

Chapter 11

Faith is Believing “Who God Is”

*“He that comes to God must believe that He
is...”*

Genuine faith believes God is. That does not mean you believe in the existence of God. "The devil believes and trembles." (James 2:19) The devil is not an atheist. He believes in God. He knows God exists, but it does him no good. That is not real faith. It's knowledge.

Our faith must be more than the devil's faith. It is, therefore, not a belief in the existence of God. It is to believe and affirm the character of God Almighty as revealed in His word.

We cannot come to God thinking Him to be something He is not. We cannot come to Him assuming He is like us. We must see Him as He is, just as He revealed Himself to Moses.

In Exodus 33:18-23 Moses pleaded with God to see His glory. God responded saying he could only see God's backside, a shadow of His person or else he would die. God said, *"I will cause ALL MY GOODNESS to pass in front of you."*

In the next instance, Exodus 34:6, God hid Moses in the cleft of the rock and allowed His glory to pass by so Moses could glimpse His glory. Remember, these attributes are superlatives, not just simple characteristics but the ultimate and maximum of God's goodness.

Therefore, as I list them, I will preface each with ALL-XXXXX to show that God is the maximum of that attribute. Various translations list them differently, but below you will find the summation of God's character.

Exodus 34 gives us God's own definition of who He is. Do you know it? Have you considered it? Are you even aware of His attributes?

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished (just);" (Exodus 34:6 NIV)

6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilt (just)," (Exodus 34:6 NKJV)

Each of His characteristics is a superlative. He is not simply compassionate, gracious, etc. No, God is the ultimate of those attributes.

The Unchanging Perfection of God's Character

1. All-Compassionate – He is kind toward all He made.
2. All-Gracious – He showers us with unmerited favor.
3. All-Patient – He is longsuffering, He puts up with a lot.
4. All-Loving – He is the epitome of love.
5. All-True – He cannot lie. He is the truth.
6. All-Faithful – He cannot be unfaithful to His promises.
7. All-Merciful – His mercy new every morning.
8. All-Forgiving – He washes whiter than snow.
9. All-Just – He is never unfair.
10. All-Jealous (verse 14) – He is zealous over us.

**When we “BELIEVE HE IS” it is not about His existence.
It means we believe HE IS ALL THE ABOVE.**

Every attack on God's character is an attack on His existence. To make Him out to be something other than good, loving, merciful, gracious, patient, forgiving, faithful and true is to carve God into an image that is earthly. God is God! Don't carve Him out to be an image of you.

*“When you did these things and I kept silent,
you thought I was exactly like you.” – Psalm 50:24*

To paraphrase a great man of God,

“If your God is mean, judgmental, moody, vacillating, angry, aloof, silent, stern, demanding, hard to please, and impossible to love, then you've got the wrong God!”

To believe GOD IS, is to believe God is who He says He is. We believe and trust His character. God does not change. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-merciful, all-gracious, all-goodness, all-faithful, all-forgiving, all-patient, always truthful, always just, and always present.

We cannot truly believe in God the Father Almighty until we know who He is. God revealed himself to us when He revealed His character to Moses. That character never changes. Those attributes do not change.

Anything that contradicts God's self-revelation is a distortion of truth, which is a lie. Therefore, when we come to God, we need to KNOW THAT HE IS—which leaves no room for change.

So, if your experience tempts you to think that God is not good all the time, then you are believing a lie. The deception of Satan is to distort and impugn God's character. If your experience leads you to believe that God is not fair, not just, and not faithful, then you are believing a lie. God is always just, fair and always faithful.

This absolute is the anchor of our soul. It is sure and steadfast. We must recognize WHO we are coming to when we pray.

The problem for many of us is, we have not settled in our minds who God is. We vacillate. We stagger. We are double-minded. We change our minds. Our circumstances influence us. We let our troubles, our pain, and our sicknesses dictate our opinion of God. God Is not your circumstances. Circumstances change, God doesn't. Health changes, God doesn't. Fortunes change, God doesn't. Blessings change, God doesn't. Heaven and earth change, God does not change!

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.

Hebrews 1:10-12

He also says, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

Beloved brother and sisters in Christ, nail this down! Attach it to your walls. Write it on your heart. Tattoo it on your arm. Engrave it on your hands. GOD IS GOD AND HE DOES NOT CHANGE.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." – Hebrews 13:8

Faith is trusting God because God is good and faithful. God is not our circumstances, or our tragedies, or our medical diagnosis. God is God. God cannot lie. He does not lie. He does not say one thing and do another. He does not trick us. He doesn't exaggerate. He doesn't speak in hyperbole.

“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: has he said, and shall he not do it? or has he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”
– Numbers 23:19

“Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil;” – Hebrews 6:17-19

Faith is believing God, not your fears, and not your worries, and not your circumstances. Faith is anchored to God's goodness and His promises. They cannot fail. Faith is absolute certainty anchored to God's faithfulness.

Faith is a conscious choice of the mind over your emotions and your experiences. It is a choice of the mind and the will to believe God above all visible evidence to the contrary. We need to understand that faith is deep. It is strong. It is abiding. It is unshakable. It is unchanging. It is anchored to the Rock that cannot move. Faith is based on the goodness and unchangeableness of God.

Think About It

Chapter 11: Defining Faith – Part 2: Believe Who He Is

Do you ever feel God is unfair? Do you ever feel God is stingy?

Which of God's characteristics are hardest for you to believe?
Why?

Would you change any of God's "all-traits" to "mostly traits"?

