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I FELL ON MY FACE

For our “God is a consuming fire.”

HEBREWS 12:29

Just because God cannot tell us *what He is*, He very often tells us *what He is like*. By these “like” figures He leads our faltering minds as close as they can come to that “light which no man can approach unto” (1 Tim. 6:16). Through the more cumbersome medium of the intellect the soul is prepared for the moment when it can, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, know God as He is in

Himself. God has used a number of these similitudes to hint at His incomprehensible being, and judging from the Scriptures one would gather that His favorite similitude is fire. In one place the Spirit speaks expressly, “For our God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:29). This accords with His revelation of Himself as recorded throughout the Bible. As a fire He spoke to Moses from the burning bush; in the fire He dwelt above the camp of Israel through all the wilderness journey; as fire He dwelt between the wings of the cherubim in the Holy of Holies; to Ezekiel He revealed Himself as a strange brightness of “a fire infolding itself” (Ezek. 1:4)

This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake. (1:28) POM104

Great God, if I really saw You in all Your majesty I too would fall on my face before You. And this is only a glimpse of what You are! Show me Your glory, I pray. Amen.



GOD HAS NO ORIGIN

*In the beginning you laid the
foundations of the earth, and the
heavens are the work of your hands.*

PSALM 102:25

God is self-existent selfhood. Novation, the Church father, said, “God has no origin.” Just those four words, “God has no origin,” would be an education to the average person. Origin, you see, is a creature word. Everything came from somewhere. One of the questions that every child asks is,

“Where did I come from?” . . .

Everything has an origin. When you hear a bird sing, you know that once that bird was packed in a tiny little egg. It came from somewhere; it came from an egg. Where did the egg come from? It came from another little bird. And that bird came from another little egg, and that egg came from another bird, and so on, back, back, back to the heart of God, when God said, “Let the heavens bring forth, let the earth bring forth, let the dry land appear,” as it says in Genesis 1.

Origin is a creature word. The trees had an origin, space had an origin, the mountains, the seas—all things have an origin. But when you come back to God, you come back to the One who has no origin. He is the Cause of all things, the uncaused Cause. AOGH021-022

I worship You today, Lord, as the great Creator, the uncaused Cause behind my very existence. Amen.



HE KNOWS EVERYTHING

*Nothing in all creation is hidden from
God's sight. Everything is uncovered and
laid bare before the eyes of him
to whom we must give account.*

HEBREWS 4:13

God's understanding is limitless . . . His knowledge is perfect, and . . . there isn't a creature anywhere in the universe that isn't plainly visible to His sight. Nothing is shut before the eyes of God. That is what is called divine omniscience,

one of the attributes of God. An attribute, as I have said before, is something that God has declared to be true about Himself.

God has declared by divine revelation that He is omniscient, that He knows everything. The human mind staggers under this truth when we consider how much there is to know and how little we know. . . .

When I received one of the honorary degrees that have been bestowed on me, I said, “The only thing that is learned about me is this pair of glasses.” If a man has his hair slicked back and a pair of learned-looking glasses, they call him a doctor. We don’t know very much, really, and when we consider the great God who knows all there is to know with perfection of knowledge, we stagger under that. The weight of the truth is too much for our minds. AOGIII113-115

I stagger and am challenged, but I take comfort in knowing that You know all things. I rest in Your perfect knowledge today. Amen.



THIS LITTLE CHEAP GOD

*Now to the King eternal, immortal,
invisible, the only God, be honor
and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

1 TIMOTHY 1:17

If God had goodness, but there was one spot in God that wasn't good, then He wouldn't be our God and Father. If God had love but didn't have all the love, just ninety-nine and nine-tenths percent of the love—or even a higher percentage—God still wouldn't be God. God, to be God, must be

infinite in all that He is. He must have no bound and no limit, no stopping place, no point beyond which He can't go. When you think of God or anything about God you'll have to think infinitely about God.

You may have a charley horse in your head for two weeks after trying to follow this, but it's a mighty good cure for this little cheap god we have today. This little cheap god we've made up is one you can pal around with—"the Man upstairs," the fellow who helps you win baseball games. That god isn't the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He isn't the God who laid the foundations of the heaven and the earth; he's some other god. AOG006-007

Lord, forgive me for assuming such a cheap familiarity with such an awesome God. You are worthy of so much more. May I begin to learn to think infinitely about You today. Amen.



GOD IS MERCIFUL

He is good; his love endures forever.

2 CHRONICLES 5:13

God is merciful. As I said about the other attributes of the Deity, mercy is not something God *has* but something God *is*. If mercy was something God had, conceivably God might mislay it or use it up. It might become less or more. But since it is something that God is, then we must remember that it is uncreated. The mercy of God did not come into being. The mercy of God always was in being, for mercy is what

God is, and God is eternal. And God is infinite.

There has been a lot of careless teaching that implies that the Old Testament is a book of severity and law, and the New Testament is a book of tenderness and grace. But do you know that while both the Old Testament and the New Testament declare the mercy of God, the word *mercy* appears in the Old Testament over four times more often than in the New? That's a bit hard to believe, but it's true.

