# 10 Things About God's Ways

"He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel." Psalms 103:7

"But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me..." says the Lord." Jeremiah 9:24

December is typically a period where we reflect on the previous months and anticipate the year to come. As we reflect most of us will have areas we're trusting God for, but the extent to which we know someone is the extent to which we can trust or depend on them.

Moses had a unique perspective with God compared to the other Israelites because while they saw the many acts God performed in Egypt and the wilderness, Moses knew God's character which impacted how he functioned with God.

This series we're exploring 10 things about God's ways and we pray the Holy Spirit will use this series to release to us a deep, personal and intimate insight into the true knowledge of God.

# God is Holy

"For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."" 1 Peter 1:16

God is holy - He is pure, sinless, spotless in every way, full of light as there's no darkness in Him whatsoever. The angels surrounding His throne constantly acknowledge His holiness day and night (Rev 4:8), meaning that God exists in a perfect state of continuous holiness. He's not trying to be holy, He is the standard for holiness. Because we are made in God's image He also expects His children to exhibit His character of holiness. He does not and will not alter His standards for holiness to accommodate what is convenient for us.

God's standard can never be met in our own strength because no matter how holy we try to be, our righteousness is like a filthy rag compared to Him. How then can we have a relationship with God since our sin already separates us from Him? God dealt with this in two ways by addressing our sin nature through the a new covenant and our acts of sin through the power of the Holy Spirit.

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:13

"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus," Hebrews 10:19

Knowing the limitations of our nature, God gave believers a covenant through Jesus which gives us the right to come to Him by the blood of Jesus. Whenever we plead the blood of Jesus what we're saying in effect is that His blood should cleanse and cover us so as we present ourselves to God what He sees is the holiness of Jesus.

"But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life." Romans 6:22

The Holy Spirit working in us brings us to the place where we die to sin, no longer desiring the things that used to keep us in sin. Dying to self is a daily journey that only the Holy Spirit can help us with and as He does so we bear the fruits of holiness in our lives.

**Prayer:** Lord thank You for the blood of Jesus that gives me access to Your presence. Help me partner with the Holy Spirit as He deals with the things within me that hold me back from living in holiness

## God is Faithful

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself." II Timothy 2:13

Has it ever happened that you committed to do something then at some point you forgot or it became inconvenient so that thing didn't get done? As people there are many variables that affect our faithfulness, but there's no variableness with God - He can be trusted to do what He said He will do.

"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

Numbers 23:19

"Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands." Deuteronomy 7:9

Faithfulness is His character, He always keeps His word even across generations. Long after the person He made the commitment to has passed on, God remains faithful. Because God made a promise to David, Jesus was born out of his lineage. Because of God's faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham, today we can be called spiritual seeds of Abraham. He is faithful to His promises and covenants.

It's important we note that God will keep His promises to us and not necessarily the demands we make of Him. Sometimes we ask God for things and expect that He will both give us what we asked for and in the way we expect it. God always answers, but His answers may be yes, no or not yet.

Since God is committed to doing what He said, wisdom suggests that a good strategy is to find out what He's said in the Bible concerning the matter we're bringing before Him. And more importantly the conditions attached to what He's said concerning the matter so that as God does His part, we're also faithful in doing ours. As an example Deuteronomy 28 speaks of several blessings which we can declare, but it also includes conditions that we must keep. As we dig deep into scripture looking not just for God's promises but also our part we also lean on the help of the Holy Spirit to be consistent in doing our part.

**Prayer:** Thank You Father for being faithful in all Your ways, help me to be faithful in mine, not just with you but in all areas of my life.

