



***Pathways to
Intimacy
with God***

Pathways to Intimacy with God

Humanity was created to live “*Coram Deo*” before the face of God. In the beginning God walked with the first two humans personally. (Genesis 3:8-10) Before sin, they lived face to face with God. Sin destroyed our intimacy with God. Jesus came to pay the price of our sin and to restore our relationship so that we could again live “*Coram Deo*,” before the face of God. Do not settle for religion it will not satisfy. Do just try to do more to please God out of a sense of duty. Jacob was transformed into Israel when he saw God face to face. Moses literally glowed when he came before the face and presence of God intimately. Gideon was changed into a warrior of faith when he saw the Angel of the Lord face to face. And most importantly Jesus Christ is God revealing His face to us, so that we may know Him and through Him live “*Coram Deo*.”

This is not something we must wait for heaven for. Jesus has given us access to the throne of God that we may live intimately before Him now. Consider some of these verses that speak of living before the face of God.

*Psalms 80:19: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!
let your face shine, that we may be saved!*

*Psalms 67:1: May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah*

Ezekiel 39:29: And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.”

II Corinthians 4:6: For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Set your life course to live again “*Coram Deo*” before the face of God. Faith in Jesus Christ’s work on the cross gives us forgiveness of sin and access to His presence. Our salvation has been won for us by Christ Jesus alone. It is a gift of grace affected through faith in Jesus. It is not something we earn or could ever pay back. Salvation is the beginning of a relationship with God. Our level of intimacy in living before the face of God is a choice we each must make personally. Jesus calls us to abide in His love. Use the Pathways to Intimacy to draw your life into presence of God.

1 - Desire Trailhead: Choosing to Desire God

Your journey towards intimacy with God and the joy of living before His face begins with desire. You are as close to God as you want to be. If you want life to the full it begins by cultivating a desire for God Himself, to know Him, love Him and spend time with Him. Desire is an important starting point for any relationship. It is the degree of value you place on wanting to know the other person more. Desire for God needs to become a habitual driving force in our relationship.

David had a passionate heart for God. Here is how he expressed his desire:

¹As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Psalm 42:1-2

What kind of relationship with God do you have?

Is it just an acquaintance relationship — your knowledge of God is superficial and not personal?

Is it an academic relationship — you know a lot about the Bible and about God, but it is more in your head than in your heart?

Is it more of a business relationship — you do something for God and in return expect Him to do something for you?

Is it a casual friendship relationship — sometimes you want to be with God, but at other times you want to be left alone?

Or is it a passionate relationship like David had — one of deep intimacy?

Desire for God can be measured by how much we invest in the relationship.

How much do you desire God?

Time — How do you spend your time?

- *Do you carve out time in your schedule to be with God?*
- *Do you think about your relationship with God throughout the day?*
- *Do you read and meditate on God's words for you?*

Energy — What are your efforts focused on?

- *Does God get the tired hours of your day or your best hours?*

Resources — What are you spending your money on?

- *Are you willing to spend money on things that will enhance your relationship with God?*
- *Is making money more important to you than spending time with God?*

Reputation — What do others think of you?

- *Does your concern about what other people think hinder your relationship with God?*

Prayer — Ask the Holy Spirit to create a growing love within you for God. He can create a growing passion for God in your heart. Ask Him to fan the flames of your desire for God and replace a lukewarm attitude with an abiding longing for closeness.

2 - The Ascent: Pursuing God

To live before the face of God we must seek His face. Every relationship requires an investment of energy. Relationships don't just happen. The ascent may be steep but with God the view from the top is more than worth the climb.

If you hope to win the heart of the one you love you must pursue them. If you continually expect them to come to you, he or she will conclude that you are not that interested. God has already pursued us. So much so He sent His Son Jesus to die for you. Furthermore His Holy Spirit is the one who draws us to Him for a relationship to begin with. Now we must respond by pursuing Him with all that we are. The more you desire to be closer to God, the more you will invest in building your relationship with Him. God wants to be pursued. In fact, He will even create circumstances in our lives to motivate us to seek Him.

