



Women's Ministry



the INFINITE GOD

A STUDY OF HIS CHARACTER

2 Peter 1:4 - That through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.

A WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY

SEP 8-NOV 10

9:30 AM

6:45 PM

Worship, Bible study, & small groups.
Grow in faith & deepening your relationship with the Lord with us.

16241 LEFFINGWELL RD, WHITTIER, CA 90603

the
INFINITE GOD

A STUDY OF HIS CHARACTER

2 Peter 1:4 - That through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.

SEP 8

OPENING DAY (NO HOMEWORK)

SEP 15

LESSON #1 – THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

SEP 22

LESSON #2 – THE MERCY OF GOD

SEP 29

LESSON #3 – THE JEALOUSY OF GOD

OCT 6

BREAK

OCT 13

LESSON #4 – THE WAYS OF GOD

OCT 20

LESSON #5 – THE GIFTS OF GOD

OCT 27

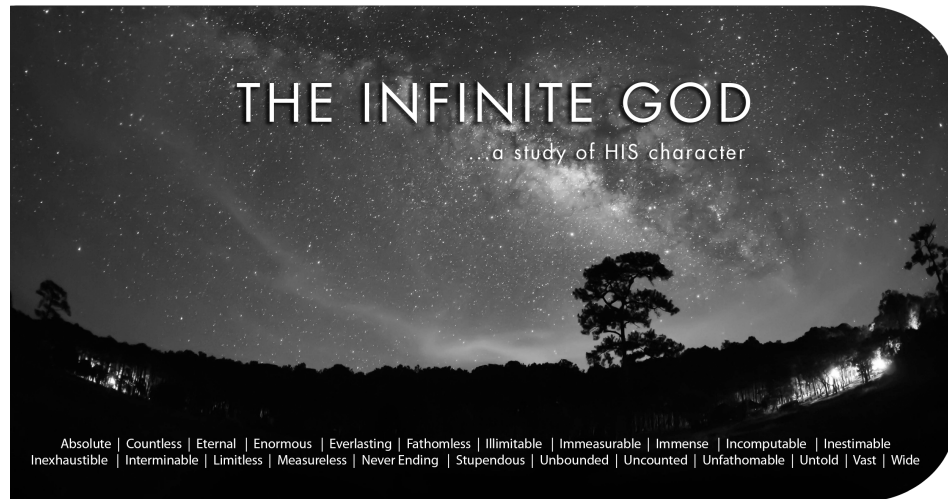
LESSON #6 – THE PEACE OF GOD

NOV 3

LESSON #7 – THE STRENGTH OF GOD

NOV 10

LESSON #8 – THE HEALING OF GOD



THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

There are various distorted opinions concerning the existence of God due to man's rebellion and deliberate ignorance of Him. The fact that there are those who reject His existence does not make God non-existent. Since the beginning of creation, God has clearly revealed Himself to mankind, *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes¹ are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead:* (Romans 1:20); therefore, God has given man the free will to pursue to know Him. This paramount decision will affect each person's eternity.

The Word of God boldly declares, *In the beginning God²* . . . (Genesis 1:1). The Bible begins with God, not with any human philosophy or argument for His existence. While everything that God created originated somewhere at some time, God has always been. God Himself has no origin. He is the Originator and Creator of all things . . . *all things were created by Him, and for Him* (Colossians 1:16). Only God can reveal the divine mystery of His existence to the heart of man through creation and His Word illuminated to man by the Holy Spirit.

The divine name LORD³ was already well known to God's people when He revealed Himself to Moses as the . . . *I AM WHO I AM*⁴ (Exodus 3:14). *I AM* is more than a simple statement of identity. It is a declaration of God's eternal existence and supremacy over all things. He is Infinite God.

THEME SCRIPTURE

Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM' (John 8:58).

¹ *attributes:* God's attributes are His perfections constituting His character, inseparable from His nature. God's nature is that He is Spirit, He is Triune; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; whatever God has in any way revealed about Himself; what God declares to be true about Himself; what we can know about God.

² *God* – Hebrew *Elohiym* gods: the plural for the singular name for God which is *El*. Therefore, the plurality of God is shown in Genesis 1:1 through the use of the word *Elohiym* i. e. the Spirit of God in Genesis 1:2 and the Son of God in John 1:1-4, 14.

³ *LORD* – Hebrew *Yehovah* the Self-Existent or Eternal name of God: JEHOVAH means the Existing One; Jewish national name of God.

⁴ *I AM* – Hebrew *Hayah* to exist: I will be who I will be; God was, He is, and will always be; one of the seven sovereign names of God.

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *existence*. _____

Dictionary Definition

Existence is a state or fact of being, having independent reality or actuality; human consciousness, continuance in being or life; an entity or being; to have real being whether material or spiritual.

Biblical Definitions

A man's existence is more than him being just a physical living creature; it speaks of him being created and finite⁵; it includes man possessing physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual life.

In reference to God, He is self-existent, He is infinite. God is the original, uncreated essence.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that declare the existence of God. UNDERLINE a word, phrase, or sentence that speaks of God's existence.

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created⁶ the heavens and the earth.*

Deuteronomy 32:40 *For I [God] lift My hand to heaven, and say, 'As I live forever.'*

Job 36:26 *Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; nor can the number of His years be discovered.*

Psalms 90:2 *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*

Isaiah 45:22 *Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.*

John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word,⁷ and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

⁵ finite: having definable limits; restricted, not infinite; having a limited nature or existence.

⁶ *created* – Hebrew *bara* to bring into existence from nothing.

⁷ *Word* – Hebrew *Logos* the Divine expression, Christ.

John 5:26	<i>For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.</i>
John 8:58	<i>Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.'</i>
Romans 1:20	<i>For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.</i>
Colossians 1:16, 17	<i>For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.</i>
Revelation 1:17b, 18	<i>. . . But He laid His right hand on me [John], saying to me, 'Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.'</i>

3. What did you learn about God's existence from these Scriptures? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted your life? _____

SECTION II – I AM WHO I AM

From his humble birth God's hand was on the life of Moses: born of a Hebrew slave, he became a prince, raised and instructed in the palace of Pharaoh of Egypt. His love for his people, the children of Israel, and desire to free them from slavery caused him to be banished from Egypt and driven to the wilderness (Exodus 1, 2).

READ Exodus Chapter 3.

GOD – The Burning Bush

READ verses 1 – 6.

1. What was Moses doing in the land of Midian⁸ (v. 1)? _____

Where did he lead his flock? _____ ⁹

2. Who appeared to Moses on the mountain of God? How did He appear to him (v. 2)? _____

What was extraordinary about the bush? _____

3. What happened when Moses turned aside to see why the bush did not burn (vv. 3, 4)? _____

How did Moses respond? _____

4. Why did God command Moses to remove his sandals (v. 5)? _____

⁸ Midian – Hebrew *Midyan* strife: son of Abraham by Keturah progenitor of the tribe of Midianites or Arabians; located in the desert north of the Arabian Peninsula.

⁹ Horeb: desert; another name for Mt. Sinai where God gave the Law to Moses and the Israelites.

5. Who did God declare Himself to be (v. 6)? _____

GOD – The Deliverer

READ verses 7 – 12.

6. What did the LORD express about His people, who were slaves in Egypt (v. 7)? _____

7. The LORD had devised a plan to deliver His people out of the hand of the Egyptians. What did He promise them (vv. 8, 9)?