## **God is Unlimited**

"I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit." Ephesians 3:16

There is no limitation in God. He is the master creator, the only one who is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. He's the only one who sees the end from the beginning and works things out from the end. As the creator of time, He's the only one who's consistently present in the past, present or future. He is the only one capable of anything and everything He sets out to do.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us," Ephesians 3:20

The Bible tells us that unlimited as God is, we can limit His movement in our lives based on how much room we give the Holy Spirit to work in us. Someone once shared an analogy that if we don't know all that's available in God we may act like someone coming to fetch water from an ocean with a teaspoon, while the same ocean can fill multiple tankers. The Bible tells us God is able to move to the extent to which we yield to Him to purify, transform and lead us.

"...I will stay close to you, instructing and guiding you along the pathway for your life. I will advise you along the way and lead you forth with my eyes as your guide. So don't make it difficult; don't be stubborn when I take you where you've not been before. Don't make me tug you and pull you along. Just come with me!" Psalms 32:8-9 TPT

God's path will almost always be counter intuitive to what we're used to and there may often be a genuine struggle to follow His ways. This why the Holy Spirit is available to help us transform and mature to the version that allows Him move freely in, with and through us. God will never force us to take a line of action so we can choose to stick to what we know or want rather than yield to the Holy Spirit. But in choosing our own way we end up limiting what God can do in us and when we choose to let Him take the lead, our options are unlimited.

**Prayer:** Lord help me live yielded to the leading of the Holy Spirit so I can fully experience the unlimited resources You've already made available to me.

## God is a Rewarder

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6

As we get to know God better one of the things that we see is that God is a generous rewarder. He is full of mercy and compassion and always ready and eager to bless His children.

"I have not spoken in secret, In a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me in vain'..." Isaiah 45:19

"But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way." John 4:23

He's actively looking for those who will genuinely worship Him and is willing to be found by those who are willing to diligently seek Him. Seeking Him for who He is and seeking Him for a solution aren't the same thing. When we set out to find God to know Him for ourselves, it means we keep seeking Him even if we do not have answers to the questions in our hearts or solutions to the challenges we're facing.

"After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." Genesis 15:1 NKJV

The beauty in finding God is when we find Him and abide in His presence we easily access all the benefits His presence brings, just a few of them are:

- Joy and eternal pleasures (Ps 16:11)
- Protection and preservation (Ps 91:1)
- Direction and instructions (Jer 23:22)
- Rest and restoration (Matt 11:28)

**Prayer:** Lord help me seek You for who You are not just what You can give me. Let seeking You become my greatest pursuit

## **God is Wisdom**

"The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—" Isaiah 11:2

One of the many wonderful things about God is that He is the source of all true wisdom. "True wisdom" because there are different types of wisdom. There's the wisdom of the world, wisdom of the enemy and wisdom of God. There's a definition of wisdom that says it's the "factual knowledge and the situational insight and the necessary resolve that together have the greatest likelihood of success in achieving the intended goal".

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:6

"We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing." 1 Corinthians 2:6

Humanly speaking we will fall short in some or all of these elements because we can never have all insight and knowledge and even if do we may have lack the necessary resolve. The enemy also doesn't have all knowledge or insight. God alone has perfect knowledge, eternal insight and unlimited resolve. When we relate with God with this understanding it helps us come to Him in humility to seek His wisdom knowing there is a perspective only He can bring to every situation.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." James 1:5

God doesn't fault us for asking for wisdom. He is always ready and willing to give us the knowledge, insight and resolve needed for every situation we encounter. At the same time He helps us weigh every circumstance and decision on the scale of eternity which gives us an eternal perspective only He can provide.

**Prayer:** Lord I ask for Your perfect insight, knowledge and resolve for every situation. Where I have leaned on my own wisdom I as for mercy and realignment. Help me to operate in Your wisdom at all times and in all things.

# God is a Restorer

"So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you." Joel 2:25

According to the dictionary, to restore means to return (someone or something) to a former condition, place, or position. According to the Bible the word used for restore in the verse above means to make complete, whole or good. It may seem similar but there is a key difference. When people restore, they return to a former state or condition. When God restores, He brings us to the point where we should have been in His calendar as though no time was lost. Let's look at two scenarios.

