

“What Do You Really Believe About God?”

Christ-Life Journey Seminar

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What Do You Really Believe About God?

Why Is This Study So Crucial To Your Christlife Journey?

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5, 6

How you feel and what you think about God shapes everything that you believe about Him. Does God really unconditionally love me? Is an intimate relationship possible with a God that I cannot see? Can I really trust Him with my deepest struggles? Will He deliver me from my strongholds? Why did God let this happen? These and many other questions like these may cause you to ask:

*Is God really **FOR** me?*

To the extent that you believe the lies or distortions about God will be the extent that you won't conclude that God is really for you. To the extent that you don't believe that He is FOR you will be to the extent that you do not trust Him. What you believe about God will always determine the extent to which you will entrust to Him the struggles, circumstances, and relationships of your life.

The underlying problem is that you will never TRUST OR ENTRUST to a God that you

DISTRUST!

How Can I Know That God Is FOR Me?

“...if God is FOR us, who is against us?” Romans 8:31

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 John 4:7,8

“He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.” Zephaniah 3:17

1. He Was FOR You Before You Were Born

“Long ago, even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.” Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)

Think about it for a moment. In eternity past God determined that you were to be born. It is because of His love for you that you even exist! Think of it. He chose you out of 500 million possibilities at conception! Imagine God loving you for an eternity before you even came into being. How awesome is that?

2. He Has An Unchanging Plan FOR You

*“His **unchanging plan** has always been to adopt us into his own family **by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ**. And this gave Him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:5*

God’s plan for you from eternity past is to draw you into a personal, intimate relationship with Him. Everything that He does in your life is to fulfill His unchanging plan. What is behind His unchanging plan?

3. God’s Motivation Behind His Unchanging Plan FOR You Is His Love FOR you

*“See **how great a love** the Father has bestowed upon us (**YOU!**), that we should be called children of God; and such we are....” 1 John 3:1 (Parenthesis mine)*

The motivating force behind God’s unchanging plan is His unconditional love for you. The one thing God wants you to know and experience more than anything else is His immeasurable, eternal and unconditional love for you. He wants you to know that it is His love that motivates everything that He has done, that He is doing, and that He will do in your life. His love for you started in eternity past, and His love is with you at this very moment.

What Are Some Of The Characteristics Of God’s Love?

God in His Very Essence is Love

*“**God is love**” 1 John 4:8, 16*

A light bulb can only emit light. Its essence determines its function. It was designed to emit light, and that is the source of its function. This is its makeup. The same is true with God. In 1 John 4:7 and 16 it says that God is love. It is His essence. Therefore, God by His very nature can ONLY love you.

God Has Loved You With An Eternal Love

*“I have loved you with an **everlasting** love.” Jeremiah 31:3*

Since love is part of God’s essence and God is eternal, then He has loved you eternally. His love has no beginning or ending for you. He has always loved you. Imagine a God who has loved you for an eternity. Since it is an eternal love, then nothing that you have done, nothing that you are doing, or nothing that you will ever do will change His love for you.

God Invites You To Join In The Same Love Relationship That The Trinity Has For Each Another

*“I have made You known to them, and will continue to make You known in order that the **love You have for Me may be in them** and that I myself may be in them.” John 17:26*

In John 17:26 Jesus is saying that the love that the Father has for the Son is the same love that God has for you. In other words God wants you to **participate** in the unconditional love relationship that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have been experiencing with each other for an eternity. You are being invited into this love relationship. Therefore, God's plan is for you to be brought into His family and to enjoy a love relationship with Him.

You Can Never Be Separated From His Love

*“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to **separate us from the love of God** that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38, 39*

One of the lies that many Christians believe is that we can do something to separate us from God's love. Romans 8:38, 39 destroys that lie. There is NOTHING that you can do (or not do) to separate you from His love.

Since you are in an **inseparable** union with God, can you lose your salvation?

God Loves You As A Perfect Father

*“And He was saying, “**Abba!** Father! All things are possible for Thee; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what Thou wilt.” Mark 14:36*

We all had imperfect fathers. We are all searching for a perfect father. God is the answer to that search. God is your perfect “abba” which translated means “daddy.” As Jesus referred to the Father as “Daddy,” you are invited to do the same. You can come to God as a loving daddy who is waiting with outstretched arms to pour His love into your life.