In God's knowledge, what had He heard and seen? _____

8. What divine call did Moses receive from God (v. 10)? _____

9. Feeling inadequate, how did Moses respond (v. 11)? _____

10. God's divine presence would go with Moses. What would be the sign to Moses that God had sent him to deliver His people (v. 12)?

PERSONAL

How have you heard God's divine call on your life? How did you respond? _____

GOD – I AM WHO I AM

READ verses 13 – 22.

11. Knowing there were many false gods in Egypt, what reasonable question did Moses pose to God (v. 13)?

12. What divine name did God tell Moses to use that declares His infinite existence and supreme authority (v. 14)?

Who was Moses to say sent him? _____

13. Having repeated to Moses that He was the God of his ancestors, how did God express His eternity (v. 15)?

14. What did I AM instruct Moses to do (vv. 16, 17)? _____

15. Moses and the elders of Israel were to present themselves to the king of Egypt. What did God instruct Moses to say (v. 18)?

16. In God's infinite foreknowledge, he warned Moses that the king of Egypt would not let His people go. What would God do (vv. 19, 20)?

10

17. How did God give favor to the children of Israel in the sight of the Egyptians (vv. 21, 22)? _____

PERSONAL

How was the existence of God revealed to you in this story? _____

¹⁰ hand – Hebrew *yad* strength, power.

How does this story encourage, comfort or exhort you? _____

SECTION III – Scriptural References to God’s Existence

The statements below are truths about the existence of God, His essence, and His creation. MATCH each Scripture reference to the true statement about God.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| _____ Genesis 1:1 | a. Jesus’ existence; yesterday, today and forever |
| _____ Isaiah 57:15 | b. God existed before creation |
| _____ John 3:16 | c. the Father and the Son have self-existence, life in themselves |
| _____ John 5:26a | d. God’s existence is proven by things which are seen |
| _____ Romans 1:20 | e. the Lord is the beginning and the ending |
| _____ Hebrews 13:8 | f. God inhabits eternity and dwells in the high and holy place |
| _____ Revelation 1:8 | g. God gives His everlasting life to man through His Son |

SECTION IV – Unbelief in the Existence of God

The opposite of believing that God exists is denying His existence. Those who think this way are called *agnostics* or *atheists*. An agnostic is a person who believes nothing is known or can be known about the existence of God. An atheist is a person who believes there is no god and in turn ignores his duty to God. Nevertheless, man’s unbelief in God does not change the fact that He does exist nor does man’s attitude towards Him affect God in the least. He has declared and continues to declare . . . *I AM WHO I AM* (Exodus 3:14).

The Fool

1. READ Psalm 14:1. WRITE what the Scripture says about those that do not believe in God. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

It is true that God lies beyond us; outside of all our reasoning; therefore, God cannot be dismissed simply because we have not discovered Him yet. It is man's pride that has kept him from recognizing the obvious fact that God exists, *claiming to be wise, they became fools* (Romans 1:22).

2. READ Romans 1:18-20.

a. Who is God's wrath revealed against? Why (vv. 18, 19)? _____

b. How has God revealed His existence to all mankind so that man is without excuse (v. 20)? _____

3. READ Romans 1:21-23.

What are some of the unbeliever's responses to God's revelation of His existence (vv. 21-23)? _____

The Rebellious

All of God's creation, visible and invisible, operates according to His plan and order. Therefore, the universe works in perfect harmony because of its unquestionable obedience to God. Man, however, was created with the ability to choose to believe or not believe in God's existence and His plan for mankind. The chaos we see in the world today is the result of man's rebellion against God.

4. READ Romans 1:24-32.

a. What is God's response to the rebellious (vv. 24-31)? _____

b. In his debased state, what does man do? _____

c. What vile passions does man turn to when he denies the existence of God? _____

d. What is God's judgment on the unrighteous and those who approve of them (v. 32)? _____

SECTION V – The Alpha and the Omega

Even to the last book of the Bible God continues to proclaim His infinite existence.

READ Revelation 22:12, 13.

1. What promise does Jesus give to His Church (v. 12)? _____

2. How does Jesus declare Himself to be the Eternally Existing One (v. 13)? _____

WRITE THE THEME SCRIPTURE.

_____ (John 8:58).

*For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity,
whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place,
with him who has a contrite and humble spirit,
to revive the heart of the contrite ones.'*

Isaiah 57:15



THE MERCY OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

Mercy is that essential perfection of God, whereby He pities, relieves and forgives the miseries of His fallen creatures. If it were not for sin, God would have no need to show mercy. In the Bible, the words *mercy* and *lovingkindness*, as applied to God, are often used as if they were identical. Jonah declared, *You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, one who relents from doing harm* (Jonah 4:21). God's mercy springs from His divine goodness. Mercy arises solely from God's sovereign pleasure and grace.¹ A heart without God is merciless. It suffers the painful consequences of sin without any relief. In our quarreling, fighting and disputing world that rejects God's Son, we see the opposite of God's mercy. Instead, the attitudes, motives, words, deeds and goals of the destroyer, Satan, constantly bombard us. Intolerance, impatience, far more punishment than justice demands, sadism, wrath, hate, revenge, vindictiveness, unforgiveness, indifference to human suffering, persecution, cruelty, brutality, and torture are commonplace. In other words, man's inhumanity to man is prevalent. Nevertheless, God, by giving His Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins, bestows mercy on the sinful man by not giving him the punishment he deserves. *It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness* (Lamentations 3:22, 23).

THEME SCRIPTURE

*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit*² (Titus 3:5).

¹ grace: God's unmerited favor towards mankind through which sinful man escapes the punishment he deserves.

² *Holy Spirit*: The third person of the Godhead. The Spirit of God who dwells in the believer (1 Corinthians 3:16) and empowers him to be a witness (Acts 1:8).

SECTION I - Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *mercy*. _____

Dictionary Definition

The dictionary defines *mercy* as leniency, softheartedness, mildness, decency, tenderness, gentleness, compassion; forbearance shown especially to an offender, disposition to forgive or be kind, power to forgive.

Biblical Definitions

There are several Hebrew and Greek words for *mercy*. They include pity, love, lovingkindness, pardon, graciousness, more kindness than justice requires, clemency, just judgment, divine compassion, tenderness, propitiousness, appeasement, and benevolence.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures on God's mercy. UNDERLINE the words and/or phrases that speak of God's mercy.

Exodus 34:6, 7a	<i>And the Lord passed before him [Moses] and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin . . .'</i>
Psalms 57:10	<i>For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens . . .</i>
Psalms 86:5	<i>For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.</i>
Psalms 103:17	<i>But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children.</i>
Lamentations 3:22, 23	<i>Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.</i>
Micah 7:18, 19	<i>Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.</i>

Titus 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

3. What did you learn about God's mercy from these Scriptures? _____

PERSONAL

How has God's mercy been given to you? _____

SECTION II – God's Unchangeable Mercy

Both the Old and New Testament proclaim the mercy of God, but the Old Testament mentions God's mercy four times more than the New Testament. This last fact shows the error of common belief that the God of the Old Testament is primarily a God of judgment, while the God of the New Testament, as characterized through Jesus, is primarily a God of mercy and grace. Basically, there is no difference between the Old and New Testaments in regards to His mercy. As God is the same yesterday, today, and forever so is His mercy.

God's Mercy Demonstrated in the Old Testament

READ Nehemiah Chapter 9.

