

GOD JUST TOUCHED ME - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

LESSON 2 - GOD

A. Introduction to God:

Mankind has always felt a need for something bigger than us. Down through the centuries we have tried to define that something in human terms. The Greeks, and the Romans after them, identified a whole family of gods, very human in nature but larger than life in some abilities. They fought with each other, were ruled by the entire gamut of human emotions, and did not seem to have a lot of power. Still, they were bigger than us. Yet others have chosen to worship demon gods that needed to be appeased to keep them from harming humans. The Hindus have over 300,000,000* of them, and the list is still growing. The people that Israel found in the Promised Land also served demon gods. Our God, however, is one that the human mind could never have invented. There is nothing in our experience that could even suggest the nature of our God. Had He not chosen to reveal Himself to us we would still be stumbling around in the dark, seeking and finding poor substitutes, or worse, demons.

B. The revealed God:

God has revealed to us that we cannot find Him, (Job 37:23). He is beyond our reach and He is exalted in power. We are not able to comprehend Him because our human minds are too small to hold Him. Though He is in control and He directs, preserves, and maintains His created order, we only observe the results. God lives in eternity while we live in time and space. We can only guess at what He is really like in nature and character unless He tells us. It has been said that God created us in His image, and we have been trying to redefine Him in our image ever since. Can we accept Him for who and what He is, or do we still try to redefine Him in our likeness? Do we live in fear of the world and events around us, or do we rest in His love and rely on His care?

C. God is spirit:

God is spirit and His worshipers must worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24). "God is spirit" means He is not a physical being limited to being in one place. He is present everywhere and He can be worshiped anywhere at any time. It is not where we worship that counts, but how we worship. He told us that He is not interested in our sacrifices, but desires a broken and contrite heart. He is not interested in empty ritual or in things, but in our relationship. He will accept what we give Him when we love Him so much we want to give Him our very best. Do we try to limit God by what we experience in our physical world? What does it mean to worship?

D. God is love:

God is love (1 John 4:8). Love is not something God does or God has, it is what He is, His very nature and substance. Some people tend to see God as being a mean taskmaster, or amusing Himself by trifling with us. However, absolutely nothing can exist within God that is contrary to His nature. It is impossible for Him to be untrue to Himself. If we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13). Are we aware that God's love will not allow Him to do anything that causes us permanent harm? Do we understand that love requires discipline to be applied when needed? Do we understand that discipline and punishment is not always the same thing?

E. God is one:

God tells us "I am God and there is no other; I am God and there is none like me"(Isaiah 46:9-10). He is absolutely unique. There is nothing in all creation, or human experience, to which we can compare Him. All that exist is our one God and what He has

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created. There is no other source of power and authority anywhere. At the very beginning of time He determined the ending. His purpose will stand and He will do all that He pleases. Do we sometimes look to created things for guidance and help, such as horoscopes or lucky charms? Are we really confident that in the end God will have His way, or do we feel we need to fix things and tell Him what is really the best solution?

F. God is supreme:

God is supreme over all that exists (1 Chronicles 29:11, 12). He created all that exists and it all belongs to Him. His is the only power and He is the ruler of all. Fortunately for us, He makes His creation available for our use. He is capable of providing everything we might ever need both physically and emotionally. Do we consult with God over what we think we need? Do we know the difference between desiring and needing? Do we look to God to fulfill our every need or do we strive on our own to fulfill carnal desires?

Our God reigns (Revelation 19:6). No matter what men or demons may strive for, God's way will triumph over all. Even though we have the freedom to follow or rebel, what we are really choosing is either the road to life or the road to death (Deuteronomy 30:19). There are no other roads given us to travel. No matter the reasoning we may use, triumphing over God is not an option. We already know the end of the story, and God is supreme. Do we live in knowledge of God's supremacy, or like Peter walking to Jesus on lake Galilee, do we look at the wind and waves threatening us, and start to sink? Do we, like Peter, cry out "Lord, save me", or just splash and flounder around making incoherent noises?

Our God is almighty; He is all powerful, and absolute sovereign (Genesis 17:1). There are no limits to His power and

might. The energy radiated by our sun is mind boggling, and it is only a minor star. God created trillions of stars, most much larger than our sun, and He sustains them all. To suddenly find our sun right in our faces would be terrifying because we could not exist in the presence of such awesome energy. How much more should we stand in awe of the One who sustains the heavens? We must obey the Lord in every respect because He is God. How well do we really know what He requires of us? How well are we doing at obedience?