What would you like to see in a perfect Father?

God Put All of His Love In You

*“you are **complete** in Him....” Colossians 2:10 (NKJV)*

Remember that God put His life in you at the point of your salvation. It says in Colossians 2:10 that you are **complete** in Him. Since that is true, then all of God's love is in you right now. According to John 17:26 the same love with which God the Father loved the Son is in you now because of your union with Him.

If all of God' love is within you, do you have to perform for, work for, or earn God's love?

God is Pursuing You With His Love

*“Surely, goodness and unfailing love will **pursue** me all the days of my life.” Psalm 23:6*

Psalm 23:6 tells you that God's love towards you is not passive. He is pursuing you with His love every moment of your life. He will not stop until He has totally captured you with His love. His greatest desire is that He wants you to understand and experience His love in full measure (Ephesians 3:16-19). So, what is He doing in your life right this moment?

God's Love Is Unconditional

*"Remember, O Lord, your **unfailing** love and compassion, which you have shown from long ages past." Psalm 25:6*

God loves you unconditionally. His love does not require anything from you. His love is not affected by whether or not you love Him, trust Him, or believe in Him. It is based solely on His essence. He is love.

Since God's love is unconditional, what can you do to lose His unconditional love?

"The deepest awareness that I have of my life is that I am a man passionately loved by God"
Thomas Melton

4. God Showed You How Much He Is FOR You By What He Did On The Cross

*"Since God **did not** spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't God, who gave us Christ, also give us **everything** else?" Romans 8:32*

*"It is **finished**." John 19:30"*

My friends, if you have any doubt of God's unconditional love, please revisit what God accomplished **for** you at the cross. First of all He was willing to give up His righteous son as the sacrifice for your sins. How much more did God need to do to show His love for you other than to send His Son to the cross? However, God accomplished MUCH MORE at the cross. What is the "much more" of the cross?

1. He went to the cross **to remove your sins**. 1 Peter 2:24
2. He **set you free from the power of sin and death**. Romans 8:2
3. He **gave you His life**. Romans 8:11
4. He put His life into you at salvation **to restore a relationship with you**. Ephesians 1:5
5. He put His life in you so that you **no longer must be the source for living life**.
2 Corinthians 5:15
6. He **crucified your old identity** and **gave you a new identity**. Romans 6:6; 2 Corinthians 5:17
7. He **put Himself in union with you**. 1 Corinthians 6:17, John 14:20

Why did God go to these lengths for you? He did it in order to accomplish His unchanging plan for intimate relationship with you. When you trusted Jesus for salvation, God put Himself into an intimate, inseparable union with you.

5. God In His Sovereignty Is FOR You

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "**plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future**." Jeremiah 29:11*

*"The LORD Almighty has spoken—**who can change his plans**? When his hand moves, who can stop him?" Isaiah 14:27 (NLT)*

If God's unchanging plan is to bring you into an intimate relationship with Him, then how important is God's sovereignty in persuading you that He is for you?

In His sovereignty, God:

1. Will allow events in your life to bring you into a greater dependence on Him. John 15:5
2. Will use what you consider to be a failure or a bad decision and will work it together for your good. Romans 8:28
3. Will never allow a situation into your life in which He will not provide a way of escape. 1 Corinthians 10:13
4. Will allow situations into your life to show you the continuous need for Christ in you. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

6. God Is FOR You As Your Promise Keeper

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you WILL perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6 (Emphasis mine)

If God’s unchanging plan is to bring you into a relationship with Him, then He wants you to be as confident as Paul was that God WILL accomplish His plan. When you look at Philippians 1:6 above, stop and meditate on the word “WILL.” This word means that the all-powerful, determined God of the universe will always be at work in transforming your life.

What Are Some of The Things that God WILL Do In Your Life To Transform You?

God WILL freely give you all things.

*“He Who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?**” Romans 8:32*

Now that He has saved you and put His life in you, God is going to accomplish His purposes in your life. For, you see, the “all things” of Romans 8:32 are found in Himself. He wants you to experience all of His Christlikeness. The ultimate purpose of being conformed to Him is to draw you to Himself.