Chapter 9 is a rehearsal of the *manifold mercies* of God as He displayed them to the Children of Israel in spite of their own continual ingratitude and wickedness. In verses 1-15, the Israelites are assembled to fast and confess their sins and the sins of their fathers. They recall the miracles that God performed in leading them out of bondage and into the Promised Land.

1. How did the Children of Israel and their fathers' respond to God's goodness and wonders in leading them (vv. 16, 17a)?

-
-
2. Why didn't God forsake them (v. 17b)? _____
-
-
3. What kind of idol did they choose that provoked God to anger (v. 18)? _____
-

PERSONAL

What stands between you and God that blinds you to His wonders? _____

-
-
4. In God's manifold mercies, how did He lead the children of Israel by day and by night (v. 19)? _____
-
-
5. Despite their rejection of God, He instructed them by His Good Spirit. How did God provide for their physical needs (vv. 20, 21)?
-
-
-
-
6. How else did He show His mercy (vv. 22-25)? _____
-
-
-
-
-
-

7. Although they delighted in God's great goodness, WRITE the five things they did to provoke God to anger (v. 26).

8. What happened to the Children of Israel because of their continuous disobedience and rebellion (v. 27)?

What did the people do when they got themselves into trouble? _____

What did God do and why? _____

9. Again, the people did evil before God and He gave them into the hand of their enemies. Once more they cried unto the Lord. According to God's mercies, how often did He deliver them (v. 28)?

10. Why did God testify³ against them? How did the children of Israel again respond (v. 29)? _____

11. For many years God had been patient with His rebellious people. How did He testify against them (v. 30)?

How did they respond? _____

³ testify: admonish, rebuke, reprimand, correct.

12. Why did God not utterly consume nor forsake them (v. 31)? _____

13. WRITE the description of God (vv. 32, 33). _____

14. What did the people and the leaders acknowledge about themselves (vv. 33b-35)? _____

15. The people of God had been called to be servants of God. What conditions were they in instead (vv. 36, 37)?

16. What did the people do to demonstrate their change of heart toward God and His Word (v. 38)? _____

PERSONAL

Is there an area(s) in your life where you have been continually rebellious to God and His Word? In light of His abundant mercy, how will you demonstrate your change of heart toward the Lord?

Mercy Shown in the New Testament
READ Mark 10:46-52.

NOTE: For parallel passages READ Matthew 20:29-34 and Luke 18:35-43.

1. Who was with Jesus when he went out of Jericho (v. 46)? _____

What was Bartimaeus doing? _____

2. What did he hear (v. 47)? _____ 4

What did he cry out? _____ 5

3. How was the blind man warned (v. 48)? _____

What did he cry out all the more? _____

4. How did Jesus react (v. 49)? _____

How was the blind man encouraged? _____

Bartimaeus forsook seeking the multitudes' mercy of alms⁶ for the supernatural mercy that only God can give (v. 50).

5. How did Jesus respond to his plea for mercy (v. 51)? _____

With what other divine title did the blind man address Jesus? _____
_____ 7

What was his request? _____

⁴ Jesus of Nazareth: One of Jesus' earthly names referring to the town where He grew up as a carpenter.

⁵ Son of David: Christ's royal earthly title as descending from the line of King David as promised in II Samuel 7:12, 14.

⁶ alms: money, food, or clothing given to the sick and poor.

⁷ Rabboni: a title of honor; O Great One, Master, Chief, Prince, Teacher.

6. What did Jesus command (v. 52)? _____

How did Jesus show His abundant mercy to the blind man? _____

PERSONAL

In what area of your life do you need God's mercy? _____

SECTION III – Scriptural References of God's Mercy

1. The following are facts about God's mercy. MATCH the letter of each Scripture reference below to the fact found in that Scripture.

Example:	a. Psalm 23:6	<u>G</u>	God is merciful and will not be angry forever
	b. Psalm 103:8	___	His Mercy is great above the heavens
	c. Psalm 108:4	___	God is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort
	d. Psalm 116:5	___	His tender mercies are over all His works
	e. Psalm 136:1	___	God's abundant mercies have given us a living hope through Jesus Christ
	f. Psalm 145:9	___	Goodness and mercy shall follow me . . .
	g. Jeremiah 3:12b	___	God is good, His Mercy endures forever
	h. Luke 1:78	___	Through God's tender mercies the Dayspring From On High ⁸ has visited us
	i. II Corinthians 1:3	___	The LORD is merciful, gracious, slow to anger
	j. Ephesians 2:4	___	Our God is merciful
	k. I Peter 1:3	___	God is rich in mercy

⁸ Dayspring From On High: the divine title of Christ which means *a rising up*. The One through whom the Light arose into the world dispelling the spiritual darkness.

2. Using all of the verses above WRITE a definition of God's mercy. _____

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

_____ (Titus 3:5).

*God be merciful to us and bless us,
and cause His face to shine upon us,
Selah.*

Psalm 67:1

NOTE: _____

[illegible]



THE JEALOUSY OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

King Solomon wrote, . . . *love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel* [unyielding, hard] *as the grave; its flames are flames of fire* [blazing], *a most vehement flame* (Song of Solomon 8:6b). As the King of Israel for approximately forty years, and having acquired seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines in his lifetime, Solomon was well acquainted with the devouring flames of man's jealousy on a daily basis. Man, throughout the generations, has yielded to this wicked and abusive sin. We become jealous of each other because of our looks, talents and gifts, personalities, health, families, husbands, children, relationships, our positions, possessions, wealth and any other thing that causes rivalry within us. The Word¹ of God gives us an escape from jealousy; whether it is destroying our souls from within or without. That escape is through our LORD,² *whose name is Jealous* (Exodus 34:14b), who is able to quench these vicious flames.

THEME SCRIPTURE

For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God (Exodus 34:14).

¹ Word: God's spoken Word, the Bible (John 1:1, 14).

² LORD: self-Existent or Eternal, Jehovah the Lord.

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *jealousy*. _____

Dictionary Definition

Webster's New World dictionary meaning for *jealous* is: watchful in guarding, resentfully suspicious of a rival, resentfully envious, possessive, demanding, monopolizing, envious, mistrustful, doubting, apprehensive.

Dictionary.com defines *jealous* as feeling resentment against someone's rivalry, success, or advantages.

Biblical Definitions

The word *jealousy* in the Hebrew is *qanna* in the good sense it is zealous: In the bad sense it is envious.

Jealousy in the Greek is *zelos*, *zeloo* to have a warm feeling for or against: in a favorable sense: fervor, zeal, ardor; in an unfavorable one: enemy, malice, envy, indignation.

When speaking of God's jealousy, the word *jealousy* in the Hebrew and Greek has the same meaning as the word *zeal* throughout the Old and New Testaments. The words *jealousy* and *zeal* are used interchangeably to describe God's pure, righteous, protective and possessive love for us.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures concerning God's jealousy, and MEDITATE on them.

Exodus 20:3, 5	<i>You shall have no other gods before Me: you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.</i>
Exodus 34:14	<i>For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.</i>
Deuteronomy 4:24	<i>For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.</i>
Deuteronomy 6:13-15	<i>You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you (for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.</i>

Joshua 24:19, 20 . . . *He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good.*

Nahum 1:2 *God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; the LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies.*

II Corinthians 11:2 [Paul speaking] *For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

3. REFER to the above passages, and WRITE briefly what God says about His jealousy and/or the result of it. MEDITATE on each word before you write anything.