This popular idea is a great error because the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New is one God. He did not change. He is the same God, and, being the same God and not changing, He must therefore necessarily be the same in the Old as He is in the New. He is immutable, and because He is perfect He cannot be added to. God's mercy was just as great in the Old Testament as it was and is in the New.

AOG077-078

Father, thank You for showing me, a sinner, Your mercy. May I be ever receptive to You and never take Your mercy for granted. Amen.



HIS ETERNAL PURPOSE

*The LORD is my shepherd,
I lack nothing. He makes me
lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters.*

PSALM 23:1-2

God's sovereignty means that if there's anybody in this wide world of sinful men that should be restful and peaceful in an hour like this, it should be Christians. We should not be under the burden of apprehension and worry because we are the

children of a God who is always free to do as He pleases. There is not one rope or chain or hindrance upon Him, because He is absolutely sovereign.

God is free to carry out His eternal purposes to their conclusions. I have believed this since I first became a Christian. I had good teachers who taught me this and I have believed it with increasing joy ever since. God does not play by ear, or doodle, or follow whatever happens to come into His mind or let one idea suggest another. God works according to the plans that He purposed in Christ Jesus before Adam walked in the garden, before the sun, moon, and stars were made. God, who has lived all our tomorrows and carries time in His bosom, is carrying out His eternal purposes.

AOGIII155-156

*Forgive me for my worry, Father. I know I can be at peace when I have such a calm Shepherd, a sovereign God working out His eternal purpose in my life.
Amen.*



THE CREATOR OF ALL

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

PSALM 19:1

Reading my Bible, I am greatly impressed by the manner in which godly men of old revealed in their writings an intense love for every natural beauty around them. They saw nature as the handiwork of an all-powerful and all-glorious Creator!

The Old Testament is a marvelous rhapsody on the creation. Start with Moses, and when you

get beyond the Levitical order you will find him soaring in his acute consciousness of the presence of God in all creation.

Go to the book of Job. In the closing section you will be amazed at the sublimity of the language describing the world around us. Then go to the Psalms, with David literally dancing with ecstatic delight as he gazes out upon the wonders of God's world. Go to Isaiah, where imagery is neither fanciful nor flighty but a presentation of the wonders of creation.

In our generation, how rarely we get into a situation where we can feel the impulses of nature communicated to us. We seldom have time to lift our eyes to look at God's heaven—except when we are wondering if we should wear our boots! MWTJuly10

Dear heavenly Father, You have created a beautiful world. Continue to reveal Your power and presence through Your majestic creation to those who doubt Your existence. Amen.



YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT!

*If we are faithless, he remains faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.*

2 TIMOTHY 2:13

God says in the Psalms that “he hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations” (Ps. 105:8). And our Lord said, “Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (Matt. 5:18). You can count on that.

That is the fact before us: God is faithful! He will remain faithful because He cannot change. He is perfectly faithful, because God is never partly anything. God is perfectly all that He is and never partly what He is. You can be sure that God will always be faithful. This faithful God, who never broke a promise and never violated a covenant, who never said one thing and meant another, who never overlooked anything or forgot anything, is the Father of our Lord Jesus and the God of the gospel. This is the God we adore and the God we preach. AOGH182

Oh, Lord, You are indeed perfectly faithful because that is what You are. Thank You, Father, for the kind of God You are. Amen.



THE ETERNITY OF GOD

For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

ISAIAH 57:15

If I thought that the word *eternal* as referring to God meant only “lasting until the end of the age,” I’d just fold my Bible up and go home and wait for the end. If I had a God that only lasted so long, that

didn't have eternity in His heart, I couldn't possibly find it worthwhile to preach. . . .

The Old Testament Hebrew has exhausted itself—wring its language as you wring a towel, to get the last drop of meaning out of it—to say that God is forever and ever endlessly, unto perpetuity, world without end. The New Testament Greek has done the same. There aren't any other words in the Greek language that can be used to mean “unto perpetuity, having no end, going on and on and on and on endlessly and forever.” . . .

Eternal, everlasting, forever, unto perpetuity, world without end—all of those words mean just what they say. When God talks about Himself, that's what He means—the High and Lofty One who exists eternally, forever, unto perpetuity, world without end. AOGH058-059

*Lord, I bow today before the high and lofty One who far surpasses my comprehension. Holy is the Lord!
Amen.*



THE SOURCE OF ALL POWER

*Sovereign LORD, you have begun
to show to your servant your
greatness and your strong hand.
For what god is there in heaven or
on earth who can do the deeds
and mighty works you do?*

DEUTERONOMY 3:24

God is the source of all the power there is. There isn't any power anywhere that doesn't have God as its source, whether it be the power of the intellect, of the spirit, of the soul, of dynamite,

of the storm, or of magnetic attraction. Wherever there is any power at all, God is the author of it. And the source of anything has to be greater than that which flows out of it.

If you pour a quart of milk out of a can, that can has to be equal to or greater than a quart. The can has to be as big as or bigger than that which comes out of it. The can may contain several gallons, though you may pour out only a quart. The source has to be as big or bigger than that which comes out of it. So if all the power there is came from God—all the power—therefore, God's power must be equal to or greater than all the power there is.

AOGII078-079

Lord, why do we worry and fear so much when we are the dear children of the One who has such power? Strengthen me today with the promise of Your power. Amen.