

# Enjoying God — Part 1

Dave Buehring February 25, 2018

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## How do you tend to relate to God?

- **Orchestra Conductor** – *Stay with the beat or you'll see His scowl*
- **Coach** – *He's never quite satisfied, always pushing you for more*
- **Insurance Agent** – *You draw on God only in times of need*
- **Absent Dad** – *He's too busy, not interested or unavailable*
- **Santa Claus** – *He's there to simply grant you every wish*
- **Ringmaster** – *Must keep performing so you stay on His good side*
- **Employer** – *Faithful because of benefits, but no real relationship*

***If you could look into God's face right now, what do you believe you'd see?***

***What would be His attitude towards you?***

***What about His demeanor as He looks at you?***

**The image of God that you carry around in your heart and mind affects the way you live your daily life.**

- How you view God
  - How you view others
  - How you view yourself
  - How you view decisions
  - How you view your future
  - How you view life's difficulties
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## Enjoying God

- **What do you really enjoy?**
  - *"Delightfully Satisfying"*
  - *"Hitting the mark"*
- **Are you enjoying God?**
  - *Is your relationship with God delightfully satisfying?*
  - *Does it "hit the mark" of inner joy beyond anything else in your life?*
- **What do the Scriptures say?**
  - **Psalm 37:4**  
**Delight** yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
    - Hebrew *Anag*, meaning to *take exquisite delight*
  - **Psalm 43:4**  
...God my exceeding **joy**...
    - Hebrew *Simchah*, meaning *gladness, glee, pleasure*

- **Habakkuk 3:17-18**

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, **yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.**

- Hebrew *Alaz*, meaning *triumph, jump for joy*
- Hebrew *Giyl*, meaning *rejoice, exult, spin around*

- **Zephaniah 3:17 — God’s joy over us!**

The 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.*”

- Hebrew *Suws*, meaning *exult, display joy*
- Hebrew *Simchah*, meaning *gladness, glee, pleasure*
- Hebrew *Giyl*, meaning *rejoice, exult, spin around*

- **Nehemiah 8:10**

...for the **joy** of the Lord is your strength.

- Hebrew *Chedvah*, meaning *gladness, joy*

- **Philippians 4:4**

**Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, **rejoice.**”

- Greek *Chairo*, to *rejoice exceedingly, cheerful, glad*

## Enjoying God — Seven Ways to Enjoy God

- **ONE — Encountering God’s Character in Scripture**

- **Jeremiah 9:23-24 — The Lord to Jeremiah**

Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, **that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord** who **practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness** in the earth. **For in these things I delight**, declares the Lord.”

- **Psalms 27:4 — David**

**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** and **to inquire in his temple.**”

### God reveals Himself to us in the Scriptures via His Names, Titles and Attributes

- |                  |              |               |              |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| • Comforter      | Faithfulness | Mercy         | Savior       |
| • Goodness       | Grace        | Messiah       | Servant      |
| • Creator        | Compassion   | Patience      | Shepherd     |
| • Forgiveness    | Humility     | Power         | Sovereign    |
| • Head of Church | Father       | Peace         | Truth        |
| • Almighty       | Justice      | Protector     | Trustworthy  |
| • Greatness      | Kindness     | Provider      | Unchanging   |
| • Anger          | King         | Redeemer      | Unsearchable |
| • Friend         | Lamb of God  | Resurrection  | Victor       |
| • Glory          | Love         | Righteousness | Wise         |
| • Lord           | Light        | Rock          | Worthy       |

*Regular reflection on God's character in the Scriptures  
leads to a renewal of our thinking and attitudes  
regarding what God is really like!*

- **As we see what God is really like in the Scriptures, we are then able to encounter Him more personally, opening our hearts to explore and enjoy Him more fully!**

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### **This week**

- **Begin to pay attention (highlight) God's Names, Titles and Attributes in your Bible**
  - **Look for God's Character behind everything and give Him thanks and praise**
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- ***NEXT WEEK — ENJOYING GOD***

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### **Daily Video Devotional on the Character of God**

***www.DavesDevotional.com***

- **March Reflections**
  - Jealousy, Holiness, Deliverer, God's Joy, Gentleness, Judge, Intercessor, Healer

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### **Discussion Questions —**

1. How did you grow up viewing/relating to God? Has that changed as you have matured?
2. How does your image of God affect the way you live your daily life?
3. What do you really enjoy? What is delightfully satisfying to you?
4. Is your relationship with God delightfully satisfying? Why or why not?
5. If your relationship with God is not joyful, what can you do to remedy that?
6. Which of God's Names, Titles, or Attributes in Scripture are especially meaningful to you?