

Five Things We All Need to Know About God

Psalms 36:5-6

May 25, 2025

HDBC

The greatest need for every person is to be right with God.

The greatest need of every saved person is to grow in walk with God.

The greatest resource of both is the Word of God.

This is why we focus so much of our attention on the Bible. It leads us to a saving relationship with God. But it also provides an ever-deepening knowledge of God. This in turn strengthens our relationship with God.

This morning I want us to ponder five things about God that everyone needs to know. Five things that will lead you to a greater understanding of Him, which will likely lead to a deeper love for Him. We're going to do some word studies.

Keep in mind that words are the primary tool used to communicate concepts, ideas, truth. If you don't understand the meaning of the word you will not understand the truth that is meant to be conveyed. *Sometimes when I am overseas in a hotel I will turn on the TV, if available. For a few minutes I will watch a program in Portuguese, Spanish, Hungarian. It may be humorous to me for a few minutes, but is not very helpful.* It makes a big difference if you understand the words!

In very picturesque language, Psalm 36:5-6 reveals five things that each of us need to know about God. Look at it with me. READ THE TEXT

1. God's love is unlimited

His Lovingkindness Extends to the Heavens

Lovingkindness - **Chesed** - **Translated:** mercy, faithful love, loyal love, steadfast love, covenant love, constant love, gracious love, unfailing love.

Root is chacad - To bow or bend down. *Adult bending to listen to a child.*

There are some who have believed the lie that the God of the OT is **like bull in China shop, indiscriminately destroying all that He can**. God is revealed only as a God of wrath and judgment.

That is not an accurate picture of the God of the OT. He also has a love-side which is clearly revealed. ***Chesed*** is most often the word used to describe that side. Used to describe **covenant loyalty and fidelity**. **God is committed** to our lives with undeserved affection & benevolence.

Extends to the heavens

Just how far away are the heavens? We live in a big universe which astronomers say is expanding. His love extends beyond it. More than geographical location, it is phrase that describes its **power** and **permanence**.

It is in us, through us and around us. This pictures His love as beams of light pouring from his being and saturating every square inch of the universe and encompassing ever part of creation.

Deeper than deepest ocean and higher than highest mountain.

A small boy had been consistently late for dinner. One particular day his parents had warned him to be on time, but he arrived later than ever. He found his parents already seated at the table, about to start eating. Quickly he sat at his place, and then noticed what was set before him--**a slice of bread and a glass of water.**

There was silence as he sat staring at his plate. Suddenly he saw his father's hand reach over, pick up his plate and set it before himself. Then his dad put his own full plate in front of his son, smiling warmly as he made the exchange. When the boy became a man, he said, ***All my life I've known what God was like by what my father did that night.***

2. God's faithfulness has no boundaries

His Faithfulness Reaches to the Skies

Often speak of our faith and faithfulness to Him, but what about His to us? It is infinitely more important than mine to Him.

Faithfulness - Emunah - Great word.

To support (strong arms of parent holding helpless infant),

To be firm or established (building attached to solid foundation),

Steady (Like hands of a surgeon).

At its heart is the concept of **certainty**.

Bottom line - total dependability of God. He can be trusted.

That is worth something! Have you noticed how skeptical most have become. Repairman says he will come in the morning, boss speaks of raise than never comes, salesman promises the moon. Refreshing to know there is a source of total faithfulness.

How is His Faithfulness Seen?

1) **Honors His Word** - Can not lie and never forgets

2) **Answers our Prayers** - Sensitive ear to His people.

3) **Meets our Needs** - Even before we ask, He knows

3. God's righteousness is unshakeable

His Righteousness is like the mountains

Righteousness - Sadaqa – the word means **to be straight**.

Measuring rod, the norm which is the standard against which other things are measured. He Himself is the standard for righteousness.

His righteousness is **like a mountain which cannot be moved**. It is permanently fixed. No variation of the ethical and moral standard of life.

