphatically no sacrifice. Rather it is a privilege.

Anxiety, sickness, suffering, danger, foregoing the common conveniences of this life - these may make us pause, and cause the spirit to waver, and the soul to sink; but let this only be for a moment. All these are nothing compared with the glory which shall later be revealed in and through us. I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk, when we remember the great sacrifice which He made who left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us.

- David Livingstone

What a lesson that is, what God has done for us and in knowing that it should cause us to give to Him our lives. You see, as we give to the Lord our lives, as we place our lives on the altar of sacrifice, it is a form of spiritual worship unto the Lord as I have said. In light of all that God is **WE NEED TO GIVE TO HIM OUR LIVES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE!**

As I bring this study to a close, let me just quickly share with you what we have seen of God the Father, who He is and thus, in knowing that we live out our faith accordingly.

First of all, as we looked at the natural attributes of God the Father we looked at His existence. We saw that God exists, there has to be a creator, there has to be a designer, there has to be a God.

Next we looked at how God is omniscient or that He is all knowing. There is nothing that God has to learn, there is nothing that He does not know, He knows everything!

We saw how God the Father is omnipresent or that His presence fills the universe. You can't hide from Him, run away from Him, He is everywhere. Now we are not saying that we believe God is in the rock, the tree, the dog, and-so-on, but that His presence fills the universe and yet, His throne is in heaven!

We then looked at God being omnipotent or that He is all powerful. There is nothing that God can't do except those things that go against his moral attributes. He is all powerful, He created the heavens and the earth in 6 days and He did not even need that much time, He used the 6 days as an example for us, to work 6 days and rest on the seventh, spend time with Him.

We spoke of God being eternal or that He has no beginning and no end. Now in my mind I can't understand how that can be. All I can do is accept what the Scriptures tell me, to believe it by faith and I think we will understand this when we go to be with the Lord, but for now, God is eternal.

And we saw how God is immutable or that He is unchanging. That is important, because if God kept changing I would not know where He was at on a given day or time. But I can rest in what God has said because He is unchanging!

We then looked at the moral attributes of God. We started out by looking at His holiness, that God is perfect, there is no darkness in Him at all. There is nothing impure or evil in Him, nothing at all. Praise the Lord for that, God is holy!

We looked at His justice or righteousness and we saw that God is a righteous judge and He cannot ignore justice or that would make Him unholy or unrighteous. What He does is fair, it is perfect, it is the right thing to do!

Then we looked at God's love, and you cannot separate one attribute of God from another because you like one better. They are all working together at the same time and God's love for us is unchanging and it is not based upon what we do, but who He is. It is that unconditional love that comes flowing from Him to us!

We then looked at the mercy of God or how God does not give to us what we deserve, and we deserve death! And the reason He can extend mercy to us is because of the work that Jesus did on the cross of Calvary, He paid in full the penalty for our sins, He took our punishment upon His own body for us!

Well, from mercy we moved to the grace of God and this speaks of getting what we don't deserve and that is eternal life. Once again this is found in Christ and His finished work. Grace is just that, it is not because we earned something or did something, but it is what Jesus has done and that free gift is extended to us by faith.

We saw the faithfulness of God, that He is faithful and what He has said will come to pass, not might! We don't have to wonder if God will do what He has said, we can take that to the bank!

And lastly, in regards to the moral attributes of God, we saw His goodness, that God is good and He extends that goodness to us. Now, in regards to these moral attributes of God that He extends to us, He wants us to extend these to others, the fruit of the Spirit that should flow from our lives.

Now here is the conclusion of all this. ***IN LIGHT OF ALL THAT GOD IS WE ARE TO:***

- **WALK IN A WAY THAT WOULD PLEASE GOD**
- **WE ARE TO WORSHIP HIM**
- **WE ARE TO SERVE HIM FAITHFULLY**
- **WE MUST BELIEVE IN FAITH**
- **WE ARE TO EXALT THE LORD**
- **GIVE HIM OUR LIVES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE**

When Pablo Casals reached 95, a young reported threw him a question: “Mr. Casals, you are 95 and the greatest cellist that ever lived. Why do you still practice six hours a day?” And Mr. Casals answered, “Because I think I’m making progress.”

Your goal is to make progress every day of your life.

- Dr. Maxwell Maltz, quoted in Bits & Pieces, June 24, 1993, p. 12

May we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, understanding all we can about our God so that we may live out our faith in a way that pleases Him! I pray that we are making progress!