Pursuing God is an important habit in cultivating intimacy with Him. Consider the advice David gave to Solomon, ⁹*“And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.*

1 Chronicles 28:9

God invites us to pursue Him with all that we are. ¹³*You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart,* ¹⁴*I will be found by you, declares the LORD, Jeremiah 29:14*

Why does God want us to pursue Him?

Pursuing God requires wholehearted, focused attention. The phrase “all your heart,” implies that God is our priority. God will not settle for second or third place in your life. He deserves a total love commitment from us. He made us. He saved us. And it is only in pursuing Him with all that we are that we discover who we truly are. It is in Him that we find our purpose and joy.

When we pursue God, we are demonstrating our desire for Him. The pursuit reveals the priority we place on the relationship. It can be measured by the time, energy and thought we are willing to invest.

So what’s involved in pursuing God?

- **Seek God**

God wants us to seek Him. He challenges us in his Word to seek His face. We are to search God out—to strive after a deeper relationship with Him. Tell God you want to know Him and then begin to invest energy in pursuit of Him through reading His Word, meditating on His truth and His creation. Choose to think about Jesus. Call out to Jesus.

⁶*“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;” Isaiah 55:6,*

¹⁰*“With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!”*

Psalm 119:10

- **Draw near to God**

God wants us to draw near to Him. We are to sincerely approach Him in humility and with repentance for our sinfulness. Repentance is a choice to serve God rather than our self and our sin. But it must be more than regret over how the sin makes you look. He desires repentance leading to singular devotion. All too often we say all the right words to God but we are not being wholehearted. Choose to want to be near Him, and remove anything that will hinder your relationship.

⁸*“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” James 4:8*

- **Wait on God**

God wants us to wait for Him. He is God. He is worth waiting for. His response to our desires will be according to His timetable. Waiting on the Lord, means that we recognize that His plan and timing will be the best for us. He knows all the information and how our life intersects with others. As we wait for Him we actually express our love for Him and trust in Him through an attitude of patience and submission.

⁸*“In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for you; your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul. Isaiah 26:8*

⁵*“I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; Psalm 130:5*

What are you willing to invest in your pursuit of God? Seek Him, draw near to Him, wait on Him and He will reveal Himself to you. Ask the Holy Spirit to make your relationship with God the highest priority in your life.

⁸*You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.” Psalm 27:8*

3 - The High Plateau: *Discovering God*

Psalms 27:4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD...

Deeply rooted in every human heart is an unquenchable longing for beauty, a God-given sense that beauty must have a meaning that is larger and more permanent than one's own self. It can arouse pleasure, delight and even bring rest. Every person longs to observe and be a part of beauty as they seek for a rare glimpse of greatness and yearn for a vision of glory. People are moved by music - the words of a poet - the work of an artist - a new born child - the uniqueness of all living creatures - the multicolored hues of a sunset - the brilliance of a sun rise - the majesty of mountain peaks - the melodic sound of a waterfall - the wind rustling through the leaves - the simplicity of a flower - the lightness of a snowflake.

These things cultivate one's sensory awareness and expand the consciousness in a way that creates an ever-deepening appreciation of creation. All of these beauties however stem from the ultimate and only true source of beauty – The God of the universe. The beauty of God has been intricately woven through the fabric of all creation to instill within a deep hunger to know true beauty, God Himself. The reason people are attracted to beauty and long to be attractive and wanted by another is because God is the ultimate Beautiful One. He is the absolute original pattern of all other beauty. He made mankind to long for Himself because He sees each individual as beautiful and longs for intimacy with them. Anything less than knowing God will leave one unsatisfied.

The beauty of God's face is an endless discovery. His character and nature is like a mountain from whose vantage point we are able to put every aspect of true beauty into perspective. This is where we must choose to spend some time. God's attributes are a vast plateau. They are all level in revealing His greatness and glory. At times we will find ourselves drawn to one aspect of God specifically that our hearts long to comprehend. But that is just one aspect of the discovery of the beauty of our great and awesome God. Choose to explore the vast mysteries and wonders of God. Knowledge is the foundation for a relationship. Intimacy is only possible to the degree we know a person and have a right perception of them. God wants us to know what He is really like. What are His character traits? What's important to Him? What pleases Him?

