

IMAGE BEARERS

Made for relationship; Made to worship.
GOD...the Great Indispensible...the Grand
Immeasurable One...everything we need for life and godliness!

I PRIMARY PRINCIPLE: **God's revelation of Himself is sufficient.**

God has revealed Himself to us (Dt. 29:29) and His DIVINE POWER has given us EVERYthing we need for life and godliness. (Romans 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3)

II PRIMARY MODEL: **the TRIUNE God within relationship; in communion with us!**

The one true God is **CREATOR of all things**, visible and invisible. He is **infinitely perfect** in holiness and love and has **eternally existed** in a loving UNITY of **three equal Persons**: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He has spoken through Scripture (OT/NT) and breathed-out the Word of God, the Bible which is without error in the original writings and is the complete revelation of God's will for salvation and sufficient for everything we need to believe and to do. In this Book, God is clearly described, His Character is readily spoken and written of and God's **SPECIAL revelation** is complete in His SON, our Lord Jesus Christ, fully God/fully man whose life/death/resurrection pays sin's debt for repentant sinners so they are made alive IN CHRIST by the Holy Spirit Who secures each one, transforming believers into the image of Christ now and finally, forever. **We model the life of Christ life among believers.**

II PRIMARY MANDATE: **Live holy lives**

The MANDATE for true believers is to bear the image of God in real life by living holy lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

III PRIMARY GOAL: Likeness to Christ

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (NASB)

IV PRIMARY PRACTISE: Obey the Word in order to reflect God's character

³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace of Jesus Christ who has been brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.¹⁴ As ¹⁴obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

V PRIMARY ACTION: Live as the Lord Jesus Christ lived! Follow in His footsteps. (John 13)

¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for *so* I am. ¹⁴ If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another's feet.** ¹⁵ For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you...¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

The NAMES of God in Scripture describe God's distinct character/attributes

True believers are told the TRUTH about the GOD in Scripture (Indicatives)

Romans 8:31, 32

What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

The following is a list of 30 names and attributes of God. These Names enrich our understanding of our glorious God who communicates with us many of His attributes.

Use this guide to enrich your time set apart with God by taking one description of Him and meditating on that for one day, along with the accompanying passage. Worship God, focusing on Him and His character. (Navigators, 2007)

God is Yahweh. The name of the independent, self-complete being—"I AM WHO I AM"—only belongs to Yahweh God. Our proper response to Him is to fall down in fear and awe of the One who possesses all authority.

—*Exodus 3:13-15*

God is Yahweh-M'Kaddesh. This name means "the God who sanctifies." A God separate from all that is evil requires that the people who follow Him be cleansed from all evil.

—*Leviticus 20:7,8*

God is infinite. God is beyond measurement—we cannot define Him by size or amount. He has no beginning, no end, and no limits.

—*Romans 11:33*

God is omnipotent. This means God is all-powerful. He spoke all things into being, and all things—every cell, every breath, every thought—are sustained by Him. There is nothing too difficult for Him to do.

—*Jeremiah 32:17,18, 26,27*

God is good. God is the embodiment of perfect goodness, and is kind, benevolent, and full of good will toward all creation.

—*Psalms 119:65-72*

God is love. God's love is so great that He gave His only Son to bring us into fellowship with Him. God's love not only encompasses the world, but embraces each of us personally and intimately.

—*1 John 4:7-10*

God is Yahweh-yireh. This name means "the God who provides." Just as He provided yesterday, He will also provide today and tomorrow. He grants deliverance from sin, the oil of joy for the ashes of sorrow, and eternal citizenship in His Kingdom for all those adopted into His household.

—*Genesis 22:9-14*

God is Yahweh-shalom. This name means "the God of peace." We are meant to know the fullness of God's perfect peace, or His "shalom." God's peace surpasses understanding and sustains us even through difficult times. It is the product of fully being what we were created to be.—*Judges 6:16-24*

God is immutable. All that God is, He has always been. All that He has been and is, He will ever be. He is ever perfect and unchanging.—*Psalms 102:25-28*

God is transcendent. We must not think of God as simply the highest in an order of beings. This would be to grant Him eminence. But He is more than eminent. He is transcendent—existing beyond and above the created universe.

—*Psalm 113:4,5*

God is just. God is righteous and holy, fair and equitable in all things. We can trust Him to always do what is right.

—*Psalm 75:1-7*

God is holy. God's holiness is not simply a better version of the best we know. God is utterly and supremely untainted. His holiness stands apart—unique and incomprehensible.

—*Revelation 4:8-11*

God is Yahweh-rophe. This name means “Yahweh heals.” God alone provides the remedy for mankind's brokenness through His son, Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the physical, moral, and spiritual remedy for all people.

—*Exodus 15:22-26*

God is self-sufficient. All things are God's to give, and all that is given is given by Him. He can receive nothing that He has not already given us.

—*Acts 17:24-28*

God is omniscient. This means God is all-knowing. God's knowledge encompasses every possible thing that exists, has ever existed, or will ever exist. Nothing is a mystery to Him.