God WILL do the impossible in your life.

*“For **nothing will be impossible with God.**” Luke 1:37*

He will destroy the strongholds in your life. He will give you the victory and the freedom that you desire in the areas of your life which prevent the flow of His life through you. He will take your impossible situation and will show you that He is the answer to that problem. It is a process of taking you from self-confidence to Christ-confidence.

God WILL supply your legitimate soulical needs.

*“And my **God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.**” Philippians 4:19*

The quest of your independent self-life (flesh) is to attempt to get your legitimate soulical needs for unconditional love, acceptance, security, identity, adequacy, meaning, and purpose met apart from God. If you don’t believe that God can meet your needs, then you will turn to your flesh to try and get those needs met.

For example, God promises that only He can unconditionally love you. However (through unbelief) you might seek unconditional love in earthly relationships. If you believe that God can't possibly accept you, then you may strive to be accepted by others or strive for God's acceptance. God loves you enough that He will let you seek to get those needs met apart from Him. The result will be that you will see the futility of trying to get those needs met apart from Him. He, and He alone, will be your "need-meeter."

God WILL turn your mistakes and failures into eternal good.

*"And we know that **God causes everything** to work together for **good** to those who love God and who are called according to His purpose for them." Romans 8:28*

God is not the author of the confusion, struggles, and adversity in your life. He promises to take those struggles and adversity and work them for His good (and yours) in your life. This side of eternity will be wrought with mistakes and failures. However, in God's love for you, He will show you that He uses every one of those failures to transform your life.

God WILL heal you.

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3

Regardless of the trauma that you may have experienced in life that has created woundedness in your soul, God will heal you. The depth of your woundedness and pain makes no difference. This healing may not be overnight, but He will heal you according to His time schedule.

God WILL renew your mind.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2

God knows the lies that you believe about Him, yourself, and others. He will renew your mind by replacing those lies with His truth.

God WILL transform your life into His likeness.

*"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, **are being transformed into his likeness** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18*

His part is to transform your life into His likeness. His likeness would be described as His love, joy, peace, security, and righteousness. His likeness is that part of His divine nature that He allows you to partake of (2 Peter 1:4).

7. God As The Initiator Is Always FOR You.

*"And God is **able** to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed." 2 Corinthians 9:8*

*"For I am confident of this very thing that He who began a good work in you **will** perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6*

*“for it is **God who is at work in you**, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”*
Philippians 2:13

God is constantly initiating His transforming work in your life. Since we cannot produce the work in our lives, we are totally dependent on Him to do His work in us. The faith-confidence we can have is that He is working every moment our life.

He is initiating His work in you to:

1. Reveal to you the death of your self-life.
2. Move you from unbelief to belief.
3. Cause you to enter into His rest in the midst of adversity.
4. Resolve your conflicts or to change your attitude in the midst of your conflict.
5. Give you a willingness for Him to accomplish a deeper work in your life.
6. Reveal Himself, His grace, and the abundant life in Him.
7. Cause you to see the “unseen” realm as a greater reality than the “seen” realm.

8. God Is FOR You As The “I AM” Of Your Life

“I am the way, the truth and the life.” John 14:6

God is not the God of “I will be” or the God of “I was.” He is the God of the “I AM.” In other words He is your Supply. He promises to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life in and through you.

What Are Some Of The Ways That God Is The “I AM” Of Your Life?

I AM loving you unconditionally regardless of what you have done, are doing, or will do.

*“We love, because **He first loved us.**” 1 John 4:19*

The word for God’s love in the New Testament is “agape.” This word describes God’s love as constant and unconditional. We believe the lie that we have to do something to earn God’s love. We believe that if we don’t perform or accomplish something, God will not love us. One of the most freeing truths in scripture is that **God’s love is NOT based on what you do or do not do.**

I AM intimately concerned with every detail of your life.