The standard is not affected by the whims of each passing generation. It remains firm and unchanging. I have been to the Rockies, Smokies, Ozarks, Adirondacks, Catskills, Grand Tetons, Andes. I've Flown over the Alps. Always the same.

Adultery still adultery. Murder still murder. Lying still lying. Idolatry still idolatry. The guidelines are not constantly changing. They are the same!

4. God's decisions are often beyond our comprehension

His Judgments are like a great deep

Judgments - Mishpat - Idea of governing, administering. He has perfect ability to govern His creation. **His decisions are right**, even when they do not make sense to us. We will never be able to fully understand the choices and decisions of God, but they are true and good. To us they are as mysterious as the bottom of the sea.

Missionary Gracia Burnham, who was held captive by terrorists in the Philippines for more than a year and whose husband was killed during the rescue, writes:

Sometimes I wonder, Why did Martin die when everyone was praying he wouldn't? Why does Scripture lead you to believe that if you pray a certain way, you'll get what you pray for? People were praying that we'd both get out alive, but we didn't.

Her questions made her realize it isn't always easy to comprehend God's nature: *I used to have this concept of what God is like, and how life's supposed to be because of that. But in the jungle, I learned I don't know as much about God as I thought I did. I don't have him in a theological box anymore.*

What I do know is that God is God—and I'm not. The world's in a mess because of sin, not God. Some awful things may happen to me, but God does what is right. And he makes good out of bad situations.

Sometimes the judgments of God, His decisions are very difficult for us to understand. They are like the bottom of the sea. We don't understand.

Corrie Ten Boom was a Dutch Christian who, along with her family members, helped many Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust during World War II and was imprisoned for it. **Soon after her sister's death** Corrie was called out and told she was to be released. She could not

understand why God had allowed her sister to die in that prison when they were to be released.

The officers did not know her sister had died and Corrie wanted to know what they would have done if she were still alive. She asked if her sister could be released with her. Told that her sister would have to stay till the end of the war.

As she left she was comforted with the knowledge that God's decision was best. Had he healed her sister, she would have had to stay in the camp all alone.

His Lovingkindness Extends to the Heavens

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5. God's protection is comforting

His preservation is sure

Preserve - Root means **to make wide, sufficient, give room**. Idea of freedom from distress or hindrances. Came to denote preservation of life. God does that. God will preserve your life until He is ready to call you home.

I read a fascinating story in National Geographic magazine. An explorer had managed, for the first time in history, to record on videotape the birth of a panda cub in the wild.

The newborn cub was no larger than a gerbil. The most amazing thing happened after this cub was born. In order to protect the cub from the elements, and to give it an opportunity to grow sheltered from the dangers of the outside world, she spread her enormous body across this tiny cub and **did not move for twenty-eight days.**

She did not eat or sleep during this time. Her massive presence remained steadily hovering over this tiny being. It has since been

discovered that this is a common practice when the panda is protecting her young.

So it is with God, as He hovers over us as a shield from harm.

The Message, Eugene Peterson paraphrases it like this . . .

God's Love is meteoric, his loyalty astronomic,
His purpose titanic, his verdicts oceanic.
Yet in his largeness nothing gets lost;
Not a man, not a mouse slips through the cracks.

His love is more infinite than the universe
His faithfulness never ends
His decisions may be mysterious to us, but are always right
His standard of right and wrong remain constant
His perseverance of us is absolute.

In 1717, King Louis XIV of France died. Preferring to be called "Louis the Great," he was the monarch who declared, ***I am the State!*** His court was the most magnificent in Europe, and his funeral was the most spectacular.

In the church where the ceremony was performed, his body lay in a golden coffin. To dramatize his greatness, orders had been given that the cathedral would be very dimly lit with **only one special candle that was to be set above the coffin.**

The thousands of people in attendance waited in silence. Then the Bishop leading the service began to speak. Slowly reaching down, he snuffed out the candle and said, ***Only God is great.***

There is only one God. And He is wonderful.

Do you know Him?

Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD. Jer. 9:23-24.