



CHANGED BY HIS GLORY

“I saw the Lord

sitting on a throne, high and lifted up; . . .

So I said: ‘Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips . . . for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.’”

Isaiah the Prophet

In the midst of national tragedy, God revealed Himself to Isaiah. Having seen the Lord, life would never be the same again for the prophet. That vision of God changed Isaiah’s perspective of himself, of the world around him, and of his calling. His heart changed. His vocation changed. The dominant theme of his life became a passion for the glory of God.

We cannot get to know God for who He is without our lives being dramatically altered. Each of the following thirteen attributes of God has enormous implications for the way we live.

As you reflect on each of these attributes, ask God to show you whether your knowledge of Him is making the impact it should in your life? Is it conforming you into the image of Jesus Christ? Is it changing you as God intends? Is it giving you a fresh passion to see His Glory?

1. Because God is a PERSONAL SPIRIT . . .

I will seek intimate fellowship with Him.

- Do I treat God as a person with whom I can interact or as an object that I simply use to accomplish my goals? (John 1:14-18)
- Do I dialogue with God throughout the day or limit my relationship with Him to a scheduled time? (Ps. 62:8)
- Do I attempt to get to know God more deeply, or am I satisfied knowing Him on the surface? (Phil. 3:10)
- Do I find myself longing to commune with the Lord? (Ps. 84:2)

2. Because God is ALL-POWERFUL . . .

He can help me with anything.

- Is there anything I need that I question God’s ability to supply? (Phil. 4:19)

- Are there habits or addictions in my life where I sincerely doubt victory is possible? (Phil. 4:13)
- Am I attempting in my own strength to accomplish what only God can do? (Ps. 20:7)
- Do I put my trust in man-made techniques, strategies, and programs more than I trust in God through prayer to achieve given tasks? (Zech. 4:6)
- Are there certain people in my life that I question God's ability to change? (Prov. 21:1)
- When I sin, do I tend to confess my failure quickly, or do I delay out of a fear of being rejected? (1 John 1:9; Acts 24:16)
- Do I regularly consider that God's mercy is never exhausted, and that every morning a fresh supply of His mercy is available? (Lam. 3:22-23)
- Do I presume upon God's mercy through flippant or shallow confession without an attitude of repentance that leads to forsaking of sin? (Rom. 2:4)
- Do I rejoice in God's mercy and often thank Him for it? (Ps. 108:3-4)

3. Because God is EVER-PRESENT . . .

He is always with me.

- Do I trust the reality of His presence even when I cannot feel it? (Ps. 9:9-10; Hab. 3:17-19)
- Do I fear or fret because of a lack of confidence in God's awareness of what is going on around me? (Prov. 15:3; Matt. 6:31-33)
- Do I avoid certain services, prayer meetings, or intense times of seeking the Lord, thinking I will avoid His convicting presence in my life? (Jonah 1:3; Ps. 139:7-12)
- Do circumstances ever cause me to ask, "Where is God?" (2 Pet. 3:8-9; Rom. 8:28)

4. Because God is MERCIFUL . . .

He forgives my sin when I sincerely confess and forsake it.

- Do I expect mercy from God without extending forgiveness toward others? (Matt. 6:14-15; 18:32-35)

5. Because God is SOVEREIGN . . .

I will joyfully submit to His will.

- Do I bow to God's right to rule in every area of my life? (Ps. 66:7; Rom. 9:20-24)
- Am I convinced God always has my best at heart? (Jer. 29:11)
- Do I trust in God's sovereignty when He allows bad things to happen? (Job 1:21-22)
- Do I trust God to work through the human authorities He has placed in my life? (Prov. 21:1; Rom. 13:1-2)
- Based on my attitudes and responses, would those who know me best say that I am at rest in the reality of God's control? (Isa. 26:3; Phil. 4:6-7)

6. Because God

KNOWS EVERYTHING . . .

I will go to Him with all my questions and concerns.

- Who am I most likely to look to for answers to a personal dilemma--God or a friend? (Isa. 40:25-31; Jas. 1:5)
- Do I wonder at times if God knows what is happening to me and around me? (Ps. 139:1-3, 17)
- Do I study God's Word faithfully and diligently with the intent of discovering answers to my questions? (Ps. 119:24; 1 Tim. 4:12-16)
- Am I quick to give input or to respond to questions without first reflecting upon God's Word to see if a specific verse or principle applies to the situation? (Ps. 119:59; 2 Tim. 2:14)
- Do I ever question whether God knows the future? (Isa. 46:10; Rev. 1:8)

7. Because God is

HOLY . . .