*“Thou dost scrutinize my path and my lying down, **And art intimately acquainted with all my ways.**” Psalm 139:3*

We know theologically that God knows all about you and me. However, in the midst of our issues and struggles we tend to forget that God is there with His concern and compassion for us. He is intimately acquainted with everything about you. As a result you can be honest with Him about your situation and how you feel about it.

I AM unconditionally accepting you regardless of your behavior.

*“Accept one another, then, just as **Christ accepted you**, in order to bring praise to God.”*
Romans 15:7

You will feel rejection many times in your life. However, rejection will never come from God because you are unconditionally accepted by Him. Think about it for a moment. There is nothing you can or cannot do that will cause God to reject you. This doesn't mean that He condones sinful behavior. Your behavior has nothing to do with God's acceptance of you.

I AM in union with you, and I will therefore never abandon you. *Hebrews 13:5*

You are in union with God (John 14:20). Therefore, He can NEVER leave you because He is in union with you for eternity. You never have to worry about your eternal security because of your union with Him.

I AM in sovereign control of your life.

"Who(Jesus Christ), by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body." Philippians 3:21 (Parenthesis mine)

God is sovereign over your life. In other words God will never allow anything to come into your life unless it is for His purposes. He is your protection. Psalm 127:1 says, "The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul."

I AM faithful even if you are faithless.

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself." 2 Timothy 2:13

You and I will always struggle with our faithfulness toward God. Regardless of your lack of faith, God will always be faithful since it is part of His essence. Therefore, unlike vacillating humans, God faithfully is working in your life to draw you to Himself.

"The Lord is for me" Psalm 118:6

Why Do I Struggle With My Beliefs About God If God Is FOR Me?

1. You Don't Understand The Ways of God. God Is a MYSTERY!

"I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?" Psalm 42:9

When we are in the midst of a painful struggle or when we witness tragedy in other people's lives, we tend to turn to the Lord and ask, "Why? Why are you allowing this pain? Why don't you remove it? Why is it going on so long?" The "why" questions are a normal part of our "humanness." It is the question of a finite mind trying to comprehend an infinite God. I believe that the number one reason why we struggle with God is that we are finite human beings with finite understanding while interacting with a God of infinite wisdom and understanding. Let's face it. God is a mystery, and we don't like mysteries. We want to always understand and figure things out. When we don't or can't, then our human tendency is to doubt God's goodness and His love. The truth is that we will never figure God out. Our part is **not** to figure Him out! Our part is to trust in His infinite power, ability, understanding, and control in every area of our life.

2. You Have Believed the Lies That Religion Has Told You About God.

“So the LORD’s anger burned against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until the entire generation of those who had done evil in the sight of the Lord was destroyed.” Numbers 32:13

I believe that one of the biggest culprits in believing the lies that we do about God is religion. In addition to your parent’s influence, the other great influence in your life concerning what you believe about God is what religion taught you about God. What did religion teach you about God? Was He portrayed as an angry God, a condemning God, a punishing God, a distant God, or a God that you must perform for to earn His love, acceptance, and worth?

I have heard pastors and teachers take a passage like the one above in Numbers 32:13 and build a case for an angry God who is waiting to judge and condemn you the moment you step out of line. The false concepts you may have been taught can make a deep impression on your belief system about who God is and how He relates to you. (I share this not to condemn those pastors or teachers because in most cases they were only passing down the lying beliefs that they were taught about God.)

3. You Feel That You Have To Do Something To Earn God’s Love, Acceptance, And Worth.

*“They said therefore to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”
John 6:28*

We have all grown up in a culture that says that you must do something or perform for someone’s love, acceptance, and worth. Unfortunately, since this has been such an integral part of our lives, we have brought that same mindset into Christianity. This false concept brings us to the conclusion that we must do something to earn God’s love, acceptance, and worth. Religion propagates this lie by saying that you must live under a set of rules or laws to please God. Therefore, you may have a quiet time, evangelize, or serve in the church because you believe this is what you must “do” to be pleasing and acceptable to God.

