



# How Big is Your God?

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand  
and marked off the heavens with a span,  
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure  
and weighed the mountains in scales

Isa 40:12

## *How big is your God?*

When we are little children we feel very comfortable in the hands of our fathers when fear and uncertainty come upon us. Many children know the calming security of being held in the strong presence of our earthly fathers who appear to us to be sometimes larger than life. The level of peace and assurance of safety we can have with our earthly father depends on the qualities we can see displayed in him and how he secures us in his love.

Good earthly fathers will do whatever is necessary to protect and provide for their sons and daughters. If that is true of our earthly fathers, how much more true is it of the Lord our God? Our eternal Father who cares for us is all powerful; nothing can stand in the way of His providence and eternal protection.

If we are going to be secure in the hands of our God and Saviour, it would be helpful for us to know something of His glory and majesty, what His is like, for we live in His presence, even if we don't know Him the way

we need to in order to know the security of His presence.

The level of our peace in any situation God allows in our lives is determined by the quality of the vision we have about the true nature of God and what He is doing to keep us for separated for Himself as His precious possession. If our vision of God is inadequate, our peace will be inadequate and unable to keep us from giving in to anxiety and fear when the tribulations of life come our way.

A faithful father is a giant amongst men, but he is not big enough to replace God.

### **To know real peace we need the real God**

From the first days when man walked with God in the Garden of Eden, until he was removed from the presence of the Almighty by the corruption of his sin in disobedience to God, God has not changed. Man was removed because God is so extraordinarily Holy and perfect in His purity and power that it is impossible for sinful man to see God's face and live.

Exod 33:20

In His majestic splendour as creator of all things, He was far removed from the ordinary things of the world that had been defiled by sin. In His perfect Holy brilliance He was unapproachable light, (1 Tim 6:16) for in Him there was no darkness that comes from sin.

1 John 1:5

*'For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared a great King over all the earth.'* Psalm 47:2

The Almighty God of all creation may be far removed from the gaze of man, but He is intimately involved in the lives of men.

*“It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. “It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him.’* Dan 2:21-22

In His uniqueness He is entirely different in nature as the Creator of all things; He is unknowable by man because He is so unlike anything He created. In His uniqueness nothing that is created could represent Him or

contain His fullness or be His dwelling place. *'But who is able to build a house for Him, for the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him?'* 2 Chron 2:6

As Creator of all that is made, He has the power to overcome the normal rules He has established for His creation, so that what was not in existence could be established according to His will, and what was made can be undone as if it never existed.

As the Creator of the unending Universe, He stands above all as the only judge of what is acceptable and perfect in His sight. He alone can decide what should remain or be destroyed. He alone is the measure of holiness and truth that is needed to come close to Him.

As the only true and perfect God, He is unrivalled in His heavenly power. It is therefore a fearful thing to even consider standing in His consuming Holy presence.

As the Lord of all and the Creator of all He can do whatever He likes whenever He likes. He can see the beginning and the end at the same time, even from before we were and

after we have gone. He knows all things, nothing escapes His knowledge. *'The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.'* (Prov 16:9) He directs the activities of men without their knowledge. He establishes kingdoms and replaces them with another.

Dan 2:21

The best man can do is to see something of His majestic glory and power in the world He has created. *'For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.'* Rom 1:20

Since God is at work in His creation and involved in the activity of men for His glory, man can see the hand of God in the way He upholds His purpose through divine providence. *'Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps. He causes the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; Who makes lightnings for the rain, Who brings forth the wind from His treasuries.'* Psalm 135:6-7

*'Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like a great deep O LORD, You preserve man and beast.'*

Psalm 36:6

## **God in the Son reveals God the Father**

God the Father has become visible and knowable in Jesus Christ. We can know God only through Christ. *'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.'*

Col 1:15-17

*'No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.'* (John 1:18) The Glory of God is revealed in the Son. The glory of God is the beauty of His Spirit made evident in the Son. It is the beauty of holiness that shines from His character. The glory of God is revealed in all His majestic qualities as they work together as the expression of His

eternal life. This is the glory of the Son of God. *"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

John 1:14

The Christ of God as Son has revealed the Father. *'Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

John 14:9

Jesus came to bring us into fellowship with the Father. *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*

John 17:3

Now, today, God reveals Himself to us in the Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ came to live amongst us as the Son of the Most High God, He revealed the heavenly Father to the world as the God who could be known personally through faith in the Son.

In Jesus Christ, the unapproachable is now approachable, the hidden in now seen, the unknowable is now knowable, the invisible is



now visible to the eyes of faith, the all powerful is now available to them who believe in the Son.

Jesus the Christ of God came as the Saviour of mankind to make it possible for all who believed in Him to have a relationship with the unapproachable holiness that is the heart of God. In order to make it possible for us to know God personally, the Lord Jesus provided the perfect sacrifice for our sins so we don't have to die. In giving up His life for us on a cross, He bore the judgement we deserve and died in our place, showing us the mercy and undeserving love that came from His divine nature.

