



Series: Drawing Near to the Throne of Grace Henry Clay

Week 4: "The Beauty of His Face"

The prayer of praise

Introduction

Everybody loves love. S.S. 1:7 Are you curious about Him?



1. To know Him

Acts 17:22-23 Worshipping in ignorance. How ironic.
John 17:3 "And this is eternal life..."

How are you doing? Do you find Him fascinating? Or boring?



2. Praise Illustration of my son Walt.

Acts 13:2 "... ministering to the Lord "

a) **Silence.** Just be quiet.

b) **Music** and singing. Hymns. Poems.



c) **Getting to know Him.** Admiring Him.

Being distracted by Him. Take notes. 2Cor.3:18

d) Using **Scripture.** Read Psalms.

Biggest book in the Bible is Psalms. Main topic is praise. Pick out your favorite psalms and mark them.

e) His **attributes.** His **names.** List of **adjectives.**

In my life: GA Tech at night "Where are you Lord?"; in Costa Rica with my notebook "Who are you Lord?"; in 1989 leaning toward prayer.

3. Helpful Illustrations

a) **breathing** heaven's air: enjoy it! This is where you are most alive.



b) **tanned** in His "sunshine": you don't get a tan in 15 seconds

c) utilizing praise as a powerful spiritual **weapon.**



Conclusion

Hosea 6:3 "So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain that waters the earth."

The Solitariness of God

God is solitary in his excellency. "Who is like unto Thee, o Lord, among the Gods? Who is like Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, working wonders? (Ex.15:11)

"In the beginning God..." (Gen.1:1) There was a time, if "time" it could be called, when God, in the unity of His nature (though subsisting equally in three persons) dwelt all alone. "In the beginning, God" There was no heaven, where his glory is now particularly manifested. There was no earth to engage his attention. There were no angels to sing his praises. There was no universe to be upheld by the word of his power. There was nothing, no one, but God; and that not for a day, a year, or an age, but "from everlasting." During a past eternity God was alone – self contained, self sufficient, in need of nothing. (Gleanings in the Godhead, Pink)

He needs no air, no water, no food, no light. He does not get hot or cold, hungry or thirsty, rushed or frustrated. He never gets bored, never needs games or amusements, being Himself most fascinating. He is the ultimate Personality in the universe. We may jump in and swim for eternity trying to cover and become acquainted with all that he is, but we will never even reach to all that is on the surface much less plumb the depths of the amazing character and personality of the only wise God.

But what an eternal Friend to have. One who seeks our friendship, not because He needs it, but just because He wants it. This tremendous God, and yet.... The friend of publicans and sinners.

God never has needs. He doesn't need companionship, servants, a house, or band-aids. He doesn't need books, an exercise program, a telephone, or a Bible. He is not troubled by temptation, gray hairs, forgetfulness, fatigue, or sunburn. He never needs encouragement or praise. He is never unsure. He never yawns or has a back ache. He never stumbles or drops things accidentally. He doesn't need a bicycle, car, private jet, or space shuttle, because He is always already everywhere. He never needs an update or a newsletter for He is already in complete contact with every need in every place. He never has to ask a question because He already possesses all the answers since past eternity. He never needs a watch because He is in all times at the same time and therefore does not experience the passage of time. (My notebook)

The Omniscience of God

God knows everything; everything possible, everything; all events, all creatures, of the past, the present, and the future. He is perfectly acquainted with every detail in the life of every being in heaven, in earth, and in hell. Nothing escapes his notice, nothing can be hidden from him, nothing is forgotten by him. His knowledge is perfect. He never is mistaken, never change, never overlooks anything. (Gleanings in the Godhead, Pink)

"And there is no creature hidden from his sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Heb.4:13)

The Immutability of God

God is perpetually the same: subject to no change in his being, attributes, or determinations. Though all creatures are subject to change, God is immutable. Because God has no beginning and no ending, he can know no change. He is everlastingly, "the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variableness neither shadow of turning."

(Jas.1:17)

There never was a time when he was not; there never will come a time when he shall cease to be. God has neither evolved, grown, nor improved. All that he is today, he has ever been, and ever will be. He cannot change for the better for he is already perfect; being perfect he cannot change for the worse. Altogether unaffected by anything outside himself, improvement or deterioration is impossible. He is perpetually the same, altogether uninfluenced by the flight of time. (Gleanings in the Godhead, Pink)

"Thou, Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; and they all will become old as a garment, and as a mantle Thou wilt roll them up; as a garment they will also be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will not come to an end."

(Heb.1:10-12)

""For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, o sons of Jacob, are not consumed." (Mal.3:6)

Adjectives

Majestic	Infinite	Awesome	Peaceful
Perfect	Unchangeable	Wonderful	Cheerful
Immortal	Loving	Unique	Gentle
Invisible	Faithful	Splendid	Solitary
Immaculate	Mighty	Satisfying	Fearless
Eternal	Creative	Brilliant	Unchanging
Wise	Sovereign	Praiseworthy	Pure
Good	Victorious	Unfathomable	Strong
Holy	Powerful	Generous	Immovable
Just	Glorious	Humble	Wealthy
Wrathful	Magnificent	Patient	Industrious
Merciful	Abundant	Kind	Immense
All-knowing	Refreshing	Joyful	Exciting

Names of Jesus

Lord	The Word	The Head of the Church
Savior	Lamb of God	King
Messiah	The Door	The Lilly of the Valley
Lion of Judah	The Resurrection	
Prince of Peace	The Way, Truth, Life	
Alpha and Omega	The Good Shepherd	
Prophet	The True Vine	
Priest	The Bread of Life	
King	The Light of the World	

Psalms of praise: 8, 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 27, 34, 42, 46, 48, 50, 63, 66, 68, etc.

"Satisfied"

(from The Christian Book of Mystical Verse, Tozer)

Draw me to Thee, till far within Thy rest,
In stillness of Thy peace, Thy voice I hear –
For ever quieted upon Thy breast,
So loved, so near.

For me, O Lord, the world is all too small,
For I have seen Thy face,
Where Thine eternal love irradiates all
Within the secret place.
And therefore from all others, from all else,
Draw Thou my soul to Thee ...
... Yea – Thou hast broken the enchanter's spells,
and I am free.

Now in the haven of untroubled rest
I land at last,
The hunger, and the thirst, and weary quest
for ever past.
There, Lord, to lose in bliss of Thine embrace
The rebellious will;
There, in the radiance of Thy blessed face,
Be hushed and still;
There, speechless at Thy pierced feet
See none and nought beside,
And know but this – that Thou art sweet,
And I am satisfied.

- Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697-1769
Tr. Unknown

Good quotes:

(The Set of the Sail, Tozer, p.93)"God has set eternity in our hearts and we have chosen time instead. He is trying to interest us in a glorious tomorrow and we are settling for an inglorious today. We are bogged down in local interests and have lost sight of eternal purposes. We improvise and muddle along, hoping for heaven at last but showing no eagerness to get there, correct in doctrine but weary of prayer and bored with God."

The greatest fact of the tabernacle was that Jehovah was there; a Presence was waiting within the veil. Similarly the presence of God is the central fact of Christianity.
(The Pursuit of God, Tozer, p.37)

Truth that is not experienced is no better than error, and may be fully as dangerous. The scribes who sat in Moses' seat were not the victims of error; they were the victims of their failure to experience the truth they taught. (The Root of the Righteous, Tozer, p.55)

Come unto me, all you who labor. Why are you so rushed? Where are you running now? Everything you have, I have. (Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, Jim Cymbala)