

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 Goodness

Reflection:

Psalm 25:8; Psalm 34:8; Psalm 86:5; Nahum 1:7; Acts 10:38

Life Response:

Psalm 37:3-4; 1 Peter 2:1-3, 11-12



A Discipleship Journey – Good News

SIN – August 1, 2021

“All around us we see Christians and churches relaxing their grasp on the gospel, fumbling it, and in danger of letting it drop from their hands altogether. A new generation ... is needed, who will guard the sacred deposit of the gospel, who are determined to proclaim it and are prepared to suffer for it, and who will pass it on pure and uncorrupted to (this) generation.” - John Stott, written in 1984

What Is Sin?

The OT concept - anything contrary to the known will of God.

In the NT, the greek word for sin is hamartia it literally means **“to miss the mark”** - See Romans 3:23

Why Do We Sin?

Sin is in our human nature. *“None is righteous, no, not one”* - Romans 3:10

The Nature of Sin Includes:

1) **Unbelief** - *“Did God actually say”* - Gen. 3:1

You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. - Gen. 3:4-5

2) **Pride** - *“you will be like God”*

Temptation always focuses on **SELF**

3) Disobedience

Sin is not opposition to a rule, it is opposition to God himself.

Unbelief in the mind leads to pride in the heart that will bear the fruit of disobedience in the will.

How Do We Not Sin?

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. - Rom. 8:8

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. - Gal. 5:24

Falling isn't fatal, but staying down is.

Since the nature of sin is unbelief, pride, and disobedience, then we counter sin with faith, humility, and obedience.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. - 1 Cor. 10:13

So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. - Gal. 5:16

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if you do sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who pleases God completely.
- 1 John 2:1

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Questions for Reflection:

- 1) Read the quote by John Stott. In what ways has the church in America relaxed it's grasp on the Gospel?
- 2) Why is it important to have a strong understanding of sin in order to accept the gospel and share the gospel message?
- 3) Can you identify the sources of unbelief, pride and disobedience in your life? What are they?
- 4) Have you ever thought of sin not as opposition to a rule but to God Himself? How does this change your perspective of sin?
- 5) Read Galatians 5:24. What does it mean to crucify the flesh? How can you do this practically?

Prayer: Take some time in prayer and confession. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any sin in your life. Pray for strength to overcome any known sin by the Spirit. Close out your time in prayer thanking God that He has made you a new creation.