G. God is good:

Our God is merciful, gracious, longsuffering, faithful, and forgiving (Exodus 34:6-7). He gives us what we need, not what we have earned. His graciousness compels Him to give even more than we need. Sometimes a stubborn child can provoke its parents to anger or weary them into submission. Not so with our God. He can endure beyond what we are capable of doing. However, we must remember that the Lord said "My Spirit will not contend with man forever." God's glory is revealed in His characteristics. What does it mean to be longsuffering? What does it mean to be faithful?

God is slow to anger, loving, and forgiving (Numbers 14:18-20). God is immensely patient. His love is a promise we can always count on. He forgives again and again, is merciful, listening to and answering our prayers. He has not changed since Moses' day. With God, there is no shadow of turning (James 1:17). He always loves us, and if we confess, He is willing to forgive us our sins. He doesn't give up on us, but is always eager to welcome us back when we stray. We know that in our heads, but do we believe it in our hearts?

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H. God is all knowing:

God is omniscient (all knowing) (1 Samuel 2:3, Job 28:24). God not only has all understanding and knowledge about everything, but also about all time, past, present and future. Since God is everywhere and is eternal, He sees and He knows all things that ever did happen, all things that are happening, and all things that ever will happen. Before He created the earth, He knew we would rebel, and had already prepared a solution (Ephesians 1:4&5). When we act do we ever consider that God knows about it as we do it? When we face uncertainties and difficulties do we consider that God already has identified the perfect way to deal with them?

I. God is perfect:

God is perfect in all ways (Psalm 18:30). He is flawless and protects us from harm. He is without blemish, complete with nothing lacking. There is no possibility of improvement. Since He is infinitely perfect, any change, however small, would be a lessening of His perfection. He is perfect in His love, perfect in His care of us, and perfect in all ways. Is His perfection a fact in our hearts? Do we sometimes think God doesn't understand like we do and want to give God advice on what to do? Suggestion: Unless you can create the universe in only five days, don't be trying to give God advice.

J. God is eternal:

God is eternal (Psalm 93:2). God always was, is now, and always will be. Eternity is a difficult concept, because we live in time where everything has a beginning and an end. Everything we have knowledge of, including time, was created by God. Time is nothing more than how we order events so we can communicate with each other. Before time and space came into being, God was. God always will be. When He created us He made us to be eternal beings like Himself, except that we had a beginning.

There was a time for each of us when we did not exist physically. However, He created us to live with Him for the rest of eternity, which is forever and ever. Can we comprehend time without end, eternity? Can we accept it on faith because God told us?

K. God is righteous:

God is good and righteous (Psalm 145:7). Because of who and what He is, God cannot do evil or be unfair (Job 34:10). As a matter of fact, He cannot even look upon evil because of His purity (Habakkuk 1:13). No evil can exist in His presence, so there cannot be evil in eternity with Him. When we do evil it puts a block between us and our God, and we must repent to restore that relationship. Do we tend to blame God for our misfortunes? Do we trust God to always lead us down the right path?

L. God has all understanding:

God is mighty and has infinite understanding (Psalm 147:4-5). God understands us fully, perfectly. The more we become like God, the better we will understand our selves. Infinity, like eternity, is difficult to understand, because it is outside of our normal experiences. It is quantity without limit. Quantities like billion and trillion are beyond our understanding. Though we can talk about them we would stand in awe of a billion or a trillion of anything heaped up in front of us. Yet they are as nothing to compare to infinity. Still God is infinite in all His attributes. With billions of galaxies, and billions of stars in each, can we comprehend a being capable of keeping track of each star, and knowing the name of each star? Can we really comprehend quantity without limit, infinity?

M. God acts:

God's acts, He does not react (Romans 5:8). God had His plans in place before creation and He carries them out as He wills. If He reacted to what we do then we could control His actions,

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and He would not be much of a God; He would be more like the ones invented by the Greeks and Romans. Throughout scripture He warns His people over and over that He has already determined what happens and tells them what the blessings are and what the curses are, and what brings on the curses. He has given us a set of spiritual law, just as binding as the physical laws. The law of gravity tells us that unless we are supported by an equal and opposite force, gravity will compel us to fall towards its center. And sure enough, if you step off a roof you fall, every time. It's the same way with spiritual laws; do right and the rewards come, but do wrong and the consequences come. It's our own doing. God does not wait for us before he acts. He did not wait for us to repent and then send Jesus, but God loved us even before we turned to him. Do we sometimes feel that we are not good enough for God's acceptance? How does it feel to know that God could not bear to live without you, so Jesus died that you might live?