Joshua 24:19, 20 Example: His jealousy is holy because He is holy. He won't forgive. He'll turn to
hurt and consume those who forsake Him.

Exodus 20:3, 5 _____

Exodus 34:14 _____

Deuteronomy 4:24 _____

Deuteronomy 6:13-15 _____

Nahum 1:2 _____

II Corinthians 11:2 _____

As you can clearly see, unfaithfulness to God provokes Him to jealousy. We saw three specific characteristics of His jealousy.

1. It demands exclusive devotion to Him.
2. It delivers judgment to all those who oppose Him.
3. It vindicates His people.

SECTION II – Righteous Jealousy

The Zealous Phinehas
READ Numbers 25:1-13.

1. What did the Israelites do to provoke God's jealousy (vv. 1-3)? _____

How did God respond to their sin? _____

2. What did God command Moses to do (vv. 4, 5)? _____

What did Moses do? _____

3. Who was Phinehas (vv. 6-8)? _____

What did he do? _____

4. How many people died in the plague (v. 9)? _____

5. What did God say concerning the zeal of Phinehas (vv. 10, 11)? _____

6. What rewards did God give Phinehas and why (vv. 12, 13)? _____

Christ's Zeal for the Temple

READ John 2:13-17.

1. Why did Jesus go up to Jerusalem (v. 13)? _____

2. What did He find (v. 14)? _____

3. In His righteous anger, what did He do (v. 15)? _____

4. In His holy zeal for the Temple, what did He say to the money changers (v. 16)? _____

5. What did the disciples remember was written about Him in Psalm 69:9 (v. 17)? _____

PERSONAL

READ I Corinthians 6:19, 20. What does God say about your body? _____

What are you to do in *your* temple? _____

Is there anything in your temple that would provoke God's jealous anger? _____

LOOK DEEPER

Paul's Zeal for the Church
READ II Corinthians 11:1-4.

How does Paul define his jealousy for the church (v. 2)? _____

What does he fear (vv. 3, 4)? _____

SECTION III – Man's Jealousy vs. God's Jealousy

Man's Vicious Jealousy

Man experiences two sorts of jealousy, and one of them is a vice. This is a vicious attitude that rises from uncontrolled covetousness, expressing itself in envy, malice and hatred. This jealousy stems from pride and has the potential to shred the strongest heart.

READ the following Scriptures and DESCRIBE man's jealousy and envy.

Job 5:2 _____

Proverbs 14:30 _____

Proverbs 27:4 _____

Song of Solomon 8:6 _____

James 3:13-16 _____

Godly Jealousy

The other jealousy is moral and wholesome. It is the *zeal* to protect and encourage a love relationship or avenge it when broken. It is not the blind reaction of wounded pride, but like the fruit of marital affection. It is a virtue whereby one will develop a passion to save and restore the relationship no matter what the cost. It manifests itself in a total devotion and constant fervor to serve the one it loves. The Scriptures consistently view God's jealousy as being of this latter kind. It is His zeal to love, protect and restore His church.

God wants His zeal/jealousy manifested in you. READ the following Scriptures, and WRITE the characteristics or actions that God's zeal/jealousy produced in His people and should produce in you.

Romans 12:9-13 _____

I Corinthians 9:18-23 _____

I Corinthians 14:12 _____

II Corinthians 9:1, 2 _____

Galatians 4:18 _____

Philippians 3:13, 14 _____

3

SECTION IV – The Zeal of the LORD of Hosts

READ Isaiah 9:6, 7.

What did Isaiah prophecy the pure, protective, possessive zeal of the LORD would perform? _____

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

_____ (Exodus 34:14).

*For the LORD
your God is a consuming fire,
a jealous God.*

Deuteronomy 4:24

³ press: pursue, to follow after, agonize; implying to be persecuted.

NOTES: _____

[illegible]

[illegible]



THE WAYS OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

The ways of God are unsearchable, unwavering, and everlasting. His ways are the manner in which He orchestrates the universe which He created, seen and unseen, in perfect harmony.

Any chaos that has existed in our world since the beginning of time is the result of man's disobedience to God and His ways. When man exchanges his ways for the Ways of God he experiences peace and harmony with God as well as with those around him. He exchanges his disorderly kingdom, influenced by Satan, the world, and his own flesh, with that of the orderly kingdom of the all-knowing, all-loving Infinite God.

THEME SCRIPTURE

'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts' (Isaiah 55:8, 9).

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *ways*. _____

Dictionary Definition

The dictionary defines *way* as a road, street, path, route, course of life, or conduct; also, a method, procedure, process, technique, strategy, approach, scheme, manner, practice, mode, and style of doing things.

Biblical Definitions

The Old Testament Hebrew meaning for *way* is path, direction, a road trodden, a journey, highway, or wayside; it is also a course of conduct, way of thinking, feeling, or leading; course of life, mode of action, habit, moral character.

In the New Testament Greek, it also means a road, implying progress (the route, act, or distance).

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that speak of the ways of God. UNDERLINE a word, phrase, or sentence that define God's ways.

Psalm 145:17 *The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works.*

Isaiah 55:8, 9 *'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'*

Hosea 14:9 *. . . the ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them . . .*

Habakkuk 3:6 *. . . His ways are everlasting.*

Romans 11:33 *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

Revelation 15:3b *. . . Great and marvellous are Your works [deed or labor], Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of saints.*

3. What did you learn about God's ways from these Scriptures? _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted your life? _____

SECTION II – God’s Ways Revealed

God’s ways are perfect. His plan for us is everlasting (perpetual, continuing, with no beginning or end). Therefore, total obedience to Him and His ways is essential if man wants to be in harmony with the development of God’s plans. According to God’s ways, as revealed in these Scriptures, partial obedience is disobedience.

Through the following passages, you will see God’s ways as revealed to His anointed King Saul, the first king of Israel, and to God’s anointed prophet, Samuel. READ them and FOCUS on the verses where you see obedience or disobedience to God’s ways and the consequences that followed.

READ I Samuel Chapter 15.

Saul’s Disobedience

READ verses 1 – 9.

1. What did the Lord command King Saul to do through the prophet Samuel (vv. 1-3)? _____

What title did Samuel use for God? _____¹

2. What did Saul do according to God’s command? What did he do in disobedience to God (vv. 4-9)? _____

¹ Lord of Hosts: Lord of Armies.

PERSONAL

Partial obedience is disobedience. How have you willfully only obeyed part of what God commanded through His Word?

Saul Rejected as King

READ verses 10 – 21.

3. Why did God regret² making Saul king (vv. 10, 11)? _____

How did it affect the prophet, Samuel? _____³

4. Samuel went out to meet Saul. What was he told Saul was doing (v. 12)? _____

5. How did Saul greet Samuel (vv. 13-15)? _____

How did the prophet expose Saul's lie? _____

Who did Saul blame for not freely obeying God? What did he say about them? _____

² regret: an expression of sorrow, not an admission of error. In God's foreknowledge, He knows what man will do; nonetheless, it pains God to see man's disobedience come to pass.

³ grieved – Hebrew *charah* to glow: to blaze up with anger; to burn; to be kindled.

6. How did Samuel rebuke Saul for disobeying the Word of the LORD (vv. 16-19)? _____

What did God remind Saul of? _____

God had sent Saul on a mission to utterly destroy all the sinners, the Amalekites.