When you're in love with someone, you want to find out everything you can about the other person. Is that your experience with God? The apostle Paul shared his prayer for the Ephesians, *"¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,"* Ephesians 1:16-17

God reveals Himself to us in several different ways. We can see His fingerprints in the intricate design of the created world around us. We can see His mind and heart in the Bible. In the Gospels we can also see God's marvelous character, love and grace lived out in the person of Jesus Christ. God inspired holy men of old to record His "autobiography." Called the Holy Bible, its pages reveal liberating truths and life-changing insights. The priority we place on reading, studying, and memorizing Scripture indicates the importance we place on knowing Him.

The Bible contains God's love letters to us. These are the words of our Creator, the heavenly Father who adopted us, the loving Savior who died for us, and the Holy Spirit who indwells us. The Bible has been supernaturally infused with power to accomplish the eternal objectives of its divine Author.

But we must get to know Him better. Use the following questions to stimulate new interest in discovering what God is like:

God's attributes: *What are God's character traits?*

God's names: *How do God's names reflect His roles in relating to His people?*

God's purposes: *What are God's plans and priorities?*

God's ways: *What are God's methods?*

God's blessings: *How has God demonstrated His love for me?*

God's commandments: *What does God want me to do?*

God's promises: *How has God committed Himself to me?*

God's resources: *How does God empower me, help me, and provide for me?*

Do you want to know all about God? Do you appreciate and treasure the glimpses you receive through His handiwork and written word? Are you eager to discover even more? Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes as you read the Bible so you can behold the magnificent God whose outstretched arms invite you to know Him intimately.

Some of the Attributes of God

- **God is Omnipotent** (All powerful – Genesis 18:14, Ephesians 1:11, Psalm 115:3)
- **God is Omnipresent** (He is everywhere present-Psalm 139:7-12)
- **God is Omniscient** (All knowing Psalm 139:1-6, 147:4, Matthew 10:28-30)
- **God is Transcendent** (He is not confined by Physical Laws – Isaiah 57:15, Jeremiah 23:23-24)
- **God is Eternal** (He has no beginning or end – Psalm 90:2,)
- **God is Holy** (He is set apart from all He has made – Exodus 15:11, Leviticus 11:44-45, Psalm 11:4-6)
- **God is Love** (He is the author, source and definition of love – 1 John 4:8-10, Romans 5:5-8, 8:35-39, John 3:16, 5:42)
- **God is Truth** (All truth emanates from His person and His work – Isaiah 45:5, Psalm 110:5, 1 Peter 1:25, Titus 1:2, Romans 3:3-4)
- **God is Self-Existent** (He has no needs, He is independent of all He has created – Exodus 3:14, Daniel 5:23, Acts 17:28)
- **God is Immutable** (He does not mutate or change. He will not act in a way that contradicts His other attributes – Malachi 3:6, James 1:17)
- **God is Merciful** (In His goodness, He does not treat us as we deserve – Ephesians 2:4-7, Isaiah 55:7, Romans 11:3-32, Psalm 5:7, Psalm 6:4, Psalm 18:50, Psalm 23:6)

- **God is Just** (He will judge and judge rightly – Psalm 58:11, 99:4, Romans 1:32, 2:7, 6:23, 1 Peter 1:17, Isaiah 3:10-11)
- **God is a Trinity** (He exists as three distinct equal persons, Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Equal in substance varying in form. Think of water – liquid - water, solid – ice, and gas - steam, each vary in form but all three are H₂O – John 1:18, 3:16-18, 5:19, 12:49, 1 John 4:9, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Genesis 1:1-2, Luke 3:21-22, 1 Corinthians 2:4-8)

Some of the Names of God in the Scriptures

Psalms 91:14 ESV "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.

Adoration can be expressed by using the Names that God has revealed of Himself in the Scripture. Look for how He has revealed His Person through His names. Then express your adoration for who God is.

(1) **Elohim**: The plural form of *EL*, meaning “strong one.” It is used of false gods, but when used of the true God, it is a plural of majesty and intimates the trinity. It is especially used of God’s sovereignty, creative work, and mighty work for Israel and in relation to His sovereignty (Isa. 54:5; Jer. 32:27; Gen. 1:1; Isa. 45:18; Deut. 5:23; 8:15; Ps. 68:7).