The Christ of God has given us access to the presence of the Almighty Father through His sacrifice and washing with His blood. *'And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.'*

Col 1:20

Jesus came to deliver those who believe in Him out of the darkness of ignorance about

God into the intimacy and light of His own glory. (John 8:12) In this way He would set His followers apart from the world and give them the indwelling Spirit of God as their sanctifying power and comforter while they live on earth.

Acts 2:38

The Lord Jesus Christ alone has made it possible for us to know God and stand in His presence so we can live with Him and enjoy Him forever. He made it possible for people to have faith so they could be known as the children of light who knew God as their eternal Father.

Eph 5:8

He made it possible that those who remain faithful to Him could look upon the face of God and live because when He comes again to take them home to heaven they would see that they had been made completely holy to reflect the image of their Creator, because they will see Him in all His glory.

The Lord Jesus Christ has called all who would know God personally to follow Him and follow His example as they walk together with God as His church. This fellowship of

Communion is maintained by looking to obey Jesus Christ who is the Lord of the church.

*"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory."*

Col 3:1-4

Those in Christ have fellowship with God and each other. *"What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete."*

1 John 1:3-4

The presence of the Son is the desire of the heart of every true believer. *"Christ dwelling in the heart by faith."* (Eph 3:17) This is the promise of the Lord for those who keeps His Word. *"We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him."*

John 14:23

This presence of God in our heart is the secret of all peace and hope, joy, and comfort. The faithful have within them the only One who is *able to save to the uttermost*, and will not allow His work to be overthrown. The broken heart, in which Christ dwells, though it may be weak, is one which the devil shall not own.

Jesus promised His peace to those who followed Him. *“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.”* (John 14:1) *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”* John 14:27

## **God is the Spirit**

In the exact same way we bow down to the Father we must also bow down before the Spirit of God who lives in us so that we can be transformed into the image of Christ. (Rom 8:28) There is no division in the One God of all who is known as the Father, the Son and the Spirit. The Spirit of God has revealed the Father and the Son. The will of God is the will of the Father, Son and Spirit. The Spirit is also

the unapproachable holiness and fearful burning power those at Mt Sinai were warned not to approach at the time of the giving of the Law.

By the work of the Spirit, the unapproachable God of glory has now become approachable; the unknowable truth of God is now knowable by the same Spirit. The invisible magnitude of God is now made visible in Christ through the Spirit. The power of the God of creation is found to reside eternally in the Spirit.

The eternal Son promised He would place the same Spirit of God in those who obeyed Him. (John 15:26, Acts 5:32) The Holy Spirit will dwell in the believer making them temples of God. (1 Cor 6:19) The children who are *led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

Rom 8:14

The peace of God is dependent on submission to the Spirit's leading and teaching. "*The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*"

John 14:26

The Holy Spirit would make it possible for those who follow Jesus to overcome sin and temptation by His indwelling power because the children will walk by the Spirit, (Gal 5:16) so that they can be called the holy children of God. The Spirit is the very God who is also Father and the Son and works to fulfil the plans of God and therefore He must be accorded the same spiritual worship of obedience in reverence and awe.

If we are willing to be more sincere in putting to death the flesh that hinders the maturity of our spirit, the Spirit of God will give us a greater vision of God so we can enjoy His blessings the way He has prepared for us. *"Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* 1 Thess 5:23

### **True Knowledge of God has real value**

#### **Abiding in His presence turns us from sin**

*"How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God!"* Gen. 39:9

If we remain humble before the Lord our God, remembering He is the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings, we can rejoice in all things because we know He will fulfil all His precious promises in our lives. Our reverence in His presence will help keep us from giving into temptation. Being in God's presence motivates us to pursue holiness with a spiritual mindset. For the Lord our God has said: "*you shall be holy for I am holy.*" (Lev 20:26; 1 Pet 1:16) '*Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*' Heb 12:14

If we are unable to stop from sinning and repeatedly do what we don't want to do, then we haven't died to sin, and our God isn't big enough to give us a way out. '*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*'

1 Cor10:12-13

The mind set on the flesh instead of the Spirit wants a little god who has no power to stop us from doing what we want to do, but will still let us into heaven when we die.

Does the injunction for us to keep from sin have no possibility of success? Does God's word have no power? *'for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.* Rom 8:13

The Spirit gives us power to put sinful deeds to death. *'For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.'* Rom 8:6-8

If our minds are fixed on God then we won't be preoccupied with the flesh, so we can be led by the Spirit as children of God. If we are led by the Spirit we will know what it is to have the peace of God. *'So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live*



*according to the flesh, for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.'*

Rom 8:12-14

It is obvious that if our minds are set on the flesh we cannot please God; so therefore it follows that the mind set on the Spirit is able to please God, because of the power of the Spirit we can keep His commandments by the Spirit of God who works in us.

