
Encounter(ing) God

Abounding in Goodness and Truth

Part 6

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Review... Truly encountering God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- 1) Contrast “Knowing About” and “Encountering” God
 - a. Knowing – *aware and informed*
 - b. Encountering – *revealing (seeing) and transforming – MEETING!*
 - c. The image of God you carry around in your heart and mind affects the way you live your daily life.

We want to make sure the image of God we carry is correct!

Listen – when we talk about Encountering God, we’re talking about Encountering Who He is – His character, IN US, THROUGH US, we become image bearers, no clearer summary of His character than in Exodus 34.

Background – Moses says, “Show me Your glory” – God shows Moses His character!

If we want to know what’s glorious about God – it is Who He is!

Exodus 34:6-8

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. (*Moses obviously encountered God*).

Definitions

- a) **Abounding** – in quantity and quality, in abundance
- b) **Goodness** – “chesed” mercy, lovingkindness, unending love
- c) **Truth** – “e’meth” faithful, trustworthy, loyal, stable

God says He has an abounding quantity and quality of goodness and mercy, truth and faithfulness for us.

500 years later Psalmist describes abundance of mercy and truth.

Psalm 57:10

For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, and Your truth unto the clouds.

Psalm 100:5

For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

Mercy and Truth go together — in Exodus, Psalms, and Proverbs — connected for emphasis, added value.

Psalm 85:10

Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.

Point — “I abound in merciful lovingkindness, and faithfulness — trust that — trust that I abound in merciful lovingkindness and faithfulness.”

Five examples of God abounding in Mercy and Truth

Mercy and Truth Prepare the Way

Psalm 89:14

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

Application — *mercy and truth prepare the way, demonstrate the intention, tenderize the heart, for the encounter with God... **John 1:14** Jesus is full of grace and truth, Jesus prepares us for an encounter with God by demonstrating grace, mercy, and truth.*

Mercy and truth prepare your heart to have an encounter with God.

His paths are merciful and true

Psalm 25:10

All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Application — *the LORD’S paths, ways, and dealings with people who follow Him are according to mercy and truth, even in hard tragic times, His paths are merciful and true.*

Siah (went to heaven 9 ½ years ago) — **Jeremiah 32:40-41** never stop doing good, happy to do good; **Mark 7:37** He does all things well; **Romans 8:28** all things work together for good. **Settle it.**

**If you love and serve the LORD today —
His dealings with you are rooted in His goodness and mercy,
truth and faithfulness — settle it!**

Mercy and truth provide atonement

Proverbs 16:6

In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.

Application — *mercy and truth provide atonement, cleansing, canceling of our iniquity, sin.*

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 5:20

... But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more...

It is only due to God's mercy and truth that we encounter forgiveness — no earning!

Don't limit what your heaven-sent mercy and truth could look like

Psalm 57:2-3

I will cry out to God Most High, to God who performs all things for me. He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.

Application — *mercy and truth, sent from heaven, saves us from our enemies, reproaches, exposes, and strips bare those who would love to swallow us up.*

**Don't limit what your heaven-sent mercy and truth could look like,
angels battling in the spirit realm, lies being exposed,
a faithful friend, all of those... just count on it!**

Mercy and truth preserves

Psalm 61:7

He shall abide before God forever. Oh, prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him!

Application — *mercy and truth preserves, protects, keeps us from eternal ruin.*

2 Timothy 4:18

And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! **(EVERLASTING INDEED).**

Summary

The abounding goodness and truth of God prepares us for our encounter with Him, and defines His dealings with us. They provide atonement for our sins, salvation from our enemies, and preservation unto eternal life!

The abounding goodness and truth of God covered us from before we encountered Him, and will continue to until we finally meet Him in heaven. **Abundance!**

Psalm 115:1

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name we give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth.

CLOSE —

Proverbs 3:3-4

Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart,
and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important we trust that God abounds in merciful lovingkindness and faithfulness?
2. How can we / do we “settle it”?
3. In Psalm 89:14, what does it mean that mercy and truth go before His face?
4. How does mercy and truth provide atonement for our sins?
5. How have you experienced heaven-sent mercy? What did it look like?
6. What do mercy and truth do in Psalm 61:7?