Compounds of *El*:

- **El Shaddai**: “God Almighty.” The derivation is uncertain. Some think it stresses God’s loving supply and comfort; others His power as the Almighty one standing on a mountain and who corrects and chastens (Gen. 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; Ex. 6:1; Ps. 91:1, 2).
- **El Elyon**: “The Most High God.” Stresses God’s strength, sovereignty, and supremacy (Gen. 14:19; Ps. 9:2; Dan. 7:18, 22, 25).
- **El Olam**: “The Everlasting God.” Emphasizes God’s unchangeableness and is connected with His inexhaustibleness (Gen. 16:13).

(2) **Yahweh (YHWH)**: Comes from a verb that means, “to exist, be.” This, plus its usage, shows that this name stresses God as the independent and self-existent God of revelation and redemption (Gen. 4:3; Ex. 6:3 (cf. 3:14); 3:12).

Compounds of *Yahweh*: Strictly speaking, these compounds are designations or titles, which reveal additional facts about God’s character.

- **Yahweh Jireh (Yireh)**: “The Lord will provide.” Stresses God’s provision for His people (Gen. 22:14).
- **Yahweh Nissi**: “The Lord is my Banner.” Stresses that God is our rallying point and our means of victory; the one who fights for His people (Ex. 17:15).
- **Yahweh Shalom**: “The Lord is Peace.” Points to the Lord as the means of our peace and rest (Jud. 6:24).
- **Yahweh Sabaoth**: “The Lord of Hosts.” A military figure portraying the Lord as the commander of the armies of heaven (1 Sam. 1:3; 17:45).
- **Yahweh Maccaddeshcem**: “The Lord your Sanctifier.” Portrays the Lord as our means of sanctification or as the one who sets believers apart for His purposes (Ex. 31:13).
- **Yahweh Ro’i**: “The Lord my Shepherd.” Portrays the Lord as the Shepherd who cares for His people as a shepherd cares for the sheep of his pasture (Ps. 23:1).

- **Yahweh Tsidkenu:** “The Lord our Righteousness.” Portrays the Lord as the means of our righteousness (Jer. 23:6).
- **Yahweh Shammah:** “The Lord is there.” Portrays the Lord’s personal presence in the millennial kingdom (Ezek. 48:35).
- **Yahweh Elohim Israel:** “The Lord, the God of Israel.” Identifies Yahweh as the God of Israel in contrast to the false gods of the nations (Jud. 5:3.; Isa. 17:6).
- **Jesus - Yeshua or Jesus means “YHWH Saves”.** The LORD who revealed Himself as YHWH in the Old Testament is revealed as Yeshua (Jesus) in the New Testament. Jesus shares the same attributes as YHWH and clearly claims to be YHWH. In John 8:56-59, Jesus presents himself as the “I AM.” When challenged by some Jewish leaders regarding His claim of seeing Abraham (who lived some 2000 years earlier), Jesus replied, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM.” Those Jewish leaders understood that Jesus was claiming to be YHWH. This is clearly established when they tried to stone Him to death for what they considered blasphemy under Jewish Law. In Romans 10:9, Paul declares, “if you confess with your mouth Yeshua as LORD... you shall be saved.” Immediately thereafter, in Romans 10:13, Paul backs up this declaration by quoting the Old Testament, “Whoever will call upon the name of the LORD (YHWH) will be saved” (Joel 2:32). Calling on Yeshua (Jesus) as Lord is the same as calling Him YHWH, because Yeshua (Jesus) is YHWH (LORD), the Messiah foretold throughout the entire Old Testament.

(3) **Adonai:** Like *Elohim*, this too is a plural of majesty. The singular form means “master, owner.” Stresses man’s relationship to God as his master, authority, and provider (Gen. 18:2; 40:1; 1 Sam. 1:15; Ex. 21:1-6; Josh. 5:14).

