

## "God the Father"

When someone speaks of God, is He a mystery to you? Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." And today we're going to see how God has revealed Himself to man. So stay with us.

Welcome to In Search of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. 2 Peter 1:20 to 21 says, "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." Now the men who penned the words of the Bible didn't make up what they wrote, but they spoke from God. Because the Holy Spirit moved them to write, their words are utterly trustworthy. The Bible is holy, because God is holy. Thanks for studying with us today. Please join us each week.

Though most people believe in God in America, many have serious questions about Him and many misunderstand Him. Paul Froese and Christopher Bader in their book, America's Four Gods, said that Americans view God in four ways. They believed in an "authoritative God" (that is some of them) who judges people and is engaged in their lives. A second group believed in a "benevolent God," who is thoroughly involved in their lives but is loving, not stern. A third group thought that God was a "critical God," who is removed from daily events but will render judgment in the afterlife. The fourth group said that He's a "distant God," who set the universe in motion, but then disengaged."

Well, surveying people only tells us what people think. Surveys only show disagreements, and a majority opinion isn't a guarantee of the truth. We believe it's better to survey the word of God to discover what God says about Himself. Romans 3 and verse 4 says, "Let God be true though every one were a liar." Humans are often misinformed and easily deceived, but what God says proves true. If you want to find the truth about God, look to God Himself! He will never lie or deceive you.

Now if you want to study more about God the Father, we offer this study free. If you'd like a printed copy or a CD of our study and live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or, you can call our toll-free telephone number. And that number is 1-800-321-8633. We also have materials free on our website at [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org).

The Edmond church will now worship in song, we'll read from Psalm 103 verses 1 to 5, and we'll explore what God says about Himself.

Our scripture reading today comes from Psalm 103, verses 1 through 5, a Psalm of David. "Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle." That's a reading from God's holy Word. Let's pray. Oh heavenly Father, we're thankful that You have created us and given us life. And we're thankful that You watch over us every day. Father help us to come to know You and to love You. In Jesus name, Amen!

How does God speak about Himself? Well first, God the Father is a person, not a force or some disengaged power. The gods of the ancient times were made of wood or stone by human hand. These idols were formed the way people wanted. They weren't persons, they couldn't see, hear, speak, or answer prayers. In contrast, the Thessalonians "turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God" (1 Thessalonians 1 verse 9). Paul said in Acts 17 and verse 29, "Being then the children of God,

we ought not to think that the Divine Nature, (that is the Godhead), is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.”

Instead, the God of the Bible who created us sees everything good and bad. He hears our prayers, He provides for our needs, He protects us in times of trouble, and forgives our sins. Jesus invites us to pray to our heavenly Father. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7 verses 9 to 11, “Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!” God the Father is a person who rejoices when we obey and grieves when we sin.

Second, the God of the Bible is utterly unique, and there is no one and nothing else like Him in all the universe. Exodus 15 and verse 11 says, “Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?” The many gods of the Greeks and Romans were petty, uncaring, harsh, selfish, sinful, vengeful, and limited in power. They were also invented by men. In contrast, the God of heaven is merciful, compassionate, comforting, loving, and perfect. He calls us to live holy and righteous lives, to be kind and good to others, and to love Him as He loves us. The Lord Jesus reminds us that He is ever attentive to our needs. “Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered” (Matthew 10 verses 29 to 30).

Third, God is spirit. A Samaritan woman at the well in Sychar asked Jesus about where she should worship. Well the Lord Jesus told the woman in John 4 verses 23 to 24, “But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.” In Luke 24 and verses 39 Jesus said, “A spirit does not have flesh and bones.” Spirits aren’t physical or material; they don’t have the limits that you and I have. You see, God is supernatural, that is He is above nature.

So we can say fourth, that God is infinite. God isn’t limited by space or time but is omnipresent, everywhere present. David asked in Psalm 139 verses 7 to 10, “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.”

Sometimes children ask, “Well if God created us, who made God?” Well, God wasn’t made; He wasn’t created, He’s always existed. You see, God introduced Himself to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3 and verse 14 as “I AM WHO I AM.” And God was here explaining that He is self-existent, that He has always been. God is eternal, now we are temporal, but God is eternal. Moses wrote in Psalm 90 verse 2, “Before the mountains were born, Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.” John heard God say, “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (that’s from Revelation 1 verse 8). Though we measure time, you and I do, to God “one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3 and verse 8).

We need to know that God isn’t limited in knowledge or wisdom but is omniscient, He knows all. Psalm 147 and verse 5 simply says that God’s “understanding is infinite.” Proverbs 15 and verse 3 says, “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.” Isaiah 46 and verse 10 reminds us that God can declare “the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good

pleasure.” David you remember said in Psalm 139 and verse 4, “Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.” God knows what we’ll say, because God knows our hearts. He sees into our souls. You remember that David prayed in Psalm 139 verses 23 and 24, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.”

God isn’t limited in power, like you and I. Jeremiah 32 and verse 17 says, “Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You.” You remember the Lord Jesus said in Mark 1 and verse :27, that “with people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.”

Fifth, God is light! 1 John 1 and verse 5 says, “This is the message that we have heard from Him and we announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” God has absolute purity and holiness; in Him is no sin at all. God’s holiness means that He cannot and will not approve of sin.