4. The Lies You Believe About God Become the Truth To You.

*“Then we will no longer be like children, forever, changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth.”
Ephesians 4: 14 (NLT)*

The lying beliefs that you have about God are so embedded in your belief systems that they create roadblocks in your soul to God’s truth. The problem is that you have believed the lies about God long enough so that they have become the truth to you. Therefore, when **God’s truth concerning Himself comes against your lies, your tendency may well be to believe your lies over God’s truth.**

Refer to the sheet titled “Who Is God To You” and mark the items that you don’t believe are completely true.

5. You Have Unrealistic Expectations Of God.

“From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” Matthew 16:21, 22

As a result of your false perception of God, you develop false or unrealistic expectations of God. At the beginning of Jesus’s relationship with the disciples, the expectation was that Jesus had come to reign as Deliverer and King. When Peter heard the prophetic words of Jesus in Matthew 16 concerning His death on the cross, he was shocked! He never expected that Jesus would hang on a criminal’s cross and die a horrible death. He had false expectations about God. Unfortunately, we, too, have similar unrealistic expectations based on false beliefs that lead us to false conclusions. Look at the examples below:

If God loves me, then He will prevent hurtful situations or relationships in my life.

If God is in control, then I will not lose my job. Or if I do, He will quickly find me another one.

If God is my protector, then He will protect me and my family from adversity.

If God _____, then_____.

If God _____, then_____.

If your false expectations or conclusions concerning God are not met, then you easily can become further **disillusioned** with God.

6. Satan Continues to Deceive You and Tempt You To Doubt God.

“For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:5

How does Satan involve himself in developing or reinforcing your false concepts about God? Remember, the only historian in your life is Satan. He and his spiritual forces have been keeping data files on your life since birth. He helped shape and reinforce your false concepts of God. He will use your history against you. He does this in at least four ways. Satan will **tempt** you in those areas of false beliefs. He will also try to **deceive** you into believing that God is not Who He says He is. When you do doubt God, Satan will **accuse** you. Finally, after you succumb to the temptation, deception, or accusation, he will try to **condemn** you.

If You Believe The Lies.....

You Will Doubt God.

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” Genesis 3:1

In the garden before the Fall, Adam and Eve were in total harmony with God. They only heard one voice day after day, and that was God’s voice. It was a voice that they trusted and believed. They lived in total dependence on God because that is all they knew. Then one day there came another voice. It was the voice of Satan. The first words from the voice of Satan were, “Did God really say...?” It was this voice that introduced a new word to Adam’s and Eve’s

vocabulary - **DOUBT**. Up until that time Adam and Eve had no reason to doubt God. However, when their belief system was challenged, doubt crept in and led to disobedience and spiritual death. You see, all it takes is a little leaven of doubt to destroy the truth about God. Where do your doubts about God lead?

Doubt Leads to Unbelief.

*“As a result of this many of **His disciples withdrew** and were not walking with Him anymore.”
John 6:66*

Once you start down the trail of doubt, you can get to a point where you can't trust God at many (or any) level(s). **To the extent that you doubt God will be the extent that you don't believe Him.** Doubt that leads to unbelief can create anger or bitterness toward God. As these attitudes grow in your life, instead of going to God as the solution to your problems, you will try to find answers from other people, or you may try to distract, suppress, or even deny your problems. This can eventually lead to despair and hopelessness in life. If this happens, **you will eventually give up on God and His ability to work in your life.** I believe that this is the condition of many believers today. Instead of walking in the transforming power of God, they simply live out their lives coping with life in their own resources while waiting to be delivered from this earthly body at death.

Remember:

What you believe or how you feel about God does not change the truth about God.

The Line and God's Truth Versus Your Lies

“I amthe truth...” John 14:6

**The truth In Your Spirit
God is FOR you Because He is:**

Unconditionally Loving	Able
Intimate	Forgiving
Full of grace	Merciful
Kind	Compassionate
Involved	Patient
Faithful	Sovereign

**The LIES in Your Soul
God is NOT for you because He is:**

Distant	Insensitive
Uncaring	Controlling
Angry	Condemning
Impatient	Disinterested
Cruel	Unforgiving

Practical Application To Draw Closer To God

1. Learn and meditate on God's word.

To develop a better understanding of God, it is essential that we learn His word. We see this in Proverbs 1:5:

“A wise man will hear and increase in learning...”