(4) **Theos:** Greek word translated “God.” Primary name for God used in the New Testament. Its use teaches: (1) *He is the only true God* (Matt. 23:9; Rom. 3:30); (2) *He is unique* (1 Tim. 1:17; John 17:3; Rev. 15:4; 16:7); (3) *He is transcendent* (Acts 17:24; Heb. 3:4; Rev. 10:6); (4) *He is the Savior* (John 3:16; 1 Tim. 1:1; 2:3; 4:10). This name is used of Christ as God in John 1:1, 18; 20:28; 1 John 5:20; Tit. 2:13; Rom. 9:5; Heb. 1:8; 2 Pet. 1:1.

(5) **Kurios:** Greek word translated “Lord.” Stresses authority and supremacy. While it can mean sir (John 4:11), owner (Luke 19:33), master (Col. 3:22), or even refer to idols (1 Cor. 8:5) or husbands (1 Pet. 3:6), it is used mostly as the equivalent of *Yahweh* of the Old Testament. It too is used of Jesus Christ meaning (1) Rabbi or Sir (Matt. 8:6); (2) God or Deity (John 20:28; Acts 2:36; Rom. 10:9; Phil. 2:11).

(6) **Despotes:** Greek word translated “Master.” Carries the idea of ownership while *Kurios* stressed supreme authority (Luke 2:29; Acts 4:24; Rev. 6:10; 2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 4).

(7) **Father:** A distinctive New Testament revelation is that through faith in Christ, God becomes our personal Father. Father is used of God in the Old Testament only 15 times while it is used of God 245 times in the New Testament. As a name of God, it stresses God’s loving care, provision, discipline, and the way we are to address God in prayer (Matt. 7:11; Jam. 1:17; Heb. 12:5-11; John 15:16; 16:23; Eph. 2:18; 3:15; 1 Thess. 3:11).

4 - The River Walk: *Expressing Your Love for God*

The more you get to know God, the more you will love Him. And the more you love Him, the more you will want to express your love for Him. God is the initiator in this love relationship. The apostle John reveals, *"We love because he first loved us."* 1 John 4:19.

The more we realize how great God's love is for us, the more we will respond by loving Him. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, *"¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father... that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.."* Ephesians 3:14,17-19

God's love for you is beyond measure and it is beyond knowledge. He has expressed His love for us in a myriad of ways.

- **He died for us** "... ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8
- **He forgives our sins** "... in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back. Isaiah 38:17
- **He does not condemn us** "¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1
- **He is gracious to us** "⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved." Ephesians 2:4,5
- **He adopted us** "¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." 1 John 3:1
- **He sings about us** "¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing." Zephaniah 3:17
- **He gives us good gifts** "¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17
- **He is faithful to us** "... ¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful — for he cannot deny himself." 2 Timothy 2:13
- **He will always love us** "³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38,39

As the Holy Spirit helps us to understand the breadth and depth of God's love for us, we respond with love for God.

This is where refreshment is found. There is something so revitalizing about walking beside a flowing stream. The sound of the water rushing over the rocks is like music. It refreshes the soul just as drinking from its waters refreshes the body. God's grace flows from His throne, like a river towards all who seek to show their love for Him by obeying His commandment to love Him with all that they are. The promise of a life lived before the face of God as an expression of love for Him is refreshment and fruitfulness.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

To love God we must delight in Him. Living “Coram Deo” is to continually seek not only God’s presence but also God’s pleasure. Begin by asking God, “How can I bring You pleasure today? How can I show you I love You with all that I am?”

There are several ways in which we can express our love for God...

- **Tell Him you love Him**
- **Thank Him for who He is, what He does and what He has given you.** “Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” *Jeremiah 33:11*
- **Praise Him – Write Him a note of praise, write a song. Speak and sing words of Praise to God.** “Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. *Psalm 63:3*
- **Expand your ability to communicate love to God. Listen to worship music, memorize scripture. Use them to then express your heart for God.**
- **Choose to love others as an expression of your love for God.**
- **Serve Him – look for ways that you can show your love for God.**
- **Give sacrificially to God and to serve other’s needs.** “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?” *1 John 3:17*
- **Live obediently.** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. *John 14:15*

As you cultivate your love relationship with God, ask the Holy Spirit to make you evermore mindful of how much God loves you. And, as a result, expect the Holy Spirit to continually increase your love for God. “... God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” *Romans 5:5*

5 - The Precipice: Fear and Awe of God

As you get to know God better, you will also develop reverential respect for His holy nature. It’s possible for us to have a love relationship with God, but to not give Him the respect that He is due — the respect that He demands. To live before the face of God we must acknowledge His righteousness. He is a holy, holy, holy God. There is nothing common about the Lord. We must not take His grace for granted nor can we allow idolatry and unrepentant sin to remain unchecked in our lives if we want to live “Coram Deo.” A healthy fear of God helps us to remember that whereas His love endures forever so does His holiness.