Phil 2:13

### **Trusting in God gives endurance in times of trouble**

Trusting in His authority over our lives will mean we can endure whatever He allows to come to us because we know He intends it for our greatest spiritual good. (Rom 8:28) Living in the presence of God means we can know His comfort in times of calamity. *"The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You."*

Isa 26:3

If we are not at peace, are we looking at the world around us and forgetting there is a God

at all who promises to abide with us? Is this forgetfulness just a lack of faith that leads to deciding what to do instead of trusting in God? Or does it mean we do nothing but fall apart in depression? Instead of worry we trust in God, *"casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you."* 1 Pet 5:7

Peter thought he had faith to walk with God on the water, until he took his eyes off Christ and looked at the waves. Thank God that refocus means rescue. Matt 14:22-23

*'God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; Though its waters roar and foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.'* Psalm 46:1-3

This is the only way to have peace in a troubled world. In times of trouble we can be assured nothing can separate us from the love of God who is working to make us complete in Christ. *'Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or*

*persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.'* Rom 8:35-37

## **We should not take God for granted**

God is never to be taken for granted as if we are somehow worthy of His service because we are entitled by birth or some earthly privilege. We should not make the same mistake the Jews of Jesus' day made.

While the Lord Jesus may call us friends as He reveals the loving heart of God to us, and affords us the privileges of His affection, He is never our friend, He always remains our saviour God, and we continue to obediently work out our salvation in awe and reverence because it is God who is at work in us to transform us into the image of Christ. Our God always remains our Judge who will repay all for the way they live in His creation.

Jesus has made the fearful God of the Old Testament known to us, and He has made it

possible for us to be reconciled to God, but we should never forget He is the same God now as the unapproachable God He was at the Mountain of Sinai.

Don't be deceived by worldly presumptions that somehow God is our servant. God is always the sovereign God of all creation who decides what is best for everyone. His will is that everyone become like Christ who are called according to His purpose. (Rom 8:28) While the flesh that remains in our understanding is looking for heaven on earth, the Spirit of God is preparing us for heaven where God dwells in glory. As our God He should never be treated as if He is required to do our bidding. He never becomes someone who makes us happy in the world.

While He makes it possible for us to walk with God by giving us His Holy Spirit, He remains unlike us in His majestic glory and holiness, so we have to remain in an attitude of repentance, always showing reverence and honour to the God of all glory in all we say and do. When we live in the presence of God by the indwelling Spirit, the Spirit marks us as

belonging to God which is seen in a change of life in obedience and truth. When we live in the presence of God we must always remember He is still the Almighty, the Invisible, the Creator of the world, perfectly Holy and Righteous, the cause of all things in heaven and on earth and the Judge of the world who will bless those who have done His will in Christ, or condemn the disobedient to eternal judgement who have denied Jesus as saviour and Lord, separating them from all the goodness of God forever and ever.

### **How big is your God?**

Is your God big enough to keep you in peace regardless of the world and the darkness? If your God is as big as you could ever imagine, your God is still only a little bit of the size that He actually is. God is always enough because He is beyond the expanse of all things, including our minds.

Our peace depends on the size of our God. We are told that *the mind that is fixed on Him He will keep in perfect peace.* (Isa 26:3) But our peace is determined by having a correct

understanding of who God is. Having our minds fixed on anything less than the truth about our God and Saviour will mean anxiety and stress will follow us all the days of our lives. The better our vision of His glory, the more peace and joy we can have as we rest in the love of our heavenly Father, regardless of the tribulations on earth.

Each of us has just enough of God as we want, how big is your God? If you don't have growing freedom from sin and the fullness of joy and peace, don't blame God, He is always enough when we die to self and live for Him.

Gal 2:20; 5:16

Can it be we have ordained for ourselves a little god so we can indulge the flesh while thinking somehow He can't see what's going on so we can escape His judgement?

If we lack the peace of Christ, our God is not big enough. If we live in anxiousness we are not being led into the truth by the Spirit; or we may not have repented from doing our own thing so we can be born of the Spirit and be filled with His understanding and enabling power.

If our God is big enough for us we will know,  
*"The peace of God which transcends all  
understanding."* Phil 4:7

If we are not prepared to call Jesus a liar, and claim that God is out to deceive us by offering us impossible peace in this life, then there is something terribly wrong with our understanding if we lack the peace He has made available for all His disciples.

Since God is big enough we can give thanks and, *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."* Col 3:15

If our God is big enough to cope with our lives, and He definitely is, we can give continual thanks to Him who is larger than life. *'Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'* 1 Thess 5:16-18

Abide in Him; He is well and truly big enough to be able to get us home to live with the Lord of all creation so we can share in His glory.

# Living Water Resources

## Come to the River

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