Why do we learn His word? Hebrews 4:12 tells us:

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

Meditate on His word.

As important as it is to learn God's word, it is equally important to meditate on His word. What does meditate mean? Meditation, in the spiritual sense, is engaging God to give you insight and revelation as you think about, ponder, or focus on God and His word.

*“My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.”
Psalm 119:48*

Learning His word must be mixed with faith in order to be changed by it.

*“... **faith** comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** by the **word of Christ**.” Romans 10:17*

*“For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard **did not profit them**, because **it was not united by faith** in those who heard.” – Hebrews 4:2*

*“**Sanctify** them in the truth; Thy word is truth” John 17:17*

We are to engage God in regards to His Word.

The following are some examples of what that might look like:

“Lord, I am entrusting the lies about You to You so that You can renew my mind with Your truth.”

“I am asking You to make Your word real to me personally.”

“I do not understand this scripture. Give me insight and revelation.”

“Bring Your word to my mind during the day and apply it in the situations that I will be faced with today.”

2. Talk to and (most importantly) listen to God.

“But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.” Psalm 31:14

*“I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done. I will be filled with joy because of you. I will sing praises to your name, O Most High.”
Psalm 9:1*

So many believers want the “things” of God without wanting a relationship with Him. God’s unchanging plan is for relationship with you. He wants to commune with you and to enjoy you moment by moment. Therefore, talk to Him and develop “spiritual ears” to listen to Him. Can you imagine that the infinite God of the universe wants a personal relationship with you? It’s true!

*“Blessed is the man who listens to Me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.”
Psalm 8:34*

3. Pursue God to reveal His word to you, to heal your woundedness, to resolve your problems, and to transform your life.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8

I know for many believers it is hard to entrust their issues to a God that they don’t trust. However, since God is the only solution (whether we believe it or not), it is essential that we seek God. Much like the Syrophenician woman who pursued Jesus until He exclaimed that He had not seen such “great” faith (Matthew 15:21-28), we, too, need to pursue Him until He answers.

What does it look like to pursue God?

The following are some examples of pursuing God:

“Change my resistant heart and give me a willingness to pursue You.”

“Be my patience as I wait on Your perfect timing in resolving this situation.”

“Be my endurance as I go through this trial.”

Ultimately We Know That God Is For Us Because of His Unchanging Plan

“His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:5

One of the guarantees that we know that God is for us is because God will be faithful in carrying out His unchanging plan of intimate relationship with us. He is pursuing us, wooing us, and drawing us into a love relationship because of His eternal heart for us. So, YES this awesome, loving God within you is FOR you!

Lies Versus The Truth Concerning God

Lie – This situation is impossible for God

Truth – All things are possible with God. Luke 1:37

Lie – God cannot handle this problem

Truth – He can do all beyond what you can ask or think. Ephesians 3:20

Lie – God does not love me since He allowed this to happen to me.

Truth – God the Father loves you as much as He loved Jesus while He was on the cross.

John 17:23

Lie – God is not in control of this problem

Truth – God is absolutely sovereign. He knows the end from the beginning. Isaiah 40:12-31

Lie – I have to be the “fixer” of this problem.

Truth – Only Jesus can fix the problem. John 14:6; 15:5

Lie - I have failed, or I am a failure because of this situation

Truth – There are no failures in God’s plan. He will use it all for your good. Romans 8:28

Lie – I feel that God has distanced Himself from me and my problem.

Truth – He can’t be any closer to you than He is right now because He has joined Himself to your spirit and is now in a permanent union with you. 1 Corinthians 6:17