What does it mean to fear God?

“The term for fear can describe everything from dread, or being terrified, to standing in awe or having reverence. When used of the Lord, it applies to both aspects of the term, a shrinking back in recognition of the difference or holiness of God and drawing close in awe and worship. It is an attitude of both reluctance and adoration that results in a willingness to do what God says. The fear of the Lord, then, is absolutely necessary if we are even to begin on the right foot in learning, living, or worshipping.” (From *Hard Sayings of the Bible*)

Do you revere God’s awesome holiness? Moses displayed a healthy fear of God’s greatness when he prayed, “Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders??” *Exodus 15:11*

Why should we fear God?

- God's greatness demands our reverential respect.

²²*“Out of the north comes golden splendor; God is clothed with awesome majesty. ²³The Almighty—we cannot find him; he is great in power; justice and abundant righteousness he will not violate.*

²⁴*“Therefore men fear him; he does not regard any who are wise in their own conceit.” Job 37:22-24*

- God's Word demands our reverential respect.

⁹*“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children— ¹⁰how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.’”*
Deuteronomy 4:9-10

- God's works demands our reverential respect.

⁹*“Then all mankind fears; they tell what God has brought about and ponder what he has done..”*
Psalm 64:9

We demonstrate a healthy fear of God. . .

- When we treat others respectfully.

²¹*submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:21*

- When we live righteous lives.

¹³*“The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.” Proverbs 8:13*

- When we obey God's commands.

²⁹*“Oh that they had such a mind as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!” Deuteronomy 5:29*

- When we serve Him.

“Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.” Psalm 2:11

- When we teach others to respect God.

“Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.” Psalm 34:11

- When we worship Him.

⁴*“Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.” Revelation 15:4*

I Chronicles 16:29: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;

Those who have reverential fear of God enter into a special relationship with specific blessings.

Promises for those who fear God...

Psalms 25:12 Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. 13 His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. 14 The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

Psalms 31:19 Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!

Psalms 33:18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,

Psalms 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. 8 Oh,

taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! 9 Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!

Psalms 103:17 But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

Psalms 111:5 He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

Psalms 115:11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. 12 The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron; 13 he will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.

Psalms 128:1 Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways!

Psalms 145:19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

Psalms 147:11 but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 16:6 By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.

Proverbs 22:4 The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.

Luke 1:50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

Therefore. . .

Psalms 86:11 Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

1 Peter 1:17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

Isaiah 50:10 Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

6 - The Narrow Trail: Trusting God

Living before the face of God means that we recognize He is constantly with us. When that truth becomes a reality in our lives, we are free to live boldly for God. But trust is a narrow trail. It is not an easy trail to walk. It is much easier to walk by sight. That is the broad trail of life. But God calls us to an adventure with Him. The path is narrow but it is the only path that leads to life.

Faith is built upon our view of God. It is not an emotion that we must self stimulate. Faith finds its footing by knowing more about who God is and how He works in our lives. True faith trusts in God's abilities not our own.

Who or what is the object of your trust and faith? Is it God? Yourself? Someone else? Or maybe some material asset or resource? In who or what do you place your confidence that problems of today and the fears about tomorrow will be handled to your benefit?

Consider the advice of the Psalmist:

Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Psalms 118:8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

Psalms 40:4 Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

The more you get to know God, the more you will understand how committed He is to you. As a result, you will be willing to entrust more of yourself into His capable care.

Three Reasons Why You Can Trust God

- **God has the ability to accomplish what concerns us.**

Jeremiah 32:27 “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?

Jeremiah 32:17 ‘Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

Luke 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God.”