I will devote myself to Him in purity, worship, and service.

- What is my motivation for living a pure lifestyle? Is it for my benefit or to be a reflection of God's character? (Matt. 5:16)
- Is there any sin in my life that I am unwilling to repent of and genuinely forsake? (Ps. 19:13)

- Do I worship God in the beauty of His holiness? Do I appreciate and value His holiness when I worship? (Ps. 27:4)

- Do I expect to experience God's presence when I worship even though I have unconfessed sin in my life? (Ps. 66:18)

- Am I seeking to become more effective in my service for the Lord by eliminating the fear and timidity that come from a life that is not holy? (1 Thess. 2:1-12)

8. Because God is

ABSOLUTE TRUTH . . .

I will believe what He says and live accordingly.

- Do I meditate on God's promises and associate them with needs in my life? (2 Pet. 1:3-4; Rom. 12:1-2)

- Am I prone to treat God's teachings as if they are relative or optional, instead of as an absolute standard for daily living? (Prov. 30:5-6)

- Am I tolerant of opinions that oppose God's Word? (2 John 10-11; Jude 3-4)

- Do I believe that there might be other ways to God apart from Jesus Christ? (John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:15)

- Have I ever felt as if God has deceived or tricked me? (Num. 23:19; Jas. 1:13-14)

9. Because God is RIGHTEOUS . . .

I will live by His standards.

- Is my primary motivation for obedience to display God's righteousness or mine? (Phil. 1:9-11)
- Do I elevate my personal preferences as if they were God's standards? (Rom. 14:1-4)
- Do I exalt the "good" in my life, in order to compensate for the "guilt" that accompanies known sin in my life? (1 Sam. 15:12-19)
- Am I prone to compare my life to others, in order to justify my failure or to take pride in my success? (2 Cor. 10:12-13)
- Am I quicker to point out sin or failure in the lives of others than to recognize the faults in my own life? (Matt. 7:3-5)

10. Because God is JUST . . .

I will trust His decisions.

- Do I truly believe that God is just in all His ways? (Deut. 32:4; Rev. 15:3)
- Do I tend to complain that I am being treated unfairly? (1 Thess. 5:18)
- Can I rejoice in the success of others, even when they have done little to earn it? (Phil. 1:15-18)
- Do I tend to limit my perspective to my human understanding? (Prov. 3:5-6; 1 Cor. 1:18-31)

- When "innocent" people suffer, do I question or accuse God? (Matt. 5:45)

- Am I easily embittered when another individual treats me unjustly? (Luke 23:34; Gen. 50:15-21)

11. Because God is LOVE . . .

He is committed to my well-being.

- Are there times when I question whether God still loves me? (Jer. 31:3; Rom. 8:38-39)
- Do I ever feel as though God cannot love me because of sin in my life? (Rom. 5:8-10)
- When severe trouble and tragedy visit, do I wonder if God's love is still there? (Rom. 8:38; Heb. 4:15-16)
- Is it difficult for me to accept God's love when it is expressed by others in the body of Christ? (1 Thess. 3:12)
- Does the love of Christ motivate me to good works? (2 Cor. 5:14-15)
- Is the love of God producing in me a genuine love for others? (John 15:9)

12. Because God is FAITHFUL . . .

I know He will always keep His promises.

- Do I demonstrate confidence in God's faithfulness by trusting Him in every area of my life? (Gal. 2:20; Ps. 62:7)

- Am I patient in waiting upon God for His promises to be fulfilled? (2 Pet. 3:9; Titus 2:11-14)
- Do I become frustrated or angry when God does not reveal His reasons to me or show me the final outcome of my circumstances? (Isa. 55:8-9)
- Do I really believe God will not allow me to be tempted above that which I am able to resist, and that He will always provide a way to escape? (1 Cor. 10:13)

13. Because God

NEVER CHANGES . . .

My future is secure and eternal.

- Do I find my primary fulfillment or security in anything (or anyone) other than that which is eternal? (John 14:1-3; Matt. 6:19-21)
- Do the temporary pleasures of this life determine my schedule? (Luke 8:14; Ps. 39:4-5)
- Do I place a higher value on how much money I make than how much spiritual growth is occurring in my life and family? (Luke 12:13-21; Mark 8:36-37)
- Do I smile at the future? (Jer. 29:11; 1 Pet. 1:3-9)