

Reflections on the Character of God

The reflection section has 5 scriptures that pertain to this week's aspect of God's character. Take one passage a day and reflect on it in the context you find. Note your insights.

The life response sections give you 2 more verses to ponder. These passages relate to your response to the name, title, or attribute of God. Write down practical responses.

God's Presence

Reflection: Genesis 28:10-17; Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 139:1-18;
Psalm 145:17-20; Isaiah 43:1-7

Life Response: Matthew 18:19-20; Matthew 28:18-20

A Discipleship Journey - Acts of The Holy Spirit
Facing Resistance - March 6, 2022

Primary text: Acts 4:1-22

The great tragedy in the church today is not that we are censored, but that we are self-censored.

How to respond to resistance to the Gospel:

1) Expect it

Peace is not the absence of conflict, it is the presence of Christ in the conflict.

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God -2 Cor 10:5

Truth is never afraid of a lie, but a lie can't survive in the face of truth.

2) Execute plan A

In other words don't stop doing what you're doing just because you're persecuted for it.

By what power or by what name did you do this? -vs 7

let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. -vs 10

How are we going to respond to persecution?

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me (imprisonment) has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. -Phil. 1:12-13

3) Reject the temptation to compromise the message.

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. -Acts 4:12

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. - vs. 13

Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard. -vs. 19-20

When it comes to obeying man or God, obey God!

Discussion Questions: Acts 4:1-22

1. Share one point that stood out to you from this week's message.
2. What miracle had just taken place before this passage?
3. Who was upset and why?
4. Why do people hate Christians? Why are we the most persecuted religion in the world?
5. Why was Peter so bold in what he declared?
6. By what means is anyone saved?
7. Why do people not want to accept grace?
8. What did the religious rulers want to do? Why couldn't they?
9. When authorities contradict God, whom must we obey?

Close in Prayer:

Pray for strength and boldness for the persecuted church around the world. Pray the same for Gracepoint as well.