7. How did King Saul try to justify his disobedience to God (vv. 20, 21)? _____

8. WRITE in detail what the LORD said through Samuel about the following (vv. 22, 23):

Obedience: _____

Rebellion: _____

Stubbornness: _____

Why did God reject Saul from being king? _____

9. What excuse did Saul give because he chose to follow his own way rather than God's way (vv. 24, 25)?

What did the king request of the prophet Samuel? _____

PERSONAL

The consequences of doing things your way rather than God's way are severe. How does this affect the way you will obey God in the future?

The Strength of Israel

READ verses 26 – 31.

10. Since Saul had rejected the Word of the LORD, how did Samuel solidify the Word of the Lord to him? What was Saul's reaction (vv. 26-28)?

11. How did Samuel refer to God? How did he describe Him (v. 29)? _____

12. Ignoring Samuel's profound statement about God, how did Saul still want to be honored (vv. 30, 31)?

What did Samuel do? _____

PERSONAL

How does knowing that *the Strength of Israel* does not lie or relent cause you to fear the LORD⁴?

Samuel's Obedience

READ verses 32 – 35.

13. How did the prophet Samuel fully accomplish what God had commanded King Saul to do (vv. 32, 33)?

How did Samuel curse Agag the king? _____

⁴ fear the LORD: to stand in awe of God (Psalm 33:8). It is to reverence, worship, and obey God; to submit to Him as the One and Only Eternal God who is sovereign Lord of the universe.

14. What was the tragic outcome of Saul's disobedient ways (vv. 34, 35)? _____

King Saul's repeated disobedience to God's way of ruling His people cost him the kingdom. Though it seemed that he truly repented, he continued to disobey God and trust in his own ways until the end of his life. God's plans will never be thwarted.

SECTION III – Scriptural References to God's Ways

1. The following portions of Scripture speak of God's ways and of man's ways. Put an **M** by the references that speak of man's ways. Put a **G** by the references describing God's ways. Put an **L** by the Scriptures that speak of man's longing to do God's ways.

_____	Deuteronomy 32:4	<i>all His ways are justice</i>
_____	Job 34:21	<i>His eyes are upon the ways of man</i>
_____	Psalms 25:4	<i>Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me . . .</i>
_____	Psalms 39:1	<i>I said, I will guard my ways, lest I sin . . .</i>
_____	Psalms 119:3	<i>They also do no iniquity: they walk in His ways.</i>
_____	Psalms 119:5	<i>Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes!</i>
_____	Psalms 119:59	<i>I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies.</i>
_____	Psalms 139:3	<i>You . . . are acquainted with all my ways.</i>
_____	Psalms 145:17	<i>The LORD is righteous in all His ways . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 4:18	<i>the path of the just is like the shining sun . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 4:19	<i>The way of the wicked is like darkness . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 8:20	<i>I [wisdom] traverse the way of righteousness . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 10:29	<i>The way of the LORD is strength . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 13:15	<i>. . . the way of the unfaithful is hard.</i>

_____	Proverbs 14:12	<i>There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.</i>
_____	Proverbs 15:19	<i>The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 16:2	<i>All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes . . .</i>
_____	Isaiah 42:16	<i>I will bring the blind by a way they did not know . . .</i>
_____	Isaiah 55:8	<i>. . . nor are your ways My ways . . .</i>
_____	Romans 11:33	<i>. . . His ways [are] past finding out!</i>
_____	James 1:8	<i>. . . a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.</i>

Thomas [one of Jesus' disciples] said to Him, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me' (John 14:5, 6). God provided THE WAY through which man may know Him and walk in all His Ways, and that is through a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

2. How amazing are the ways of God! WRITE out Romans 11:33. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

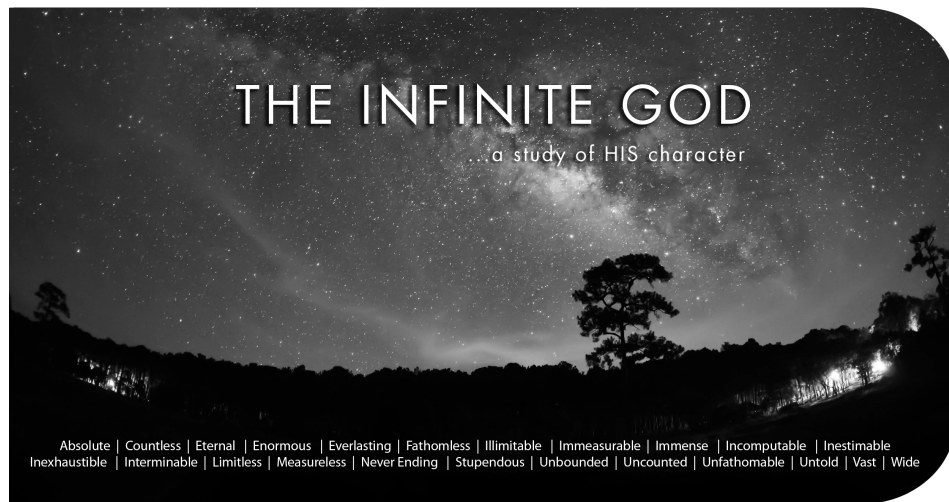
_____ (Isaiah 55:8, 9).

*Oh, the depth of the riches
both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and
His Ways past finding out!*

Romans 11:33

NOTES: _____

[illegible]



THE GIFTS OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

We have a giving God! Traditionally we give gifts to one another on special occasions as a reward to honor someone, or sometimes with ulterior motives. Unlike us, God bestows His precious gifts on undeserving sinners . . . *He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust* (Matthew 5:45). His gifts are given freely and abundantly to those who deserve them as well as to those who do not deserve them. In I Timothy 6:17b we read, [God] . . . *gives us richly all things to enjoy*. God indeed desires that we enjoy His gifts, but if we are ignorant of them or take them for granted, we will deprive ourselves of their full enjoyment. God is an infinitely generous God. The greatest gift that He has given to mankind is the gift of His Only Begotten Son, the Savior of the world.

THEME SCRIPTURE

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning (James 1:17).

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of the word *gift*. _____

Dictionary Definition

The Webster definition of *gift(s)* is something given, talent or endowment. Something voluntarily transferred from one person to another without compensation; the act, right or power of giving.

Biblical Definitions

In the Old Testament Hebrew there are several words for *gift(s)*. One is *mattaiah* which means a present; in the good sense a sacrificial offering; in a bad sense a bribe. The Hebrew word *minchah* means to bestow; a donation; a tribute; a sacrifice, sacrificial offering; an oblation.

There are also several Greek words found in the New Testament for *gift(s)*. One is *charisma* which means a (divine) gratuity, deliverance from danger; spiritual endowment, God's free gift bestowed on sinners!

Another is *doron* which speaks of a present; a sacrifice offering; a free gift without repayment; not acquired by merit.

In general the word *gift* speaks of a favor which one receives without any merit of his own; a gift given according to the measure of Christ, given freely.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that characterize or describe God's gifts. UNDERLINE a word, phrase or sentence that speaks of the gifts of God.

