

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT GOD THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF GOD SERIES

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TEXT: Luke 1:46 And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸ For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. ⁴⁹ For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name. ⁵⁰ And His mercy is upon generation after generation Toward those who fear Him. ⁵¹ He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones and has exalted those who were humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things; and sent away the rich empty-handed. ⁵⁴ He has given help to Israel His servant, in remembrance of His mercy, ⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever.”

INTRODUCTION: Paul said, “I want to know Christ.” (Philippians 3:10 NIV)

As A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

Do you think of God as a God of judgment or a good God?

“Worship, I say, rises or falls with our concept of God... and if there is one terrible disease in the Church of Christ, it is that we do not see God as great as He is.” (A.W. Tozer)

As you know Him, you become like Him. **2 Corinthians 3:18 “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.”**

I can't think of a better time to teach on the nature and character of God than Christmastime. After 400 years of silence, God reveals Himself to Mary, a young, poor teenager maybe 14 years of age. God reveals Himself and His power, and

Mary is forever changed. Mary, in response to this encounter with God, is to worship God. This is known historically as the Magnificat. By seeing Him, our worship rises, and we are changed into His image.

THREE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE

I. GOD IS MINDFUL OF HIS PEOPLE. Luke 1:47 “And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.” (NIV)

A. GOD IS MINDFUL OF YOU. God is all knowing, or omniscient.

1. *Epiblepo*: “Look upon” means to look attentively with the implication of personal concern. This refers to God in His loving care in selecting Mary.

2. **Proverbs 15:3** “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.”

3. **Matthew 10:29** “Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.”

4. As the famous hymn goes, “His eyes are on the sparrow and I know He watches me.”

5. He is involved with every detail of your life, watching and guiding you.

6. When I was in 4th grade, my father bought a brand-new typewriter for his work. I remember playing with it and it jammed. I prayed and touched one key, and all the jammed keys fell into the right place. I felt God was watching over me.

7. **2 Chronicles 16:9** “For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His...”

B. HUMILITY GETS GOD’S ATTENTION

1. Luke 1:48 “for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.”

2. “Low/humble state” – bride of a carpenter.

3. “But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” (Isaiah 66:2b)

C. Luke 1:48b “For behold, from this time on...”

1. “FROM NOW ON” is the key phrase in Luke’s writings. It indicates that a significant moment has taken place in God’s plan so that “from now on” things will be different.
2. Mary recognizes that once she has been touched by the graciousness of God, things are different.
3. Because He is mindful, you are not forgotten. “From now on,” things will be different as you choose humility and holiness in your walk with God!

II. GOD IS MIGHTY FOR HIS PEOPLE. Luke 1:49 “For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name!”

A. GOD IS MIGHTY IN POWER. God is omnipotent; God is all powerful.

1. What did God do for Mary? We see a few verses earlier in Luke 1:28.
2. **Luke 1:28 “And coming in, he said to her, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’²⁹ But she was very perplexed at *this* statement and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.³⁰ The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.’³⁴ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.³⁶ And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.’³⁸ And Mary said, ‘Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her.”**
3. Mary’s miraculous conception—only one time in history.
4. In the Old Testament, the title “Mighty One” was often used to describe the warrior God who fights on behalf of His people and delivers them.
5. Old Testament example: Gideon.
6. What releases His might is our faith. Story of Louis’s finger.
7. **BECAUSE HE IS MIGHTY, HE WILL COME THROUGH FOR YOU.**

III. GOD IS MERCIFUL TOWARD HIS PEOPLE. Luke 1:50 “And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him. ⁵¹ He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones and has exalted those who were humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things; And sent away the rich empty-handed. ⁵⁴ He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy.”

A. GOD IS MERCIFUL. God is a God of love and compassion.

1. Luke 1:50 “And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him... ⁵⁴ He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy.”

2. Mercy: In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word *hesed* means God’s covenant mercy and loyal love for His people.

3. God’s actions are motivated by His character of love.

4. God is compassionate toward those who fear Him.

5. God is compassionate toward the humble and poor.

6. Proud are those who see no need for God nor for treating others with compassion.

7. He is merciful with those who are oppressed.

8. In sports, if you don’t have a favorite team, usually you pick the underdog. Why? We are made in the image of God, and our hearts go out to those who are not as strong as the favorite team.

B. GOD SHOWS MERCY TO THOSE WHO FEAR HIM

1. Luke 1:50 “And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him” (Mary is quoting from Psalm 103:17)

2. Psalm 103:17 “But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children.”

3. Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

4. Fear means reverence.

5. When we see God in the light of His holiness, fear grips us.

6. Isaiah 6:1 “In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ² Seraphim

stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called out to another and said, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. ⁵ Then I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.’”

7. True fear of the Lord leads to true repentance, and repentance leads to His forgiveness.

8. BECAUSE HE IS MERCIFUL, YOU CAN BE FORGIVEN.

