

ENCOUNTERING GOD THROUGH PRAYER

An Abiding Practice Resource



THE PATHWAY: FROM MEDITATION TO PRAYER

"I saw that the most important thing was to give myself to the reading of God's Word, and to meditation upon it... by means of the Word of God, while meditating on it, my heart might be brought into experimental communion with the Lord." - George Mueller

George Mueller's Discovery

After 10 years of walking with Jesus, Mueller found that:

- I. Meditation on Scripture focuses the mind on God
- II. This focus naturally flows into meaningful prayer

The result: "My inner man almost invariably is sensibly nourished and strengthened."

The Foundation: God Desires To Be Known By Us

- I. God has revealed Himself through:
 - A. Creation
 - B. Scripture
 - C. The person of Jesus Christ

KNOWING GOD: HIS DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

Incommunicable Attributes (Only God Possesses)

Attribute	Definition	Scripture
Infinite	God has no limits or bounds whatsoever.	1 Ki. 8:27; Ps. 145:3
Incomprehensible	God's ways, character, and acts are higher than ours. We can only comprehend what he generously reveals to us.	Job 11:7; Rom. 11:33
Self-existent	God depends on nothing for His existence beyond Himself.	Ex. 3:14; Jn. 5:26
Self-sufficient	God is able to bring about his good will without any assistance.	Ps. 50:7-12; Ac. 17:24
Eternal	God has no beginning, and He has no end.	De. 32:40; Isa. 57:15
Immutable	God is always the same in His nature, His character, and His will. He never changes, and He can never be made to change.	Ps. 102:25-27; Heb. 13:8
Omniscient	God knows all.	Jb 37:16; Ps. 139:1-6
Omnipotent	God possesses all power. Nothing is too hard for him.	Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:27
Omnipresent	God is present everywhere, in all the universe, at all times, in the totality of His character.	Prov. 15:3; Jer. 23:23-24
Sovereign	God is totally, supremely, and preeminently over all his creation. There is not a person or thing that has escaped his control and foreknown plan.	Dan. 4:35; Isa. 14:24, 27
Transcendent	God is above his creation, and he would exist if there were no creation. His existence is totally apart from his creatures or creation.	Isa. 43:10; Isa. 55:8-9

Communicable Attributes (We Can Share)

Attribute	Definition	Scripture
Holy	God is a morally excellent, perfect being. He is totally other than man. He is purity of being in every aspect.	Lev. 19:2; Job 34:10; Isa. 47:4
Loving	God's love moves him to give himself for another, even to lay down his own life. His love causes him to desire his creatures' highest good. This love is not based on the worth, response, or merit of the object being loved.	Jer. 31:3; 1 John 4:8
Just	God is fair in all of his actions. Since he knows all, every decree is absolutely just.	Num. 14:8; 23:19; Ps. 89:14
Good	In his goodness, God gives to others, not according to what they deserve but according to his good will and kindness toward them.	2 Chron. 5:13; Ps. 106:1
Merciful	God is an actively compassionate being. He responds compassionately toward those who have opposed his will in their pursuit of their own way.	Ps. 62:12; 89:14; 106:44-45; 116:5
Gracious	God demonstrates unmerited favor toward his creation. His common grace is shown toward everything he has made, and his special grace is shown toward those who receive salvation through Christ.	Ps. 116:5-9; Eph. 1:3-10
Long-suffering	God's righteous anger is slow to be kindled against those who fail to listen to his warnings or to obey his instructions. His eternal longing for the highest good for his creatures holds back his holy justice.	Num. 14:18; 2 Pet. 3:9
Wise	God's actions are based on his character. His wisdom causes him to choose righteous ends and to make the most fitting plans to achieve those ends.	Isa. 40:28; Dan 2:20
Jealous	God is unwilling to share what is rightfully and morally his with any other creature.	Exod. 20:5; 34:14
Wrathful	There is within God a hatred for all that is unrighteous and an unquenchable desire to punish all unrighteousness. Whatever is inconsistent with his holy standard must ultimately be consumed.	Exod. 34:6-7; Rom. 1:18
Faithful	God is always true to his promises. He can never draw back from his promises of blessing or judgment. Since he cannot lie, he is totally steadfast to what he has spoken.	Deut. 7:9; 2 Tim. 2:13
Righteous	God is always good. It is essential to his character. He always does the right thing.	Deut. 32:4; Ps. 119:142
Truthful	All that God says is reality. Whether believed by man or not, whether seen as reality or not, what God has spoken is reality. Whatever he speaks is truth.	Num. 23:19; Ps. 31:5; Tit. 1:2

PRACTICE: MEDITATION LEADING TO PRAYER

Weekly Exercise

1. Choose 1-2 attributes from each list
2. Write out the associated verses on a card
3. Set aside time to meditate on these verses
4. Allow meditation to flow naturally into prayer

Group Discussion Questions

- Choose one incommunicable attribute and discuss how it increases your understanding of your own limits. How does it increase your love for God? How does it enliven you to worship?
- Choose one communicable attribute and discuss how it increases your understanding of your own limits. How does it increase your love for God? How does it enliven you to worship?

Prayer Prompts

- Choose one incommunicable attribute of God and write a prayer of thanksgiving and praise.
- Choose one communicable attribute of God and write a prayer of request that He would make you more like Christ in these ways.

"God is a lovable Being. We can grow in our knowledge of Him. We must encounter God in His word, which will flow to encountering God in prayer."