Matthew 7:9-11 *Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 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 good things to those who ask Him!*

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

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

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.*

James 1:17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

3. What did you learn about God's gifts from these Scriptures? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted you? _____

SECTION II – Scriptural References of God's Gifts

MATCH the Scripture listed with what is said about God's gifts and how He gives them.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ___ Psalm 68:11 | a. Jesus gives eternal life |
| ___ Psalm 103:11 | b. God did not spare His own Son, and will freely give us all things |
| ___ John 3:16 | c. in giving us His grace, through faith we are saved |
| ___ John 10:28 | d. the Lord gave the Word |
| ___ Acts 15:7, 8 | e. God supplies all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus |
| ___ Romans 12:3b | f. inspired by God, the Scripture is given for instruction |
| ___ Romans 8:32 | g. be thankful for God's unspeakable gift |
| ___ II Corinthians 9:15 | h. God gave His only Son |
| ___ Ephesians 2:8, 9 | i. Great is the mercy God gives to those who fear Him |
| ___ Philippians 4:19 | j. God gives the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles as well as the Jews |
| ___ II Timothy 3:16 | k. God has given each a measure of faith |

PERSONAL

Which Scripture ministered to you the most? Why? _____

SECTION III – The Gift of God’s Son

The Purpose of God’s Gift

In this section we will focus on the Father’s gift of Jesus, His Son.

WRITE the purpose for God giving mankind the gift of His Only Begotten Son.

Mark 10:45 _____

John 3:16 _____

Romans 5:8 _____

Romans 6:23 _____

Romans 8:32 _____

The Cost of God’s Gift

READ John Chapters 18 and 19. The Father gave the most costly gift, Jesus – God the Son. What did Jesus endure? What did it cost Him? LIST the verses and SUMMARIZE.

PERSONAL

How did you receive this gift? _____

How did your life change? _____

5

If you have not received the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ your Savior, say this prayer.

Dear Father,

Thank you for the Gift of Your Son Jesus Christ who paid the penalty for my sins and gave me the gift of eternal life. I confess my sins and ask you to forgive me. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and give me a hunger for Your Word.

In Jesus name.

Amen.

SECTION IV – The Gift of the Holy Spirit

In this section, we will focus on the Father's gift of God the Holy Spirit.¹

1. The Father gave the Holy Spirit as a gift to mankind. What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

John 14:16-18 _____

John 14:26 _____

John 15:26 _____

John 16:7, 8 _____

John 16:13-15 _____

¹ Holy Spirit: third Person of the Trinity; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; the Helper, the Spirit of truth, the Comforter.

2. What is the purpose for the Father giving the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer (Acts 1:8)? _____

2

3

3. READ I Corinthians 12:1-11.

In I Corinthians 12 we find a list of spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit to the believer to empower him for service. Although there are different gifts found in a body of believers, let us not overlook the similarities that unite us.

- a. LIST the things that we have in common (vv. 4-7). _____

- b. WRITE the diverse gifts that are given to man by the Spirit of God (vv. 8-11). _____

In I Corinthians 12:31 believers are instructed to desire the best gifts, yet there is a more excellent way.

- c. What is the more excellent way (I Corinthians 13:1-3)? _____

- d. READ I Corinthians 13:4-8. How is love⁴ described? _____

² power – *dunamis* force: marvelous ability, abundance, might, strength.

³ witnesses – *martus* witness: a martyr; record.

⁴ love – *agape* charity: affection, benevolence; sacrificial love; love in a moral sense.

All the gifts become as *nothing* and *fail* if they are not founded in the love of God, the greatest gift of all.

LOOK DEEPER

WRITE the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are found in the following Scriptures.

Romans 12:3-8 _____

Ephesians 4:11, 12 _____

PERSONAL

What gifts are you aware that God has given you? _____

ASK the LORD to show you what gifts He has given you.

How can you use your gifts to encourage, help others and bless God? _____

Thank God for His innumerable gifts to you!

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

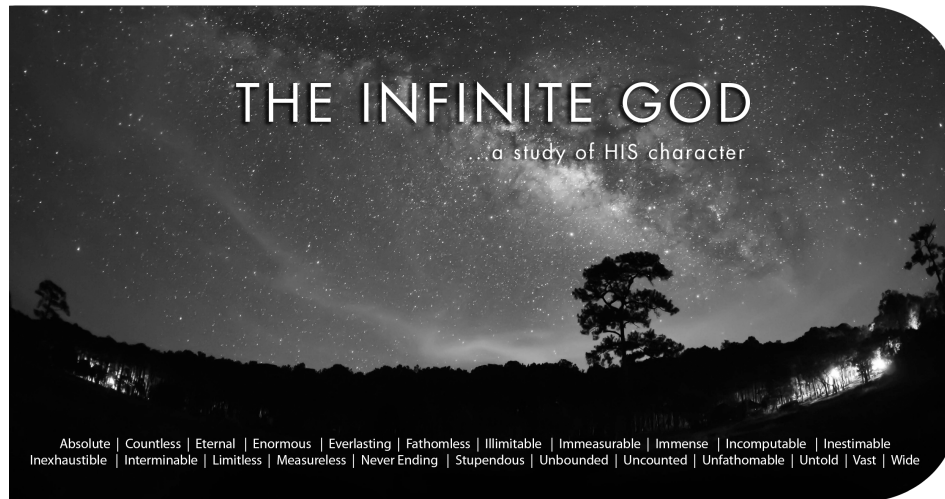
(James 1:17).

*Thanks be to God
for His indescribable gift!*

II Corinthians 9:15

NOTES _____

[illegible]



THE PEACE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

In the beginning of time, man dwelt with God in peace. When man rebelled against His Creator, the world suffered the loss of peace. Consequently, the hearts of men have been tormented throughout the ages. Jesus said that in the days preceding His coming there would be distress and perplexity on the earth . . . *men's hearts failing them from fear* [exceeding terror], *and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth* (Luke 21:25, 26). In these last days, more than ever, people are longing for inner tranquility. Man will pay, fight and even kill for a false sense of peace from the world, but the end result is despair.

Peace is not a condition acquired through outward circumstances. It is not a shallow emotion that is based on feelings. It is not gained through the absence of trouble. Though all may be well on the outside, the mind can be a raging storm. Peace is an inward stillness in the midst of chaos. It is born and sustained in the depth of the soul that is in constant fellowship with the Triune God.¹

THEME SCRIPTURE

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You (Isaiah 26:3).

¹ Triune God: the three Persons of the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (John 14:20, 27).

SECTION I – Definitions

1. What does *peace* mean to you? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Dictionary Definition

Webster's New World dictionary defines *peace* as follows: freedom from war, law and order, state of mutual harmony, concord, serenity, calm or quiet; pacification, brotherhood, love, tranquility.

Biblical Definitions

The Hebrew definition for God's *peace* is *shalom* safe: well, happy, friendly.

The Greek word for peace is *eirene* to join: peace, one, quietness, rest.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that describe God's peace. UNDERLINE the word or phrase that speaks of God's peace or gives man peace.

Psalm 119:165	<i>Great peace have those who love Your Law, and nothing causes them to stumble.</i>
Isaiah 48:18a	<i>Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river.</i>
John 14:27	<i>Peace I [Jesus] leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.</i>
John 16:33	<i>These things I [Jesus] have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.</i>
Romans 5:1	<i>Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
Romans 14:17	<i>For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.</i>
Galatians 5:22, 23a	<i>. . . the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.</i>

Ephesians 2:14 *For He [Jesus] Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.*

Philippians 4:6, 7 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

3. What did you learn about God's peace from these Scriptures? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned about God's peace impacted you? How will you apply what you have learned to your life?

SECTION II – Biblical Illustrations of God's Peace

Jesus Calms the Sea
READ Mark 4:35-41.