N. God is triune:

We know God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 28:19). God is three persons, yet one essence, one divine being. All three persons were present and active at the baptism of Jesus. The Father spoke, the Son was baptized, and the Holy Spirit descended. The concept of the Trinity wasn't invented by man, but comes directly from Jesus. The concept of the Trinity is one of the mysteries of God we will not fully understand until we see Him face to face. The closest beings we have in creation are humans, ourselves. We were created in His image and we are body, mind, and spirit, yet that is not exactly the same as God, just similar. We also can be multiple persons. To our parents we are child and have that type of relationship. To our children we are parent, and have that type of relationship. To our brothers and sisters we are brother or sister, and have that type of relationship. However, we are still one human being. Yet that is not exactly the

same as God, just similar. When we see Him face to face we will exclaim "Of course! It couldn't be any other way". Are we aware of our nature as triune beings, or do we usually see ourselves only as body? Since we were created in God's image why don't we act like Him?

To recap, our: God is

- Beyond our comprehension.
- Eternal Spirit
- Love.
- Absolutely unique.
- Supreme.
- Almighty.
- Merciful.
- Gracious.
- Longsuffering.
- Faithful.
- Slow to anger.
- Forgiving.
- All knowing.
- Perfect in all His ways.
- Righteous.
- Infinite in Understanding.
- A God of action, not reaction.
- A Trinity

What shall we say then to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31).

* - Today's Pentecostal Evangel - It Figures department

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SCRIPTURE	MAIN POINT	CONSIDERATIONS/QUESTIONS
B. Job 37:23	God is beyond human comprehension	1) God is in complete control and directs, preserves, and maintains His created order. 2) Do we accept God for who and what He is, or try to define Him in human terms? 3) Do we live in fear of the world and events, or do we rest in His love and rely on His care?
C. John 4:24	God is Spirit	1) God is not a physical being limited to one place. He is present everywhere and He can be worshiped anywhere at any time. It is not where we worship that counts, but how we worship. 2) Do we see God limited by what we experience as created beings? 3) What is worship?
D. 1 John 4:8 2 Timothy 2:13	God is Love	1) Love is not something He does or He has, it is what He is, His very nature and substance. 2) Are we aware that God's love will not allow Him to do anything that causes us permanent harm? 3) Do we understand that love requires discipline when needed?
E. Isaiah 46:9-10	God is absolutely unique.	1) All that exists is our one God and what He has created. There is no other source of power and authority. 2) Do we sometimes look elsewhere for guidance and help, like horoscopes or charms? 3) Are we really confident that at the end God will have His way?
F. 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 Revelation 19:6 Deuteronomy 30:19 Genesis 17:1	God is supreme over all that exists God reigns supreme God is almighty, all powerful, and absolute sovereign.	1) God is capable of providing all we could ever need. 2) Do we consult with God over what we think we need? 3) Do we look to God to fulfill our need, or do we go it alone? 1) We already know the end of the story, and God is supreme. 2) Do we live in knowledge of God's supremacy, or like Peter walking to Jesus on lake Galilee, do we look at the wind and waves and start to sink? 1) We must obey the Lord in every respect because He is God. 2) How well do we really know what He requires of us? 3) How well are we doing at obedience?

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G. Exodus 34:6-7 Numbers 14:18-20 James 1:17	God is merciful, gracious, longsuffering, faithful, and forgiving God is slow to anger, loving, and forgiving.	1) God's glory is revealed in His characteristics. 2) What does it mean to be longsuffering? 3) What does it mean to be faithful? 1) God is immensely patient. His love is a promise we can always count on. He forgives again and again, is merciful, listening to and answering our prayers. He has not changed since Moses' day. 2) We know that in our heads, but do we believe it in our hearts?
H. 1 Samuel 2:3 Job 28:24 Ephesians 1:4&5	God is omniscient (all knowing)	1) God not only has all understanding and knowledge about everything, but also about all time, past, present and future. 2) When we act do we ever consider that God knows about it? 3) When we face uncertainties do we consider that God already has the perfect way to deal with them?
I. Psalm 18:30	God is perfect in all ways.	1) God protects us from harm. 2) Do we tend to want to give God advice on what to do? 3) Is His perfection a fact in our hearts? 4) Suggestion: Unless you can create the universe in five days, don't be trying to give God advice.
J. Psalm 93:2	God is eternal	1) God always was, is now, and always will be. 2) Can we comprehend time without end eternity? 3) Can we accept it on faith because God told us?
K. Psalm 145:7	God is good and righteous	1) Because of who and what He is, God cannot do evil or be unfair. 2) Do we tend to blame God for our misfortunes? 3) Do we trust God to always lead us down the right path?
L. Psalm 147:4-5 Job 34:10 Habakkuk 1:13	God is mighty and has infinite understanding.	1) God understands us fully, perfectly. The more we become like God, the better we will understand our selves. 2) With billions of galaxies, and billions of stars in each, can we comprehend a being capable of keeping track of each star, and knowing the name of each star? 3) Can we comprehend quantity without limit, infinity?