In human restoration if a company lets go of someone, the company may later conclude that an error was made and reinstate the person to that same office on the same terms. In God's restoration assuming the person was meant to have been a step ahead by God's schedule, at the time of reinstatement God will orchestrate a situation where the person's expertise is required immediately at a higher level and so the person returns to the company at better terms.

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed..." Amos 9:13

"You will restore me to even greater honor and comfort me once again." Psalms 71:21

When God restores He completes according to His plan for our lives taking everything in and around us into account including time. God is the owner of time and is able to use time and all resources at His disposal to work with His restoration agenda. This should give us comfort and help shape our perspective when the enemy would have us see time, resources etc spent on things of God as a cost rather than an investment in our eternity because God can restore all we believe we have lost and much more (Mk 10:29-30).

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you." Psalms 51:12

God's restoration isn't just in material things but impacts the wholeness of our spirit, soul and body. Where we have lost peace, joy, hope, God is able to restore these and even things we don't know we've lost as we turn to Him and ask Him for restoration.

**Prayer:** Lord I come in repentance for areas I have strayed and ask that You restore every area of my life to Your original plan for me. Make everything about me whole and bring me to a state of completeness in You.

# **God is Just**

"And they were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your works, O Lord God, the Almighty. Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations." Revelation 15:3

There are many things that happen that may puzzle us about how God arrives at His decisions and we may be tempted to think He's unfair at times. But when we keep in mind that God is fair in all His dealings, when we see or experience things that don't seem to appear just, it helps to ask, "What is God's mind concerning the matter?"

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9

We live in time and make decisions based on time. God lives in eternity and makes decisions based on eternity and this mismatch in perspectives can often be a source of tension for us. Taking a step back to reflect on His thoughts gives us a glimpse of His decision making process. For instance, we may think God is unjust when evildoers seem to go unpunished, but God knows their end. Likewise when His children seem to go unrecognized, God knows the eternal rewards He's stored up for them.

"He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross. He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the Lord." Malachi 3:3

There are experiences we may go through that are part of God's process of refining us to make us look more like Jesus in character. This refinement is necessary though it may seem at the time that we are being treated unfairly. For example, Joseph was sent to Egypt in chains and spent time in prison before becoming prime minister. While Joseph would have preferred not to go through all that he did, the process was necessary to prepare him for where God was taking him. The process may not be pleasant but if we partner with God, the outcome will be to our advantage.

**Prayer:** Thank You Lord for reminding me that You are always just in Your ways. I ask for grace to always see from Your perspective and to trust Your character and Your process even when I don't fully understand

# **God is Principled**

"I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name." Psalms 138:2

The Bible contains prophecies, promises and principles that tell us who God is and how He functions. God is extremely principled and doesn't bypass His processes for any reason. Sometimes we may think that God will be moved by our emotions and make them the driving force of our relationship with Him. Unfortunately this will only lead to disappointment on our part because we'll be pulling the wrong levers for God to act. If we want God to move on our behalf we must know what His principles are and these can be found in His word.

"Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word." Jeremiah 1:12

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." Joshua 1:8

God is ever ready to perform His word, not our desires. If we have a need/desire/project etc that we want to see God's hand in there's a two step process we must undertake. The first step is to search the word to find out two critical things: what is God's mind on the matter and what would He have us do? Second is to actually do exactly what the word says to do. We may want to modify things to suit ourselves, but remembering that God is principled should help us keep to His specific instructions.

The more we practice moving by His word, the more yielded we become to His ways and the more aligned our desires become to His priorities. We may not get everything right from day one, but our goal should be to keep pressing in and asking the Holy Spirit to guide us in our study of the word so we don't focus on the wrong things and also give us the strength that will help us do what is required of us, for as long as is necessary.

**Prayer:** Lord thank You for reminding me that You watch over Your word. Help me hide Your word in my heart and give me the grace to observe to do all that's written in it.

