

The Names of God Series – Part 3

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Welcome we are in the Third week of our Series called “The Names of God”
Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father, Emmanuel,

(Turn in your bibles to Matthew 1:18)

We are studying the names of God because it’s through the names of God his character. It is by his names that we know who he is, how he acts, what he values and what we can expect from him.

There are many names given to God. Some come directly from God himself, others come from people living out real life interactions with God and they give him a name that matches their experience with him. (Exodus I am, David Shepherd)

God is so vast it takes multiple name to describe him, people are like that too if you described a friend you probably would only use one word.

If Tracy described me she would say I’m tall, I’m athletic, I’m musical, I have a soft side...I actually have two soft sides. And a six pack, I’m just protecting it because it’s special to me.

Matthew 1:18-25 (just scripture reference on screen)

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”-(which means “God with us”).

So, we actually get two names for God in the short passage the First is Jesus which mean “Jehovah is salvation” for it is he who will save his people from their sins. And Emmanuel which means God with us.

Isaiah 7:14 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

So why the name Immanuel? Of all the names why are we talking about this one? Well I think I can answer that question using one word, it's an awesome word.

proximity

nearness in space, time, or relationship. closeness, nearness, accessibility

Proximity changes everything

Single ready to mingle (holding Tracy's hand for the first time, third base, side hug home run)

Breath

High school dance put the balloon between teens dancing “leave room for the holy spirit”

Cleaning our house

How near is God?

Do you believe that he is near? Do you trust that he is near? Do you talk like he is near? When you go places are you thinking man God is with us.

If God is with us, then real life, real purpose, and real power and real forgiveness are ours for the taking!

1) God is near his children

The most pungent, reiterated, message of all of Scripture is that God is near to his children, he is with us, he is accessible, he desires fellowship.

John 15:5 ⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

How near is Jesus?

The Lord being with someone is one of the most common phrases God says to people.

Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Mary

Moses

Exodus 33:14-16 New International Version (NIV)

14 The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

15 Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. **16** How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth."

Joshua

Joshua 1:5 New International Version (NIV)

5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Gideon

Judges 6:12 New International Version (NIV)

12 When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

Mary

Luke 1:26b

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

The first and last thing that we know about Jesus is his promised presence

Matthew 1:23 New International Version (NIV)

23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Matthew 28:19-20 New International Version (NIV)

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

My prayer is that you would wake up tomorrow morning with a heightened sense of God's nearness in your life.

If you had thoughts that he was far away or if you feel disconnected from him your problem is not proximity. There's no geographic dilemma, God is omnipresent, he is everywhere. David said it best in Psalm 139

Psalm 139:7-12 New International Version (NIV)

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

If you had thoughts that he was far away or if you feel disconnected from him your problem is not proximity. Your problem is relationship. You can be in a room filled with people, on a bus or plane, uncomfortable close to people. But if there is not relationship there is no interaction, no exchanging of ideas, or advice, support, encouragement or consoling. Even with people you know there can be seasons of separation because of argument, you let them down, or poorly chosen words have caused injury. There is no one on the planet that I am closer to than my wife. And even in that relationship I have laid down in bed next to her and felt like she was 4 miles away. Usually because of something she did.

The problem is not proximity, it's relationship

2.) God promises to stay with his children, through the Holy Spirit

In the Old Testament there seems to be consistency found in the way in which God interacted with his people. His spirit seemed in some regard to be withheld from what we might call the general public. The spirit of the Lord was reserved for specific times and specific tasks. God's spirit was given to Prophets, Judges and Kings,

The coming of Jesus marked the Coming of the New Covenant, a new relationship

John 16:7

7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.

This is what we call the age of the spirit it was a fundamental shift in the way God interacts with his children. He promised this through the prophet Joel

Joel 2:28-29 New International Version (NIV)

28 I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

John 14:15-18, 23-27

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will beⁱⁿ in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; ...

21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

²³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

(But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you, [is in you])

(we will come to them and make our home with them)

(I too will love them and show myself to them.) [manifeste]

3.) God invites us to find rest in his presents

Exodus 33:11 New International Version (NIV)

11 The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

1 Samuel 3:3 NIV

3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

Our children are forever attempting to sleep in our bed. Every morning they come over for a few minutes and finish waking up with us. They enjoy the warmth, comfort, safety, connection of being close.

I want to encourage you to set aside time to sit in God’s presence, particularly during the holidays. Gather your family at least once and put on some worship music and pray together.

Invite the holy spirit to make his presents known in your heart and in your home and in your family.

4.) Jesus's mission is still the same; to seek and save the lost.

Jesus comes to humanity at a time that so accurately depicts the human heart. He enters a Pagan Roman Culture Polytheistic, Promiscuous, Political, Violent and Fearful life. Where to God we're removed and to be feared at best the played with the lives of humanity for their own amusement.

I believe he did that on purpose to show not only can he enter a world like that but he can enter a heart like that. Polytheistic, Promiscuous, Political, Violent and Fearful life