

Appreciating God

LESSON 1

Appreciate:

1. recognize the full worth of. 2. understand (a situation) fully; recognize the full implications of. (Oxford Languages)

Also means: to value or admire highly (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

- ❖ You cannot appreciate anyone or anything unless you first find value in them – Psalm 100
- ❖ We often ascribe value based on what they can do or have done for us – Psalm 139:14
- ❖ In terms of God, we must go beyond what He can do and ascribe value simply for who He is – Psalm 96
- ❖ We must fully appreciate and value God – Psalm 95-1-2
- ❖ Difficult to appreciate God when you value others or things more than God – Deut. 6:4-5
- ❖ Appreciating God despite our circumstances enables us to get through them and come out of them stronger – 1 Thes. 5:18
 - Job in the midst of great loss of family – Job 1:13-22; 14:14
 - Does not mean we don't mourn or experience disappointment, but that we yet trust and believe God that it will work for our good – Psalm 30:5; Rom. 8:28
- ❖ Sometimes God will step back in order for you to realize how much you should appreciate Him
 - Give you what you want even when it is not His Will for you – 1 Samuel 8
 - Allow you to experience the contrasts of life – Isa. 61:3; Psa. 30:5

UPCOMING:

- ❖ Appreciating God involves:
 - Appreciating His Nature
 - Appreciating His Ways
 - Appreciating His Plan
- ❖ Part of appreciating God involves learning how to appreciate those God is using in your life

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LESSON 2

His Nature – His Ways – His Plan

GOD IS LOVE

- ❖ LOVE – 1 John 4:7-21
 - It's not just that He loves you, but He is love – 1 John 4:8, 16
 - His love for us is demonstrated through His actions – John 3:16; 1 John 4:10
 - Our response to God's Love should be to love others – 1 John 4:11, 20-21
 - Because God is Love, fear has no place in perfect love – 1 John 4:17-18; 2 Tim. 1:7

GOD IS OMNISCIENT – ALL KNOWING

- ❖ He knows us inside out – Psa. 139:1-6; Heb. 4:13
- ❖ There is nothing that He is waiting to find out – Isa. 46:9-10; Acts 15:18
- ❖ Don't reject God when you don't understand a situation – Job 14:14; Mat. 16:13-23; 1 Cor. 2:8

GOD IS OMNIPOTENT – ALL POWERFUL

- ❖ Because He is All-Powerful, He reigns – Rev. 19:6
- ❖ God is not struggling to handle anything – Gen. 18:14; Psa. 115:3; Jer. 32:17
- ❖ He has all power over even the demonic – Mark 9
 - If God has all power and I am His child, what do I have? John 14:12

GOD IS OMNIPRESENCE

- ❖ Jer. 23:23-24; Psalm 139
- ❖ When you appreciate His Presence, you don't sweat the trouble – Psa. 46

GOD DOESN'T MOVE LIKE US

- ❖ Doesn't need your validation – Heb. 6:13-20
- ❖ Doesn't need your help – Psa. 50:10-12
- ❖ Is consistent – Psa. 100:5; Isa 43:10
- ❖ Is dependable – Isa. 26:4; Lam. 3:22-23

GOD'S PLANS ARE SURE

- ❖ He has a plan for you – Jer. 29:11
- ❖ Doesn't flip or change – Psa. 33:11
- ❖ He's got us – Rom. 8:28-31

LESSON 2 EXTRA:**More about God's Nature**

SELF-EXISTENCE - Exo. 3:14; John 5:26; Acts 17:28

SURE - God has never been confused about who He is – Isaiah 43:10; 44:6-8

ETERNAL - Psa. 90:2; Psa. 102:12

INDEPENDENCE - Job 41:11; Psa. 50:10-12

IMMUTABILITY – Unchanging - Psa. 102:25-27; Psa. 33:11; James 1:17; Mal.3:6

LOVE - 1 John 4:7-11; John 3:16

GOODNESS - Mat. 19:17; Psa. 100:5; Psa. 34:8

TRUTH - John 1:17; John 17:3

FAITHFUL - Num. 23:19; Lam. 3:23

HOLINESS - Holiness is not optional – its mandatory – Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 1:16