—*Psalm 139:1-6*

God is omnipresent. God is everywhere—in and around everything, close to everyone. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the Lord.”

—*Psalm 139:7-12*

God is merciful. God's merciful compassion is infinite and inexhaustible. Through His provision in Christ, He took the judgment that was rightfully ours and placed it on His own shoulders. He waits and works now for all people to turn to Him and to live under His justification.

—*Deuteronomy 4:29-31*

God is sovereign. God presides over every event, great or small, and He is in control of our lives. To be sovereign, He must be all-knowing and all-powerful, and by His sovereignty He rules His entire creation.

—*1 Chronicles 29:11-13*

God is Yahweh-nissi. This name means “God our banner.” Under His banner we go from triumph to triumph and say, “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).

—*Exodus 17:8-15*

God is wise. All God's acts are accomplished through His infinite wisdom. He always acts for our good, which is to conform us to Christ. Our good and His glory are inextricably bound together.

—*Proverbs 3:19,20*

God is faithful. Out of His faithfulness God honors His covenants and fulfills His promises. Our hope for the future rests upon God's faithfulness.

—*Psalm 89:1-8*

God is wrathful. Unlike human anger, God's wrath is never capricious, self-indulgent, or irritable. It is the right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil.— *Nahum 1:2-8*

God is full of grace. Grace is God's good pleasure that moves Him to grant merit where it is undeserved and to forgive debt that cannot be repaid.

—*Ephesians 1:5-8*

God is our Comforter. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the “Comforter,” and the apostle Paul writes that the Lord is “the God of all comfort.”

—2 Corinthians 1:3,4

God is El-Shaddai. This name means “God Almighty,” the God who is all-sufficient and all-bountiful, the source of all blessings.

—Genesis 49:22-26

God is Father. Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father” (Matthew 6:9), and the Spirit of God taught us to cry, “Abba, Father.,” an intimate Aramaic term similar to “Daddy.” The Creator of the universe cares for each one of us as if we were the only child He had.

—Romans 8:15-17

God is the Church’s head. God the Son, Jesus, is the head of the Church. As the head, the part of the body that sees, hears, thinks, and decides, He gives the orders that the rest of the body lives by.

—Ephesians 1:22,23

God is our intercessor. Knowing our temptations, God the Son intercedes for us. He opens the doors for us to boldly ask God the Father for mercy. Thus, God is both the initiation and conclusion of true prayer.

—Hebrews 4:14-16

God is Adonai. This name means “Master” or “Lord.” God, our Adonai, calls all God’s people to acknowledge themselves as His servants, claiming His right to reign as Lord of our lives.

—2 Samuel 7:18-20

God is Elohim. This name means “Strength” or “Power.” He is transcendent, mighty and strong. Elohim is the great name of God, displaying His supreme power, sovereignty, and faithfulness in His covenant relationship with us.

THE “ONE ANOTHER” COMMANDS (Imperatives)

True believers bear the IMAGE of CHRIST because the HOLY SPIRIT makes us eternally alive in Christ!
1 John 4:7-21 (NASB)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ By this the love of God

was manifested in us, that **God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.** ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² **No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.** ¹³ **By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.** ¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.

· **Mark 9:50** - "Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and **be at peace with one another.**"

· **John 13:14** - "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to **wash one another's feet.**

· John 13:34, 35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another; "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another.**"

· John 15:12, 17 - "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

· **Romans 12:10** - **Be devoted to one another** in brotherly love; **give preference to one another** in honor;

· Romans 12:16 - Be of **the same mind toward one another**; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

· Romans 13:8 - Owe nothing to anyone except to **love one another**; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

· Romans 14:13 - Therefore **let us not judge one another** anymore, but rather determine this--not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

· Romans 14:19 - So then we pursue the things which make for **peace and the building up of one another.**

· Romans 15:5 - Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to **be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus**

· Romans 15:7 - Therefore, **accept one another**, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. ·

Romans 15:14 - And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to **admonish one another.**

· Romans 16:16 - **Greet one another with a holy kiss.** All the churches of Christ greet you.

· **1 Corinthians 11:33** - So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, **wait for one another.** ·

1 Corinthians 16:20 - All the brethren greet you. **Greet one another with a holy kiss.** ·

2 Corinthians 13:12 - **Greet one another with a holy kiss.**

· **Galatians 5:13** - For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love **serve one another.**

· Galatians 5:26 - Let us **not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.**

· Galatians 6:2 - **Bear one another's burdens**, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

· **Ephesians 4:2** - with all humility and gentleness, with patience, **showing tolerance for one another** in love,

· Ephesians 4:25 - Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE** of you **WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for **we are members of one another.**

· Ephesians 4:32 - **Be kind to one another**, tender-hearted, **forgiving each other**, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

· Ephesians 5:19 - **speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

· Ephesians 5:21 - and **be subject to one another** in the fear of Christ.

