

Enjoying God — Part 2

Dave Buehring, March 4, 2018

Opening prayer:

We might be surrounded, but You are surrounding us! Strengthen us Lord, and help us to know you better! Lord, Your timing is perfect. You are faithful!

ONE — Enjoying 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.”
- **Psalm 37:4**
“*Delight yourself in the Lord*, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”
- **Nehemiah 8:10**
“*...for the joy of the Lord is your strength.*”
- **Philippians 4:4**
“*Rejoice in the Lord always*; again I will say, ***rejoice.***”

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*

In the original language, enjoying means:

- “*Delightfully Satisfying*”
- “*Hitting the mark*”
- **Psalm 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** and to **inquire in his temple.**”

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

To enjoy God, you need to see what He is really like!

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

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

TWO—Enjoying God in Worship

Portions of Revelation 4 & 5

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Song: Everlasting God (Chris Tomlin)

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| <i>Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord</i> | Isaiah 40:31 |
| <i>Our God</i> | 213 Times |
| <i>You reign forever</i> | Exodus 15:18; Psalm 146:10; Luke 1:33; Revelation 11:15 |
| <i>Our hope</i> | Psalms 62:5, 65:5, 71:5, 78:7, 131:3, 147:11 |
| <i>Our Strong Deliverer</i> | 2 Samuel 22:2; Psalms 18:2, 40:17, 70:5, 144:2 |
| <i>The Everlasting God</i> | Genesis 21:33; 1 Chronicles.16:36; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 9:6 |
| <i>You do not faint, won't grow weary</i> | Isaiah 40:28 |
| <i>You are the Defender of the weak</i> | 2 Chronicles 14:11; Psalm 72:13; Isaiah 19:20 |
| <i>You Comfort those in need</i> | Psalm 23:4, 86:17; Isaiah 12:1; 2 Corinthians.1:3–5 |
| <i>You lift us up on wings like eagles</i> | Exodus 19:4; Isaiah 40:31 |

As you consider the above Scripture and the song above:

- Give thanks for what He has done for us
- Offer praise to God for who He is
 - Names, Titles, Attributes
- Worship in both awe and adoration
 - Reverence & Affection; Surrender & Delight
- Consider that “work” is worship

In the midst of enjoying the music, God wants us to enjoy Him!

THREE— Enjoying God in His Creation

Romans 1:20

- “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.”

Genesis 1:31

- “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”

God made creation for us, and He wants us to enjoy

- The beauty, purpose and produce of the land; animals
- The ebbs and flows of waves, rivers and the wonder of waterfalls
- The incredible world of sea life living beneath the ocean
- The creation we see above us: hills, mountains, birds of the air
- The daily majestic rising and magnificent setting of the sun
- The incredible expanse and countless stars in the sky at night
- The wild thunderstorm and better-than-fireworks lightening show
- Our Five Senses: sight, sounds, touch, smell, taste

God the artist made it all for us to enjoy! God help us never lose our wonder!

FOUR—Enjoying God at Work in Others

- Intervening in people’s lives
- Coming alongside those hurting, in need or grieving
- Blessing people beyond their imaginations
- Using ordinary people in absolutely extraordinary ways
- Displaying His splendor through their unique gifts

Praise God for giving us a front row seat to see what’s happening in people’s lives!

FIVE—Enjoying Connecting the Dots in Your Life

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.”

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.”

Look to connect the dots when God is working on your behalf!

- How God brought you to Himself; freeing/growing you
- Times He has rescued you from a situation or yourself
- Moments when he blessed you with the desires of your heart
- Sowing you into relationships and strategic places
- Opening and closing doors to tip His hand to where's He's leading you

*Pause to recognize what He has done in your relationships.
It's not just a coincidence ... it is coinciding events led by the hand of God*

SIX—Enjoying partnering with God in prayer

1 John 5:14–15

“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”

Prayer is agreeing with God

- Sharing His heart with you; seeing what He wants to do
- Partnering with Him to change family/lives/the world
 - *Waiting on the Lord in a listening posture*
 - *Praying in the direction He's leading (Character/Ways/Will)*
 - *Willing to be an answer to your own prayers (obedience)*

God may want to prove Himself to us. Wait on the Lord, and worship!

SEVEN—Enjoying Living Fully in the Moment

Luke 8:43–48

“As Jesus went, the people pressed around him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. And Jesus said, “Who was it that touched me?” When all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!” But Jesus said, “Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me.” And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”

- We live in a world of tremendous distraction.
- Jesus was a master of being fully present in the moment—He was situationally aware
- God has given us technology and it's great, but we need to use it instead of letting it master us.
- There might be something we need to pass on to others or they may need to pass to us

*Our lives can subtly default to being more about pursuit rather than presence.
Let's live fully in the moment and watch God do amazing things
as He connects us with others and strengthens relationships!*

This week

Live fully in the moment—engage God, enjoy His character, see what He's up to around you!

Discussion Questions

1. Recall a time when someone you love showed obvious enjoyment of you. Remember how that made you feel, and ask yourself what you might be able to do for God that would make Him feel that way.
2. Relay an experience when you gazed upon God in creation. What did God reveal to you about Himself in that experience?
3. How have you partnered with God in prayer recently? What were your prayers and how did He answer?
4. What strategies can you put in place to not let technology distract you from what God is saying to you and from time with others?
5. Reflect on how God may be connecting the dots in your life. Ask Him to reveal more about how He wants you to respond to those connections, and praise Him for how He guides you!