Sixth, 1 John also says that God is love. 1 John 4 verses 8 to 10 says, “The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” We love because He first loved us (1 John 4 and verse 19). Now the faithful Christian understands that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus (according to Romans 8 verses 37 to 39). And he realizes that God demonstrated His love for us when we were weak, ungodly and sinners, and He did this by sacrificing His Son Jesus on the cross.

Now some say if God condemns sin, He cannot be loving; for if God is truly loving, He will not punish sinners. But these traits, light the Holiness of God, and love, are not contradictory but are complementary in describing the nature of God. God isn’t all grace or all wrath. One can be loving and yet still disapprove of sin. In fact, one cannot be loving without disapproving of sin. Good parents discipline their children, because it’s what’s best for the child, and it’s best for them in the long run. Unloving parents don’t care what their children do. Since God cares what we do, He disciplines us in this life, so He won’t have to punish us in the next life.

Ultimately God loves everyone, but He judges people according to their works, blessing those who repent and obey and showing wrath on those who will not obey. Romans chapter 2, verses 5 to 11 addresses some Christians who were stubborn and rebellious, Paul said “But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each person according to his deeds: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, (He’ll give them) eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.” You see how you react to God will determine your future with or without God. God is consistent in how He treats His people and in how He treats those who will not obey the truth. God said in Ezekiel 8 and verse 18, “Therefore, I indeed will deal in wrath. My eye will have no pity nor will I spare; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, yet I will not listen to them.”

Seventh, God doesn’t change and He cannot be changed. God said in Malachi 3 and verse 6, “For I, the LORD, do not change.” James said in James 1 and verse 17, that Every good thing given and every

perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." Because God doesn't change we can know His words hold true for all time. Psalm 119 verse 89 says, "Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven." Again Psalm 33 verse 11 says, "The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation."

Because God doesn't change, we can rely on God. God keeps His promises. Numbers 23 and verse 19 says, "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor the son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" From the beginning we have seen how God keeps His promises. You remember that God told Noah in Genesis 8 and verse 22, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Our days and months and seasons still continue with precision just as they did in the beginning. God keeps His promises. After taking the land of Israel from the people of Canaan in fulfillment of God's commands, Joshua said in Joshua 21 and verse 45, "Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass."

God is faithful! Deuteronomy 7 verse 9 says, "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments." 1 Thessalonians 5 and verse 24 says, "Faithful is He who calls you, and He will bring it to pass." Because God is faithful we can depend upon Him to keep His promises and to help us in our lives. For instance, God helps His people when they're tempted to sin. 1 Corinthians 10 and verse 13 says, "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, so that you may be able to endure it." God is also faithful when we seek forgiveness. 1 John chapter 1 verse 9 says, that "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Even when the world was crashing down on Jeremiah in the destruction of Jerusalem, Jeremiah could say in Lamentations 3:22 to 24, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." My friend, you too can have full confidence in God. Let's pray together. Oh Father, we're so grateful that You are faithful to us, and that You love us. Father we're thankful for Your righteousness, and that You point us to be righteous people too. Help us to love You, and to be obedient to Your will. In Jesus name, Amen!

If God the Father created you, if He gives you life and daily provides for you, if He sent His Son Jesus to die for your sins, shouldn't you give Him your trust, your love, and your obedience? Each one of us is accountable to the one true and living God found in the Bible. He is God and there is no other. He watched His beloved Son suffer crucifixion; and no one will ever love you as He has loved you. No one else can save your soul. No one else can give you eternal life.

Now each day we choose whether we'll follow Him or refuse Him, whether we'll love Him or ignore Him. And how we react to our heavenly Father's love and His gospel message will determine our destiny. Hebrews 11 and verse 6 says, "And without faith it's impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He's a rewarder of those who seek Him." Without faith in God and in Christ, we can never be found pleasing to God. To believe God we must trust in His word. The Lord Jesus said to His apostles in Mark 16 verse 15 to 16, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."

My friend, God loves you deeply and wants you to be saved from sin and live eternally in heaven with Him. Now everything He's done since the beginning was to bring you truth and to save you. Every law of God is for your good. Will you not put your trust in Him, repent of your sins, be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? And today is your best day to get right with God. My friend, nothing is as important as making your calling and election sure, of knowing that you have obeyed the gospel. Will you obey today?

We hope that today's study about God the Father has stirred you to consider your soul. We're now publishing a booklet entitled One God, Three Persons, and we'd love to send you one free when they're ready in November. Now if you live in the United States and you want a free printed copy or a CD of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or you can send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or you can call the Search office toll-free. That number is 1-800-321-8633. Now you can download these lessons at our website: [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. Now don't worry, if you ask for one, we won't hassle you for money or put you on a list. We're not here to exploit you.

We do ask that you please get involved with a church of Christ. If you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we can help you find one. Now we'll be back next week, Lord willing. So that we ask that you keep searching God's Word with us, look into it deeply and find out what God says about things. Tell your friends about this program. That would mean a great deal to us if you let them know that we care about them. Well as always we like to tell you that God is so good, and that He will bless you, if you'll serve Him. So God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.