WHO GOD IS TO YOU

Genesis 15:1	He is your shield (defense) and your very great reward.
Jeremiah 32:17	Nothing is too difficult for Him.
Ephesians 3:20	He is able to do immeasurably more than all you can ask or imagine
Romans 8:31	If God is for you, who can be against you?
Romans 8:38-39	Nothing in all creation can separate you from His love.
John 17:23	He loves you as much as He loves Jesus.
Isaiah 40:12-31	He is absolutely sovereign, Who knows the end from the beginning.
Isaiah 46:3-10	His purposes will stand.
Psalms 103	His love for you is greater than the height of the heavens above the earth. He's removed your sins from us and has compassion on you as a loving father on a son or daughter.
Hebrews 13:5	He will never ever leave you nor forsake you.
Psalms 86:15	He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.
Matthew 11:29	He is gentle, tender and humble in heart. He gives you rest for your soul.
Ephesians 3:16-19	His love for you is beyond your natural mind's ability to grasp.
Colossians 3:12	He has chosen you and loves you dearly.
Psalms 23	He is your shepherd. He guides you and supplies all your needs.
John 10:14-15	He restores your soul.
Romans 8:28	He has everything rigged to work for your good.
Psalms 25:3	No one who puts their hope in Him will be put to shame or disappointed
Psalms 86:5	He is kind and forgiving and abounding in love to all who call upon Him.
John 3:1	He has made you His own child.
Colossians 1:13	He has transferred you out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of His beloved Son.
I Corinthians 1:25	His "foolishness" is wiser than man's wisdom.
I Corinthians 1:30	He is your wisdom, righteousness, holiness, and redemption.
Philippians 4:19	He meets all of your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ.
Ephesians 1:3	He has blessed you with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ
II Corinthians 3:5	He is your adequacy.
Philippians 1:6	He will complete the work that He has begun in you.
Psalms 34:15	His eyes are upon you, and His ears are open to your cry.
Psalms 34:18	He is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
John 6:37	Whoever comes to Him He will not cast out.
Psalms 37:23-24	Though you stumble, He upholds you with His hand.
Jude 24 & 25	He is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault with exceeding ecstatic delight (Amplified version).
Proverbs 19:21	He is absolutely sovereign, and your interests are safe with Him.
II Corinthians 9:8	He is able to make all His grace abound to you so that at all times you will have all that you need to abound in every good work.
I Corinthians 6:17	He has joined Himself with you.
II Corinthians 2:14	He has made you conquerors and victors in Him.
Romans 8:29	He has predestined you to become conformed to the image of Christ.
Romans 5:17	Your destiny is to reign with Him both now and in the ages to come.
Psalms 62:8	He is your refuge and One to whom you can always pour out your heart.
Colossians 2:13-14	He pardons sin, forgives transgressions, and delights to show mercy.
Isaiah 54:17	He will not allow any weapon which is formed against you to prevail
Romans 8:31-34	He is for you and will not let anyone bring a charge against you or condemn you.
Ephesians 2:5-6	He has made you alive with Christ and has raised you up with Him and seated you with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

False Beliefs About God

PART ONE - Lies/Distortions - God IS:

1. Judging me
2. Waiting to punish me for my sin
3. Cold and distant
4. Angry or unhappy with me
5. Condemning me
6. The author of pain and suffering
7. Indifferent
8. Not in control
9. Like my earthly parents in that _____
10. _____

PART TWO - Distortions: God IS NOT:

1. Safe
2. Loving
3. Secure
4. Willing
5. Merciful
6. Trustworthy
7. Caring
8. Able
9. Sovereign
10. _____

This makes me FEEL that:

1. I am not loved.
2. I am not acceptable.
3. I am not worthy.
4. I am not secure.
5. I am condemned.
6. I have to solve the problem with my own resources.
7. I don't matter.
8. I have to perform for His love.
9. _____.

As a result of my false beliefs, I DON'T:

1. Want a relationship with Him.
2. Entrust my struggles to Him.
3. Surrender my rights to Him.
4. Abide in His sufficiency.
5. Seek an intimate relationship with Him.
6. Believe that He will _____.
7. Believe He will deliver me from or through _____.

CONCEPT OF GOD

1. When I think about God, I feel _____

_____.

2. Sometimes I wish that God would _____

_____.

3. What frustrates me most about God is _____

_____.

4. Sometimes I get angry with God when _____

_____.

5. The one thing that I would change in my relationship with God is _____

_____.

6. The one thing that I would change about myself to please God is _____

_____.

7. The secret thought about God that I struggle with God is _____

_____.

8. The one question about God that I would like to have answered is _____

_____.

10. The one thing that I have the most trouble trusting God with is _____

_____.

11. One thing I'm afraid that God will do is _____

_____.