- **God is committed to our well-being.**

Psalms 33:18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,... 21 For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. 22 Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Psalms 32:10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

- **God will do what He promises.**

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Psalms 33:4 For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

God is completely trustworthy. He has the ability to accomplish the things that concern you. He is committed to your well-being. And God will do what He promises. He has the integrity; He has the character to follow-through. He is faithful.

Trust involves faith and hope. Isaiah admonishes us,

10 Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.” Isaiah 50:10.

How many times have you felt like you were totally in the dark? You didn't have a clue what to do next? These situations finally bring us to a point when we turn to God in desperation hoping He will respond to our prayers and bring deliverance. God wants us to trust Him during difficult times.

Consider the following promises.

Trusting God for the Bad Things and Difficult Circumstances of Life

• Trust God for past failures and tragedies

After many years of hardship and injustice, Joseph came to the following conclusion as he spoke to his brothers who had sold him into slavery, *“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”* Genesis 50:20

Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Psalms 119:71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.

• Trust God for present hardships and problems

James 1:2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

II Corinthians 4:16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 17 For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

• Trust God for future worries and fears

I Peter 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Matthew 6:34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Proverbs 3:25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, 26 for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.

Isaiah 41:10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Trusting God During the Good Times, As Well as the Bad

We all understand the need to trust God when we are in a time of crisis. We see that pattern repeated throughout the Old Testament. But during the good times, the children of Israel would forget about their God — they became self-reliant and turned away from Him. Then God would again put them into difficult situations and after awhile they once again turned to Him for help.

God explained to Isaiah, *“I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things.”* Isaiah 45:7.

When we find ourselves in darkness, there’s a reason why God has chosen to take away the light. When you’re in darkness, is it comforting to know that God is the One who is in absolute control of

your difficult situation? Our sovereign, loving God brings good and bad into our lives to shape us and fulfill His purposes. We need to trust Him for the good as well as the bad.

Trust God for the Good Things and Blessings of Life

• Past successes and triumphs

Psalms 30:6 As for me, I said in my prosperity, 7 By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

I Chronicles 29:12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

Psalms 103:2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

• Present endeavors and opportunities

I Timothy 6:17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

Luke 18:27 But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

• Future dreams and desires

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Psalms 145:16 You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. 19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Trust God Daily for the Following:

• Guidance

Psalms 25:10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

• Provision

Psalms 34:9 Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

• Protection

Psalms 31:23 Love the LORD, all you his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride. 24 Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for

the LORD!

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

II Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

• Health

Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

Proverbs 4:20 My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. 22 For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.

• Strength

Isaiah 40:29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; 31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

God is completely trustworthy. There is no one who cares more about you. There is no one who has greater abilities. There is no one who can guarantee promises made to you with more integrity. What are you willing to entrust to God today because you have faith in His character, capabilities, and love for you?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you trust God more every day as you grow in your relationship with Him.

Psalms 9:10 And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

7 - The Summit: *Enjoying God*

The apex of all life is delighting in God and living a complete peace before His face (Coram Deo). In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were created to enjoy God and delight in all that He created. The Salvation that Jesus purchased for us on the cross restores our ability to truly enjoy God and all He has created. Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength is the satisfaction of our souls. Living before His face is what you were made for. He only made one of you. God desires you to delight in Him for He delights in you.

Do you take daily delight in your relationship with God? He wants to be enjoyed by us. This is the most marvelous relationship we can ever have and yet we usually miss out on all God has in store because we are so focused on the material realm. Our God is invisible but His daily involvement in our lives and presence is obvious to a discerning observer. There are several ways you can enjoy God moment by moment throughout every day.

Delight in God's Presence:

Enjoy being aware that He is constantly with you

Psalms 89:15 Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? Psalms 139:7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

Exodus 33:14 And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalms 21:6 For you make him most blessed forever; you make him glad with the joy of your presence.

1 Peter 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

John 14:21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

Throughout each day, are you conscious of God's presence? How do you acknowledge Him? How do you relate to Him?

Delight in Communicating with God:

Enjoy speaking with God about your interests, concerns and desires

Philippians 4:6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Isaiah 65:24 Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

Psalms 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,

Two-way prayer involves speaking to God and quieting our hearts so we can hear Him speak to us. During the course of each day, are you honest and transparent with God? Do you know how to quiet your heart to listen to God?