· **Philippians 2:3** - Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **regard one another as more important than yourselves**;

· **Colossians 3:9** - **Do not lie to one another**, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

- Colossians 3:13 - **bearing with one another**, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
- Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and **admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
- **1 Thessalonians 3:12** - and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;
- 1 Thessalonians 4:9 - Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to **love one another**;
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore **encourage one another and build up one another**, just as you also are doing.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:13b - **Live in peace with one another.**
- 1 Thessalonians 5:15 - See that **no one repays another with evil for evil**, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:3 - We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and **the love of each one of you toward one another grows** ever greater;
- **Hebrews 3:13** - But **encourage one another day after day**, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- Hebrews 10:24 - and let us consider how to **stimulate one another to love and good deeds**,
- Hebrews 10:25 - not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.**
- **James 4:11** - **Do not speak against one another**, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.
- James 5:9 - **Do not complain, brethren, against one another**, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.
- James 5:16 - Therefore, **confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another** so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.
- **1 Peter 1:22** - Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, **ferently love one another from the heart**,
- 1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, **keep fervent in your love for one another**, ...love covers a multitude of sins.
- 1 Peter 4:9 - **Be hospitable to one another without complaint.**
- 1 Peter 4:10 - As each one has received a special gift, employ it in **serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**
- 1 Peter 5:5 - You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, **clothe yourselves with humility toward one another**, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.
- 1 Peter 5:14 - **Greet one another with a kiss of love.** Peace be to you all who are in Christ.
- **1 John 1:7** - but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, **we have fellowship with one another**, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- 1 John 3:11 - For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that **we should love one another**;
- 1 John 3:23 - This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and **love one another, just as He commanded us.**
- 1 John 4:7 - Beloved, **let us love one another**, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- 1 John 4:11 - **Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**
- 1 John 4:12 - No one has seen God at any time; **if we love one another**, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

· 2 John 1:5 - Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, **but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.**

IMAGE BEARERS

Made for Relationship; Made to Worship

SHARED ATTRIBUTES: HONESTY means LIVING TRUTHFULLY

I God's SELF REVELATION

1. In the Old Testament

Genesis 3:1 -24 (Some of these verses are in last week's study; comment on these questions)

- a. What would have happened to Adam and Eve if God had ignored the warning He gave them regarding their sin of unbelief?
- b. Looking at the entire chapter, how does God stay consistent with the truth He has told?

Exodus 33:12-23: Moses' Prayer and the Lord's answers

Read the following conversation between Moses and God during Israel's time in the wilderness. **Comment on **what Moses wants to know about God, **the truthful promise the LORD makes to Moses and **how the LORD describes HIMSELF.** What kind of God is the LORD? How did God keep His Word to Moses and Israel?

¹² Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people!' But You Yourself have not let me know whom You will send with me. Moreover, You have said, 'I have known you by name, and you have also found favor in My sight.'¹³ Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, **let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight.** Consider too, that this nation is Your people."

¹⁴ And He said, "**My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.**" ¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If Your presence does not go *with us*, do not lead us up from here. ¹⁶ For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the *other* people who are upon the face of the earth?"

¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and I have known you by name." ¹⁸ Then Moses said, "I pray You, **show me Your glory!**" ¹⁹ And He said, "**I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.**"

²⁰ But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!" ²¹ Then the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand *there* on the rock; ²² and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

Exodus 34:1-14 (The second set of Tablets and Moses; call to the LORD.)

⁴ So he cut out two stone tablets like the former ones, and Moses rose up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and he took two stone tablets in his hand. ⁵ The LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD. ⁶ **Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth ⁷ who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished."** ⁸ Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship. ⁹ He said, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go along in our midst, even though the people are so obstinate, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your own possession."

Num. 23:19 (Balaam speaking words from God of the nature of God, to Balak) "**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 it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

2. In the New Testament

Romans 9:6 (context of Paul's discussion of who is 'true Israel' – faith believers)

Why has God's Word not failed **related to the Gentile nations**?

"But it is **not as though the word of God has failed**. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel.

2 Timothy 2:13 (Paul's encouragement of God's faithful character compared with us)

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself."

Hebrews 6:13-18 (the Covenant God made with Abraham does not depend on Abraham)

¹³ For when God made the promise to Abraham, since **He could swear by no one greater**, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." ¹⁵ And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For men swear by one greater *than themselves*, and with them an oath *given* as confirmation is an end of every dispute. ¹⁷ In the same way **God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath**, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we who have taken refuge would *have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us*.

Hebrews 7:20-22 (Jesus as an High Priest after Melchizedek)

²⁰ And inasmuch as *it was* not without an oath (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but **He with an oath through the One who said to Him, "THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER"**; ²² so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

John 14:1-6 (Jesus speaks concerning the future and Himself as 'the truth')

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many dwelling places; **if it were not so, I would have told you**; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way where I am going." ⁵ Thomas *said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" ⁶ **Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.**

CONSIDERATIONS

What do God's **SELF-Descriptions** tell us about Himself?

What do they tell us about **how He relates to man**?

Comment on the meaning of a few of the words God uses about Himself in His response to Moses.

What description of the LORD from any of these passages strikes you as compelling and refreshingly honest/truthful?

IMAGE BEARERS
MANDATE, MODEL, ACTION

meinrig ©2016