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M. Romans 5:8 1 Timothy 3:13-17	God's acts, He does not react	1) God loved us even before we turned to him. 2) Do we sometimes feel that we are not good enough for God's acceptance? 3) How does it feel to know that God could not bear to live without you, so Jesus died that you might live?
N. Matthew 3:13-17 Matthew 28:19	We know God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit	1) God is three persons, yet one essence, one divine being. All three persons are present and active at the baptism of Jesus. The Father speaks, the Son is baptized, the Holy Spirit descends. The concept of the Trinity wasn't invented by man, but comes directly from Jesus. 2) The concept of the Trinity is one of the mysteries of God we will not fully understand until we see Him face to face. The closest beings we have in creation are humans, ourselves. We were created in His image and we are body, mind, and spirit. 3) Are we aware of our nature as triune beings, or do we usually see ourselves only as body? 4) Since we were created in God's image why don't we act like Him?

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SCRIPTURE	WORDS	MEANING OF ORIGINAL LANGUAGES
C. John 4:24	SPIRIT WORSHIP	1) Hebrew ruwach, <i>roo'-akh</i> - wind, breath, spirit. 2) Greek pneuma, <i>pyoo'-mah</i> - breath, breeze, spirit. 3) Hebrew shachah, <i>shaw-khaw'</i> - in homage, bow down, fall down, do reverence, adore, worship. 4) Greek proskuneo, <i>pros-koo-neh'-o</i> - kiss, prostrate in homage, reverence, adore, worship.
D. 1 John 4:8	LOVE	1) Greek agape, <i>ag-ah'-pay</i> - love, benevolence, charity, dear
E. Isaiah 46:9-10	ANCIENT.	1) Hebrew qedmah, <i>kayd'-maw</i> - antiquity, aforeside, everlastingly past.
F. Revelation 19:6 Genesis 17:1	ALMIGHTY	1) Hebrew shadday, <i>shad-dah'-ee</i> - all powerful. 2) Greek pantokrator, <i>pan-tok'-rat-ore</i> - omnipotent, all ruling, God as absolute universal sovereign.
G. Exodus 34:6-7	COMPASSIONATE (merciful) GRACIOUS LONGSUFFERING	1) Hebrew rachum, <i>rakh-oom'</i> - full of compassion, merciful. 2) Greek oiktirmon, <i>oyk-tir'-mone</i> - compassionate, merciful 3) Hebrew channun, <i>khan-noon'</i> - gracious, show favor, show kindness 4) Greek chrestos, <i>khrese-tos'</i> - good, gracious, kind. 5) Hebrew arek, <i>aw-rak'e</i> - patient, slow to anger 6) Greek makrothumia, <i>mak-roth-oo-mee'-ah</i> - forbearing, patient, enduring, bear long.
H. 1 Samuel 2:3	KNOWLEDGE	1) Hebrew deah, <i>day-aw</i> - knowledge, known of God. 2) Greek gnosis, <i>gno'-sis</i> - knowing, be aware of, perceive, understand.
I. Psalm 18:30	PERFECT	1) Hebrew tamiyum, <i>taw-meem'</i> - without blemish, complete, full, perfect, undefiled, upright, whole. 2) Greek teleios, <i>tel'-i-os</i> - complete, perfect.
J. Psalm 93:2	ETERNITY	1) Hebrew olam, <i>o-lawm'</i> - vanishing point past or future, always, without end, continual. 2) Greek aionios, <i>ahee-o'-nee-os</i> - perpetual, eternal, forever, everlasting.

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SCRIPTURE	WORDS	MEANING OF ORIGINAL LANGUAGES
K. Psalm 145:7	GOODNESS RIGHTEOUSNES	1) Hebrew <i>tuwb, toob</i> - goodness, the best. 2) Greek <i>chrestotes, khray-stot'-ace</i> - excellence in character. 3) Hebrew <i>tsedaqah, tsed-aw-kow'</i> - righteous, justice, virtue. 4) Greek <i>dikaosune, dik'-ah-yos-oo'</i> - innocent, holy, righteous.
L. Psalm 147:4-5	INFINITE POWER	1) Hebrew <i>micpar, mis-pawr'</i> - indefinite number, innumerable. 2) Hebrew <i>kowach, ko'-akh</i> - mighty, power, strength. 3) Greek <i>exousia, ex-oo-see'-ah</i> - force authority, power, right, strength.
N. Matthew 28:19	FATHER SON SPIRIT	1) Greek <i>pater, pat-ayr'</i> - father, parent. 2) Greek <i>huios, hwee-os'</i> - a son. 3) Greek <i>hagios, hag'-ee-os</i> - sacred, most holy one.