## God is a Finisher

"being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;" Philippians 1:6

God doesn't do abandoned projects, He is fully committed to finishing everything He starts. Knowing this should encourage us when things seem to be slow or difficult because we know for a fact that God hasn't forgotten us and will do all He's promised to do in, with and through us.

"...For I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, And from ancient times the things which have not [yet] been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will do all that pleases Me and fulfills My purpose," Isaiah 46:9-10 AMP

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11

God is always thinking about us and His thoughts are for the end He has planned for us. God always starts with the end in mind and as we walk with Him, He works in us taking us through the processes, journeys, experiences and everything else required to get us to His expected end. He's not trying to figure out what to do with us, He already has a plan which is tailored specifically to each of us. This is why we should never compare ourselves with others because God's plan for our journey may not be the same as someone else's. The skills we're born with, the route our life's journey takes will always align with God's plan for our lives when we walk with Him and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us.

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

Because He is a finisher, God is able to take all things and make them work together for good according to His purpose for our lives so we arrive at His expected end for us. It's critical we note that His commitment is to finish His plans for us and not our plans for ourselves.

**Prayer:** Lord thank You for the comfort of knowing that You are committed to working out Your purpose in my life. Where I've gone off track please realign me. Where I've gotten discouraged please strengthen me. Help me always remember that You always finish everything You start and my case will not be different.

# God is with Us Always

"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6

God is with us always. He doesn't take days off, doesn't go on sabbatical, doesn't get angry and leave us, He is with us always. He has committed to being with us and will not go back on His commitment. Knowing this should bring us boldness, comfort and caution.

"But the Lord is with me as a mighty, awesome One..." Jeremiah 20:11

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31

Boldness because we know God is always by our side, ensuring we succeed in every assignment He sets for us. He watches over us, equips, trains and empowers us physically and spiritually to be and do all He's designed for us. Nothing can compare with the confidence we have knowing God is on our side, regardless of what presents itself to us.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." John 14:26

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;" Philippians 4:6

Comfort because we live in a broken world where trials and challenges are part of the journey. In spite of all we may face, we have the comfort that God is by our side seeing us through all through the Holy Spirit our Helper. The Holy Spirit helps us deals with the anxieties of life that threaten to overwhelm us, guides us through periods of decision making, gives us peace in the middle of storms and comfort through periods of heartbreak.

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." Galatians 6:7

Caution because God sees both our thoughts and actions, so He's not deceived when we think one thing and say something else. He sees every secret action -good or bad- and rewards accordingly. Being conscious of this helps us lean on the Holy Spirit to bring transformation to our hearts and allows the fear of the Lord to guide us.

**Prayer:** Father thank You for being ever present in my life. Thank You for never leaving me and I return from wherever I may have strayed from you. I ask for the grace to stay connected to You all my days so I live with the fullness of all that comes with You being present in me.

## **Become A Kingdom Advancer**

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

1 Peter 4:10

Believers may come from different backgrounds and have different gifting but one thing common to us all is that we're all uniquely equipped to contribute to the advancement of the kingdom of God. Some of us may erroneously believe that it's only people serving in church or behind a pulpit that are advancing God's kingdom but that's not true. We have all been created to function as light in various areas not just in a church setting.

"Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen." 1 Peter 4:11

"Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God." Romans 14:12

We all have something to contribute to God's work here on earth which is why every one of us is called to be an active contributor to the kingdom. In doing so we receive the personal fulfilment which comes from walking in alignment with our purpose. We also prepare ourselves for giving an account to the Lord for our time here on earth. This doesn't mean we are saved by our works. The emphasis is on our choosing to function as mature believers who actively seek God's face to understand how we can contribute what He's already given us to drive His agenda.

**Prayer**: Lord I thank You for the gifts spiritual and material that You have blessed me with. I ask that You open my eyes and give me understanding of how to consistently use them to drive Your agenda in the spheres You've positioned me. Help me grow in maturity so Your priorities become my priorities. Let Your light shine through me and my life bring You glory, drawing people to You.

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