Delight in God's Creation:

Enjoy the beauty of His handiwork

Psalms 8:3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

1 Chronicles 16:12 Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered,

Psalms 66:5 Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

Psalms 106:2 Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD, or declare all his praise?

Delight in God's Character:

Enjoy worshiping His magnificent attributes

Deuteronomy 3:24 'O Lord GOD, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours?

Exodus 15:11 "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"

Psalms 145:3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

Psalms 100:1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! 2 Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Psalms 43:4 Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

Psalms 145:4 One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

Job 11:7 "Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?"

Delight in God's Word:

Enjoy His promises and the hope they bring

Psalms 1:2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Psalms 112:1 Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments!

Psalms 119:35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

Psalms 119:92 If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

Job 23:12 I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.

Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,

Psalms 119:97 Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

Jeremiah 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

Delight in God's Salvation:

Enjoy peace with God because of your righteousness in Christ

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Psalms 35:9 Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD, exulting in his salvation.

Delight in God's Goodness:

Enjoy His gifts and daily blessings

Psalms 118:24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. 25 Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Deuteronomy 12:7 And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the LORD your God has blessed you.

Psalms 72:18 blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Ephesians 1:3 blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

Psalms 77:14 you are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples.

Psalms 86:10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

Matthew 7:11 If you then, who are 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!

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

How has God recently demonstrated His love and goodness to you? Did you notice God controlling circumstances? Did God intervene to get you out of a negative situation? Did God provide for a need? Did God protect you from harm or evil? Did you become aware of an answer to a specific prayer?

Delight in the new Identity God has given you In Christ Jesus:

This is who a Christ Follower is "In Jesus Christ."

Alive in Christ

1 Corinthians 15:21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Chosen by God

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Saved by grace

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

God is propitiated (satisfied) in Christ's payment for our sin

1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

Reconciled to God

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Redeemed

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

Freed from the Law

Romans 7:4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

Totally forgiven

Colossians 2:13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Totally cleansed

I Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Made holy and blameless

Colossians 1:22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Hidden with Christ in God

Colossians 3:3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Clothed with Christ

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Sealed in Christ

Ephesians 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Given Christ's righteousness

II Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 5:17 If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Justified

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Safe from the wrath of God

Romans 5:9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Made at peace with God

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Freed from condemnation

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Sanctified (made holy, set apart for God)

Hebrews 10:10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

I Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Made perfect forever

Hebrews 10:14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Totally accepted

Romans 15:7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Translated out of darkness into light

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 5:8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

From death to life

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Born again

I Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Indwelt by the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Made into a temple of the Holy Spirit

I Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality...

Made into a new creation

II Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Made children of God

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Adopted into God's family

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Made heirs of God

Galatians 4:7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

In fellowship with God

I Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

I John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Made into a holy and royal priesthood

Revelation of John 1:5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Given total access to God

Ephesians 3:12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Made complete

Colossians 2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

We have been given everything

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

II Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the

knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

Ask the Holy Spirit to make the preceding scriptures a reality in your life. Cultivate the art of enjoying our invisible, magnificent God.

CONCLUSION: The Joy of Living “Coram Deo” continually –

These 7 Pathways will help you to discover of living before the face of God continually.

- Desiring God
- Pursuing God
- Discovering God
- Expressing your love for God
- Remembering the Fear of God
- Trusting God
- Enjoying God

Living “Coram Deo” – seeking to live before the face of God is not just a religious platitude. It is a practical reality that will satisfy your soul with God’s overflowing goodness and grace. We are to seek God’s face now not just in heaven.

David, whom God called a man after His own heart, chose to live “Coram Deo.” He sought the Lord’s face.

*Psalms 27:8 You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.”
9 Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!*

The conclusion of David after He chose to seek “one thing” (Psalm 27:4) – to gaze upon the beauty of God, by seeking His face, was that He would look upon the goodness of God here and now in the land of the living.

*Psalms 27:13: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!*

Live for one thing – “Coram Deo” to live continually before the face of God. There is his goodness found in a never ending supply of grace, peace and joy, right now!

*Numbers 6:24 The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you; 26 the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*