1. What was Jesus' command to the disciples (vv. 35, 36)? _____
- _____
- How did they respond? _____
- _____
2. Why were the disciples afraid (vv. 37, 38)? _____
- _____
- _____

What was Jesus doing? _____

What did they say to Him? _____

3. What did Jesus do and say that caused a great calm (v. 39)? _____

_____ ²

What did the wind and sea do? _____

4. What did Jesus' questions reveal to them about their hearts (v. 40)? _____

5. In the midst of their fear, what did they declare with one another (v. 41)? _____

When God commands you to do something, trust and obey Him. He will carry you through in peace.

PERSONAL

When have you feared exceedingly? How did God meet you and provide His peace in the midst of your personal storm?

Peace to the Demoniac of Gadara

READ Mark 5:1-20.

1. DESCRIBE the condition of the demon-possessed man (vv. 1-5). _____

² Peace – Greek *siopao* silence: hush, involuntary muteness, holds one's peace.

-
-
2. What did the man do and say when he saw Jesus (vv. 6, 7)? _____

By what title did the demoniac address Jesus? _____

What did the demoniac implore Jesus not to do? _____

3. Jesus knowing who was speaking through the man, what was His command (vv. 8, 9)? _____

Jesus asked the unclean spirit his name. What was his answer? _____

3

4. Jesus took authority over the demons. How is the limited power of demons clearly demonstrated (vv. 10-13)?

5. In what state did the people find the restored man? What did the people do (vv. 14, 15)? _____

The people of the region were more afraid of the One who cast out the demons than they had been of the demoniac.

³ Legion: a Roman army unit consisting of 3,000 to 6,000 men.

6. The restored demoniac desired to stay with Jesus. What did Jesus ask him to do instead (vv. 18, 19)?

Where did the man go? What did he do? How did it affect others? _____

4

Through these examples we can see God's authority over all creation and His limitless ability to bring about Sovereign peace regardless of the circumstance.

SECTION III – Scriptural References of God's Peace

1. LOOK-UP the following Scriptures, and WRITE what they say concerning the peace of God.

Isaiah 9:6, 7 _____
Example: Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His peace, the zeal of the Lord will perform it.

Psalms 29:11 _____

John 14:27 _____

Romans 5:1 _____

I Corinthians 14:33 _____

Colossians 1:20 _____

⁴ Decapolis: a ten-city region situated east of Galilee which had an estimated population of 15,000.

2. From the following Scriptures, what are you called to do in response to the Holy Spirit⁵ in order to receive God's peace?

Job 22:21 Example: *acquaint yourself with God.*

Psalms 119:165 _____

Isaiah 48:18 _____

Matthew 11:28-30 _____

Philippians 4:6-9 _____

Colossians 3:15 _____

James 3:18 _____

PERSONAL

Think of a situation, either past or present, where you were troubled and unable to comprehend what the Lord was doing.

Briefly DESCRIBE the situation. _____

⁵ Holy Spirit: the third Person of the Trinity who comes along side to lead and guide us into all truth.

How did you react, or are you reacting, to your circumstances? _____

What things have you learned about God's peace that you can apply to your situation, or use to encourage someone else?

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

(Isaiah 26:3).

*I will both lie down in peace, and sleep;
for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.*

Psalm 4:8

NOTES _____

[illegible]

[illegible]



THE STRENGTH OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

When unsolvable problems and unbearable burdens persist, it is then that we realize that we don't have the measure of strength we need to bear them. Worldly trends and doctrines teach that positive thinking about oneself as self-sufficient will enable us to endure the assaults in our lives. It is a fact that intellectuals and professionals ultimately cannot solve or cure the problems. So who can? Who is strong enough to handle these pressures? Where can we go to find the physical, emotional, and spiritual strength to face the desperate situations?

The Word of God clearly declares, *For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a Rock, except our God? God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect* (II Samuel 22:32, 33).

THEME SCRIPTURE

For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose against me (II Samuel 22:40).

SECTION I – Definitions

1. How do you define *strength*? _____

Dictionary Definitions

The Random House Dictionary definition of *strength* states: *the quality or state of being strong; bodily or muscular power; mental power; force or vigor; an inherent capacity to manifest energy; to endure and to resist.*

Biblical Definitions

Since God is Almighty, there are numerous Hebrew and Greek words used for His *strength*: power, and might. One of the Biblical Hebrew meanings of God's *strength* in the Old Testament is the word *ma'owz* which means fortress, hold forces, fort, rock.

Another Hebrew word is *'oz* which means strong, power, boldness, loud, mighty.

There are also several Biblical Greek definitions of God's strength. One is the word *dunamis* which involves force, miraculous power, demonstrated by the miracle itself by producing: ability, abundance, meaning, mighty deed, (worker of) miracles, power, violence and mighty (wonderful) work. We get our English word *dynamite* from this word.

Another Greek word is *kratos* which means manifested power and dominion. Also, there is the word *ischus* which is strength in ability.

Because God is Omnipotent, possessing all power, no single word can fully encompass His Infinite Strength.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that declare God's strength. UNDERLINE the word or phrase that describes His strength.

Nehemiah 8:10b *Do not sorrow for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*

Psalms 18:1, 2 *I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my Strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, and my stronghold.*

Psalms 27:1 *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

Psalms 28:7, 8	<i>The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.</i>
Psalms 37:39	<i>But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble.</i>
Psalms 46:1	<i>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.</i>
Proverbs 10:29a	<i>The way of the LORD is strength for the upright.</i>
Isaiah 12:2	<i>Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.</i>
Isaiah 25:4	<i>For You have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.</i>
Isaiah 26:4	<i>Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.</i>

3. What did you learn about God's strength from these Scriptures? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted your life? _____

SECTION II – Satan Attacks Job’s Property and Children

In the book of Job, we meet a righteous man whom God allowed to experience tremendous suffering. Job could not rely on family or friends for his physical, emotional, and spiritual strength. But instead, God empowered him with the ability to say . . . *shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?*¹ (Job 2:10).

READ Job Chapter 1.

1. What was said about Job (vv. 1-5)? _____

2. Who presented himself before the LORD with the sons of God² (vv. 6, 7)? _____

Where had Satan been? _____

3. The LORD God initiated the conversation with Satan about His servant Job. What tribute did the LORD pay to the character of Job?

4. Satan disputed the LORD saying that Job was untouchable because of God’s divine protection. How did Satan challenge the LORD (vv. 9-11)?

¹ *adversity*: misfortune; wretched or troubled state; calamity, disaster.

² sons of God: this term is used in the Book of Job in reference to angels, good or evil; Satan himself, an angelic being, presented himself to God with these angelic beings; (see Job 38:7).

5. How did God allow Satan to test Job? What limit did He set (v. 12)? _____

6. SUMMARIZE how Satan tested Job (vv. 13-19). _____

7. In light of this satanic onslaught on his life, how did Job respond? Who did he turn to? What did he say (vv. 20, 21)?

8. What was said of Job (v. 22)? _____

Satan Attacks Job's Health

READ Job 2:1-10.

Again, there was a day when the sons of God and Satan presented themselves before the LORD (vv. 1-3).

1. What was Satan's second challenge to the LORD regarding Job (vv. 4-6)? _____

How did the LORD allow Satan to afflict Job? _____

2. How did Satan afflict Job (vv. 7, 8)? _____

3. How did Job's wife tempt him (vv. 9)? _____

4. With what profound statement about God did he answer his foolish wife (v. 10)? _____

What is said of Job? _____

Job Depends on God's Strength

READ Job 12:13-25.

