

THE STUDY OF GOD: GOD IS 'HIDDEN' UNLESS REVEALED

STUDY & REFLECTION

We have learned from our earlier study that the God of the Universe, the Creator of all things is INCOMPREHENSIBLE! He is so awesome, so different, so unique, He is impossible to understand or comprehend. We in our small, puny, human state, cannot with our greatest intelligence, come to know Him.

But beyond His awesome vastness, the great God, the Sovereign Ruler is HIDDEN!

Listen to Jesus Himself tell us this tremendous truth: Matt 11:25-27: "*At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.* (KJV)

Yes, God in His very nature and person is 'hidden,' covered, concealed, shrouded from view. Jesus tells us that this is not by accident. The Father Himself Wills it. He has purposefully and willfully 'hidden' from human intelligence and insight, genuine knowledge of God.

So, how can we 'know' Him? GOD HAS TO REVEAL HIMSELF!

Usually, to get to know something or to research a subject, we, simply 'study it!' We sign up for the class. We commit to a particular course of study, focus on it and gain insight and understanding about it.

This is possible because as the height of all of God's creation, we have been assigned by God, mastery over everything. God has given us dominion. We stand 'above' all that God has made! We can study anything and begin to understand it and ultimately gain mastery over it...But not when it comes to God!

HE STANDS ABOVE US! WE EXIST UNDER HIM!! WE CANNOT DISCOVER HIM!

When it comes to God, Isa 59:10 says, "we grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes!"

ACTION ITEMS

I partly apologize for stretching you and taking you deep, but it is critical to our study. Genuine growth and depth in coming to Know God will by its' very nature cause us to stop, reconsider what we thought we knew, reevaluate our self-confidence, repent, and beg the Lord to forgive our arrogance, open our eyes, remove our blindness, and allow us a glimpse of Who He really is.

This is your assignment.

INVOLVING OTHERS

Share with your group this experience. Discuss your individual experiences and share honestly how you feel. Are you unchanged? Are you humbled? Does it not make you humble yourself and begin to value what grace He affords us to allow us access to begin to Know Him.

THE STUDY OF GOD: 'HIDDEN' ONLY REVEALED TO 'BABES'

STUDY & REFLECTION

Jesus in this passage, takes the knowledge of God to a new level. He speaks emphatically to all, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Scribes, the disciples, to all, to us!! He announces that human investigation is totally ineffective and useless in its pursuit to know God. **God is incomprehensible and hidden.**

The only path to knowing God?... God has to Reveal Himself. And this kind of revelation, this access to the Person of God, is only revealed to 'babes!'

We know what Jesus means when He makes this declaration. We may not know precisely, but we know instinctively. Babes? Unsophisticated in mind. Trusting in spirit. Humble. Submissive. Those who know, they know nothing and hunger to be fed, to be taught. They are who James 1:21 describes as raw and teachable, with mouths open to ... "receive with meekness the *engrafted* Word!"

How unsettling to the human spirit. How uncomfortable it makes us feel. Haven't we focused, studied, and achieved deep knowledge of God?

Yet the truth is, it is the condition of our hearts alone, that makes us fit candidates for God to reveal genuine truth and knowledge about Himself to us. Jesus says, this is pleasing in the sight of the Father. We must willingly, and unconditionally, reject, strip from ourselves any sense of pride, arrogance, achievement, self-attainment in order to receive from God the next level of that which He has already implanted into our hearts.

How much of a 'Babe' are you?

ACTION ITEMS

We are on a journey to discovery and growth. We want the Lord to grant us mercy and grace in order for us to come into a fuller, more intimate knowledge of Him and in particular the Person, Power and Ministry of the Holy Spirit.

What are you willing to do? What are you willing to surrender to God in order for this *impartation* to occur? Are you willing to become a babe?

INVOLVING OTHERS

Again, the assignment is challenging but doable. Discuss with your peers, the issue of Who will the Lord grant Revelation of the Divine to? What are the hindrances that keep us from such knowledge? What are we willing to surrender and submit to in order for us to receive from Him?

STUDY & REFLECTION As we move forward on our journey of Knowing the Person, Power and Ministry of the Holy Spirit, we must ask the critical question: **How does God choose to Manifest Himself to mankind and How do we gain access to such truth?**

We see in the passage in Matthew 11 that God is pleased to keep Himself hidden from most, (the wise and prudent) but will reveal Himself to surrendered, humble, hungry children.

Jesus tells us that He all the things about God have been delivered into His hands, and the source is the Father. He further relates that no one knows the Son but the Father, and no one knows the Father but the Son, and those the Son chooses to reveal Himself to.

We are now getting into the study of God, or more precisely what is known as the **GODHEAD**.

The GODHEAD is a synonym for **“that which is God!”**

We know that God in His essence is ONE! But God has chosen to reveal Himself to mankind in three major manifestations (some call them persons): FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT!

