



Daily Devotionals: GOD IS _____. | August 8, 2021

Day 1

Welcome to a brand-new sermon series that has the potential of changing your life as it reframes your perspective of God. Now that might sound a little over the top, but as a matter of fact, our main goal for the series is found in John 17:3, from the mouth of Jesus himself: “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” Knowing the true God, not just with our heads but also with our hearts, is—as Jesus himself puts it—the key to eternal life.

To get started with week 1, we’re going to look at the fundamental statement of the series:

God is.

That’s a hard concept to wrap your head around, isn’t it? Inevitably, we want to stick another word at the end of that sentence. God is love, God is holy, God is our provider, etc. We’re going to cover a lot of those attributes over the next couple months, and any one of them makes God worthy of our worship. But it’s incredibly important for us to just stop after those two words: God is.

Why? Because that’s how God introduces himself early in the story of scripture. Look at God’s interaction with Moses in Exodus 3. God got Moses’ attention by enveloping a bush with fire. As God spoke to him through that burning bush and told him to go to Egypt to lead his people out of slavery, Moses asked a simple question: “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” (vs.13)

God replied by telling Moses his name, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” With one name, one statement, God told Moses all about himself. He is beyond compare and he is all-sufficient. Moses was concerned about how he would convince the elders of Israel, so God was not only telling Moses how to talk to them, but



he was also sending Moses with a promise that he would be all that Moses needed him to be. In fact, another way to translate “I am who I am,” is “I will be who I will be.” To me, that sounds like God is saying he is all-sufficient, without equal, but also that he cares enough to deliver his people and meet Moses’ own needs.

You’re going to hear a quote from A.W. Tozer come up throughout this series.

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.” (Tozer, Knowledge of The Holy)

Our image of God changes everything. It affects how we respond to him, others, ourselves, our world. Whether our view of God is good or bad, when we reduce him to a single attribute and forget about his transcendence, we are re-creating God in our image, rather than the other way around. And we can all agree that is dangerous territory. Tozer goes on to say, “Wrong ideas about God are not only the fountain from which the polluted waters of idolatry flow; they are themselves idolatrous. The idolater simply imagines things about God and acts as if they were true.”

So how do we act if we believe God is complete and all-sufficient? We worship him. We realize that he has no need for us, yet he loves us and wants us anyway. There’s an old school song by Steven Curtis Chapman that beautifully captures who God is and how we respond to him.

And the pain falls like a curtain
On the things I once called certain
And I have to say the words I fear the most
I just don't know

And the questions without answers
Come and paralyze the dancer
So I stand here on the stage afraid to move



Afraid to fall, oh, but fall I must
On this truth that my life has been formed from the dust

God is God and I am not
I can only see a part of the picture He's painting
God is God and I am man
So I'll never understand it all
For only God is God

And the sky begins to thunder
And I'm filled with awe and wonder
'Til the only burning question that remains
Is "Who am I?"

Can I form a single mountain
Take the stars in hand and count them
Can I even take a breath without God giving it to me
He is first and last before all that has been
Beyond all that will pass

Oh, how great are the riches of His wisdom and knowledge
How unsearchable for to Him and through Him and from Him are all things

So let us worship before the throne
Of the One who is worthy of worship alone

Moses removed his sandals because he was standing on holy ground in the presence of I AM.
When we recognize the true nature of God and that his presence lives in us, our lives become holy ground.



Reflection:

1. What do you hope to get from this series? Ask God to reveal himself to you through the next several weeks.
2. Think about your own view of God. How would you describe him? What are your positive impressions? What are your negative impressions? We'll spend more time with this question later in the week, but give your first impressions here.



Day 2 – Look at the book

We kicked off yesterday by looking at God’s completeness and our response to it. Today, let’s look at the life and words of Jesus to get a fuller picture of who God is. Take a few moments to prayerfully read and reflect on these statements of Jesus.

As you read, worship God for who he is. Think about how each of these statements has been proven true in your own life and offer a prayer of gratitude and adoration for each of these qualities of Jesus.

John 6:32-35

Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

John 10:7-10

Therefore, Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The



thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

John 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

John 11:25-27

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

John 14:1-7

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a



place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

John 15:1-9

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“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. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.



Day 3

Scripture is full of descriptions of I AM, of both God the Father and of Jesus. Today, we're going to build on the foundation of God's completeness and our own images of God by surveying a wide range of passages.

Take a few moments to slowly read through the passages below. As you read, ask yourself these three questions:

- What does this passage teach me about I AM?
- What questions do I have about this?
- God, what are you inviting me into as I read and look through these verses?

John 8:54-59

Psalm 8:1-4

Job 38

Revelation 1:8,12-18

Colossians 1:15-20



Day 4 – Story

God's story is our story. As his followers, we have been invited into a place in the story he's been telling through all time. As we go through this series, each week we'll have a chance to review our stories in light of God's story and the specific quality we're looking at each week.

For this week, start your story off by delving into the question from Day 1:

What comes into your mind when you think about God?

Who have you known him to be in the past, to yourself, or to those you love?

Who do you know him to be today?

When have you experienced God's fullness? How did that affect your worship of him?



Day 5 – Response

For this last day, let's slow down and pay attention to what God has been inviting us into as a result of our work this week. Find a quiet space. Silence any technology around you. Spend some time reviewing your devotions this week. Jot down your thoughts to the following reflection questions:

As you look over this week, what words, phrases, Scriptures, etc. have stood out to you? What was the most significant thing? Why?

How have you worshiped God over the course of this past week? How have you dishonored Him this week?

What is God inviting you to DO as a response to this week's reflections?

Consider some of these suggestions as possible action steps as you step into living this week's truths:

- Focus on God as I AM as you worship this weekend, in church service or at home throughout the next week.
- Describe God's fullness in your own words, using how he has shown up in your own life.
- Set aside some time to pray using the I AM statements of Jesus from Day 2. Thank him for being your own I AM as he's provided for your needs.