Job's conclusion was that God is sovereign and worthy of worship no matter what He allows in our lives. When Job came to the end of his own strength, he humbled himself and acknowledged the greatness and strength of the Lord. Even though circumstances looked bleak, he trusted God. Suffering or weakness is not always the result of sin; God sovereignly uses suffering to test our hearts and to draw us closer to Him.

In Job 12:13-25, Job tells his friends about God's strength. WRITE Job's declarations.

verse 13 Example: with Him are wisdom and strength _____

counsel and understanding _____

verse 14 _____

verse 15 _____

verse 16 _____

verse 17 _____

verse 18	
verse 19	
verse 20	
verse 21	
verse 22	
verse 23	
verse 24	
verse 25	

God’s strength gives us the ability to endure our trials. Job submitted to God’s plan for his life; therefore, God strengthened him in the midst of his afflictions and manifested His power to him. In the end, the Lord blessed Job’s latter days more than his beginning (Job 42:10-13).

SECTION III – Scriptural References of God’s Strength

What do you learn about God’s strength through these verses?

I Chronicles 16:11

Psalms 27:14

Psalms 71:16

Psalm 73:26 _____

Psalm 138:3 _____

Isaiah 40:29 _____

Isaiah 40:31 _____

II Corinthians 12:9 _____

PERSONAL

How has God's strength enabled you to stand firm? What have you learned from His strength?

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

_____ (II Samuel 22:32, 33).

*Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid:
for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song;
He also is become my salvation.*

Isaiah 12:2

NOTES: _____

[illegible]

[illegible]



THE HEALING OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

Due to man's rebellion against God, nothing is what God originally created it to be (Genesis 1). Not only is our environment polluted, whole nations are in decay and man suffers afflictions in all areas of life and above all, spiritually. In Romans 8:22, 23 we read, *For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs even we ourselves groan within ourselves . . .* But God, who created all things perfectly, has provided the remedy for our sorrow, sickness and pain through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus revealed Himself as the Great Physician appointed by God to heal man, according to His will, physically, emotionally and spiritually (Isaiah 53:4, 5).

THEME SCRIPTURE

But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings . . . (Malachi 4:2).

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *healing*. _____

Dictionary Definition

The dictionary defines *healing* as the process of making or becoming sound or healthy again; relieve, help, cure, alleviate.

Biblical Definitions

There are several words in the Bible that describe God's *healing*. In the Hebrew, *raphah* means to mend (by stitching), thorough repair, make whole; to cure (cause to heal), physician. Another Hebrew word, *marpe* means curative, a medicine, deliverance, remedy.

In the Greek, the word *diasozo* means to save thoroughly. *Dia* meaning through, and *sozo* meaning to save: to save from disease and its effect; to preserve, rescue, bring safe, escape, and make perfectly whole. Other Greek words are *iaoma*: to cure, heal, make whole.
therapeno: to wait upon mentally, to relieve of disease, cure and heal.
iasis: curing act, heal.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that speak of God's healing. UNDERLINE the areas of our lives that God heals.

Exodus 15:26 *For I AM the LORD who heals you.*

Psalms 41:3, 4 *The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sick-bed. I said, 'LORD, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.'*

Psalms 103:3 *Who [the LORD] forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.*

Psalms 107:20 *He sent His Word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.*

Psalms 147:3 *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

Isaiah 53:5 *But He [Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*

Isaiah 57:18, 19 *I have seen his [backslidden Israel] ways, and will heal him; I will also lead him, and restore comforts to him and to his mourners. 'I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near,' says the LORD, 'and I will heal him.'*

Hosea 14:4	<i>I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him.</i>
Malachi 4:2	<i>But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings.</i>
Luke 4:18	<i>The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me [Jesus], because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.</i>

3. What did you learn about God's healing from these Scriptures? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted you? _____

SECTION II – Jesus the Great Physician

READ Matthew 9.

1. As Jesus came into His own city, what sort of man did the people bring to Him (vv. 1, 2)? _____
- _____
- What was Jesus' response? _____
- _____

2. What did the scribes inwardly accuse Jesus of (v. 3)? _____

3. Knowing their thoughts, what did Jesus say to the scribes¹ (vv. 4-6)? _____

What did He say to the paralytic? _____

4. What did the paralytic do (v. 7)? _____

5. How did the multitude respond to this healing (v. 8)? _____

6. As Jesus continued on His way, He saw Matthew, a tax collector. What did He invite him to do? How did Matthew respond (v. 9)?

7. Who sat at the table with Jesus (vv. 10-13)? _____

What question did the Pharisees² direct at the disciples? _____

Overhearing the Pharisees, how did Jesus exhort them? _____

Sin is a state of spiritual illness. Jesus came to bring healing to the sin-sick soul.

¹ scribes: writers and transcribers of the Law.

² Pharisees: conservative members of an ancient legalistic Jewish sect distinguished by strict observance of the written Law of Moses and their own added traditions. They were exposed by Jesus to be self-righteous and hypocritical.

PERSONAL

How have you experienced spiritual illness caused by sin? _____

How did Jesus come to you, sit at your table, and heal you? _____

Jesus then took time to answer questions from the disciples of John the Baptist regarding fasting (vv. 14-17).

8. Who came to Jesus? How did he approach Jesus? What did he ask Him to do (v. 18)? _____

9. While Jesus and the disciples were on their way to the ruler's house, who secretly approached Jesus? Why (vv. 19, 20)?

What did she do? _____

10. Why did she touch His garment (vv. 21, 22)? _____

In response to her touch, what did Jesus do and say to her? _____

How was her desperate plea answered? _____

11. As Jesus entered the ruler's house, what was the atmosphere (vv. 23, 24)? _____

How did the people react to His words? _____

12. While the crowd was outside how did Jesus restore the little girl's life (vv. 25, 26)? _____

Who heard about this miraculous healing? _____

13. When Jesus departed, who was following Him and what were they crying out (v. 27)? _____

14. SPECIFY the interaction between the two blind men and Jesus as He healed them (vv. 28-31). _____

15. As Jesus continued on His journey, who was brought to Him and what was his condition (v. 32)? _____

16. How did Jesus heal the mute (vv. 33, 34)? _____

How did the multitude react? _____

In contrast how did the Pharisees react? _____

LOOK DEEPER

WRITE Acts 10:38 to see God's anointing on Jesus. _____

17. Despite opposition and accusations, what did Jesus continue to do (Matthew 9:35)? _____

18. Why did Jesus have compassion for the multitudes (v. 36)? _____

SECTION III – Scriptural References of God’s Healing

LOOK UP the following Scriptures. MATCH the Scripture references of God’s healing power.

Matthew 4:23	Disciples, healed everywhere
Luke 9:6	Jesus healed the centurion’s servant
Matthew 8:13	Confess your trespasses to one another that you may be healed
James 5:16	Jesus, healing all kinds of illnesses and diseases
Acts 9:34	Jesus the Christ heals you
Matthew 12:15	Multitudes followed Jesus and He healed them all
Matthew 12:22	Jesus heals a blind and mute man
Matthew 15:30	Many were laid at Jesus’ feet and He healed them

PERSONAL

In what ways have you experienced the healing touch of Jesus? _____

WRITE out Psalm 103:1-3 as a personal prayer from your heart to the Lord. _____

LOOK DEEPER

READ Psalm 23 and WRITE down everything that our Lord, the Great Shepherd, does to provide healing and safety for His sheep.

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE

(Malachi 4:2).

For I AM the LORD who heals you.

Exodus 15:26

NOTES: _____

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