GRACE - Rom. 3:24; Eph. 1:7; Eph. 2:8

JUST - Psa. 99:4; Rom. 1:32; Rom. 2:5-7

PROVIDER – Psa. 23; 2 Cor. 9:8; Phil. 4:19; Mat. 6:31-32; Mat. 7:11

TEACHER – Psa. 94:12; Psa. 32:8; Heb. 12:1-8

VALIDATOR – Mat. 3:17; Rom. 8:28-34

PROTECTOR – Psa. 46:1; Psa. 91; Nahum 1:7

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LESSON 3

Appreciating Others

THE GOD / PEOPLE RELATIONAL COMPARISON IN SCRIPTURE

- ❖ God often teaches us through Scripture that how we treat others is looked at as a reflection of how we treat Him or want to be treated by God
 - In relation to loving others – John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:20
 - In relation to forgiveness – Mat. 6:14-15
 - In relation to meeting needs – Mat. 25: 37-40
 - In relation to everything we do – Col. 3:23-24

GOD MAKE US ALL TO BE A PART OF A UNIQUE UNITY

- ❖ We are uniquely made – Psa. 139:14
- ❖ We were created in His image and for His Glory – Gen. 1:26-27; Isa. 43:7-15

WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR OTHERS

- ❖ In our prayers – 1 Thes. 1:2
- ❖ Do you put others first or is it always about you? Rom. 12:10

GOD EXPECTS US TO HONOR AND APPRECIATE OUR LEADERS

- ❖ Secular – 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Heb. 13:7
- ❖ Spiritual – 1 Tim. 5:17-20
- ❖ Parents – Exo. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-3
- ❖ Your spouse – 1 Peter 3:1-7
- ❖ Your children – Psa. 127:3-5
- ❖ Your friends – Pro. 17:17

THINGS THAT HINDER US APPRECIATING OTHERS

- ❖ Selfishness – Phil. 2:3-4
- ❖ Jealousy – Pro. 27:4 (KJV & MSG)
- ❖ Misunderstandings –
- ❖ Lies – Psalm 101:7; Pro. 19:9
- ❖ Hatred – Pro. 10:12
- ❖ Bitterness and Unforgiveness – Eph. 4:31-32
- ❖ Ignorance of your value – 1 Cor. 12

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LESSON 4

Appreciating God's Hand on Your Life

WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY GOD'S HAND IS UPON YOU IN THIS TEACHING?

- ❖ His Favor – Ezra 7:6-9
- ❖ His protection – Isa. 41:10; Isa. 43:1-2
- ❖ His strength – Psa. 89:13; Psa. 8:3
- ❖ Supernatural ability – 2 Kings 3:15-19
- ❖ Revelation – Eze. 37:1, 40:1-2
- ❖ Mercy and forgiveness – Psa. 37:24

GOD'S HAND IS OFTEN INDICATIVE OF GOD'S CALLING

Isa. 6:1-8

GOD DIDN'T HAVE TO CHOOSE YOU BUT DID SO FOR HIS PURPOSE

Phil. 2:13; John 15:16

GOD OFTEN CHOOSES US BEFORE WE CHOOSE HIM

Jer. 1:5; Ephesians 1:4

GOD CHOICE SUPERSEDES MAN'S OPINIONS

Proverbs 29:25; John 12:36-43

WHAT GOD HAS PLACED IN YOU IS SPECIAL AND SHOULD BE TREASURED

1 Peter 2:9; 2 Cor. 4:7

NEVER CELEBRATE THE GIFT WITHOUT CELEBRATING GOD

Deuteronomy 8:11-18

IN CONCLUSION, APPRECIATE HOW GOOD GOD IS TO US AND THE MANY BLESSINGS HE HAS BESTOWED UPON US...BE THANKFUL

1 Thes. 5:18