The passage from Matthew 16 helps us to understand how this occurs. The initial question Jesus asked the disciples was...who do people say that I am? He then challenged them with a more specific, personal question, Who do YOU say that I am. Peter replies...Thou art the Christ, the SON of the living God. Jesus qualifies Peter's answer, saying “flesh and blood did not REVEAL this to you but my Father who is in Heaven!”

Genuine knowledge of God, flows to us in this order, From the Father, to the Son, by the Holy Spirit! WOW!!

ACTION ITEMS **Hang in there. You can handle this!**

Yes, God is Incomprehensible, Hidden, yet Knowable. He wants us to know Him deeply and intimately. He will gladly and progressively Reveal Himself to us as we surrender and commit to walk with Him, through His Word, and by His Spirit.

I want you to take real time and think about, what the scriptures teach us about God. How do we perceive that God is One, yet manifests Himself in His Eternal GODHEAD of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Here concreteness is not necessary or desired. **Becoming Aware of God and appreciating this unbelievable Grace is!**

INVOLVING OTHERS Shared experiences in the Body will teach us how Awesome God is and how blessed we are to be a part of the Global Community of Believers. **Share your experience.**

THE STUDY OF GOD: THE GODHEAD EXPRESSED: A 'MYSTERY'

STUDY &
REFLECTION

The term GODHEAD is a synonym for God and for that which makes the *triune* God ONE! This Awesome God has chosen to Reveal Himself to us, knowing that we will never be able to comprehend Him with any fullness or completeness. Is not this the essence of Faith. We are called to trust and believe a God who has not and will not 'explain Himself.' This is clearly shown in our core scripture in Hebrews 11:6.

Apart from Faith...it is impossible to please Him. We are challenged to believe that God is who He says He is without complete comprehension or understanding.

As we consider the GODHEAD, perhaps a simple explanation in context will help.
GOD IS:

FATHER: in Creation

SON: in Redemption

HOLY SPIRIT: Indwelling and Empowering the lives of His children

You can classify these understandings under the category of what the Bible calls a 'Mystery.'

1 Cor 2:7-8: *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (KJV)*

Greek: **musterion**

This term does not mean as in secular language the 'mysterious.' **It means that which is secret or hidden, revealed only to the 'initiated!'**

It is that which is outside the range of natural or human apprehension, and can only be made known by Divine revelation, and in a manner and at a time designated by God, to those who are illuminated by His Spirit. (and even this is not complete: "now we see in part... in a 'glass darkly')

ACTION
ITEMS

Your assignment is to consider and reflect on the scriptures shared. **Nothing more.** No need to be fretful or anxious. May the God of all Peace and Knowledge settle you to spend reflective and introspective time with Him, receiving from His table grace and truth.

INVOLVING
OTHERS

Share your experience with others in your small group.

THE STUDY OF GOD: THE GODHEAD 'MYSTERY' REVEALED

STUDY &
REFLECTION

HERE IS THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH:

1 Tim 3:16

Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness (GODHEAD) is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. (NIV)

Paul here summarizes what is critical about God, in the person of Christ Jesus, on the mission of Redemption. He has already told us in the Colossians passage that the Fullness of God was deposited in Christ Jesus in a bodily form and that we are COMPLETE IN HIM! In 1 Tim the mission is capsulized in clear and distinct language to assure us of our full confidence of Redemption.

This 'mission' was never clearly seen, even by the prophets. Certainly not seen by those who know not God. If worldly endeavor and study could have 'known' it, they never would have killed the Lord from Glory! This mystery of godliness (The Godhead: who God Is) has now been displayed in the Person of Christ Jesus. God is now ready to unleash the next portion of His Divine Plan to restore mankind. Christ being "taken up to glory," was not the end...it marked the beginning of something better and deeper.

As we now move into the heart of our journey, we will look at the ministry of Jesus as He during His earthly ministry prepares the disciples and those who would believe on Him through their word, and teaches them expressly about the long promised and soon descent of the Holy Spirit!

The mystery of our Faith is embodied and revealed in the life of Jesus...the fullness of God in bodily form. The Incarnation...Christ inhabiting a Body for the express purpose of becoming the only valid payment for our sin is now made manifest.

Your assignment is to appreciate, embrace, thank and praise God for this unbelievable GIFT. Thank and praise Him that He has included you, your salvation in His Divine Plan.

Have a great time of prayer, thanks, and praise with your group as we prepare to get to know better the Person, Power, and Ministry of the Holy Spirit.

ACTION
ITEMS

INVOLVING
OTHERS

THE PERSON POWER AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE STUDY OF GOD: THE GODHEAD 'MYSTERY' REVEALED

Devotional Scriptures:

Study and Reflection:

Action Items: Involving Others

Enjoy the day in reflection of the blessings
received these past two weeks.

SHALOM!