

## ***The Glory of God's Emotions (Exodus 34:6)***

### **I. CHRISTIANITY IS THE PURSUIT OF A PERSON**

- A. Christianity is the pursuit of a Person as we actively resist sin, sickness, and Satan. Many live a “defensive Christianity” which focuses on sincerely resisting darkness, but without aggressively pursuing the light. Such an approach is weak and ineffective and does not change our inner man. As we run the good race, we chase hard after Jesus, knowing that sin will continue to chase us, but we will “outrun” it. The holy preoccupation of pursuing Jesus is true Christianity.
- B. The power of our Christian experience is found in interacting with the person Christ Jesus. Jesus is a glorious person, yet so many do not enjoy relating to Him. It is our great joy to introduce people to the glory of Jesus and the adventure of discovering His majesty and splendor. The only way to keep from losing ground in our spiritual life is to gain new ground. Gaining new ground in our pursuit of knowing Jesus more is the only way to keep the ground we have now.

*<sup>8</sup>I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus... (Phil. 3:8)*

### **II. HIGHEST MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S GLORY: REVELATION OF HIS EMOTIONS**

- A. Moses prayed to see God's glory (beauty). God answered Moses by promising to reveal His goodness and to proclaim His Name to him. To proclaim the Lord's name means to reveal His character or personality, especially His emotions. Moses heard God preaching on God. God has the best personality. He is the most kind, good, pure, happy, smart, passionate Person that exists.
- <sup>18</sup>Moses said, “Please, show me Your glory.” <sup>19</sup>Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you...” (Ex. 33:18-19)*
- B. God revealed His glory to Moses by proclaiming His power and wisdom in other encounters. Here we see the very pinnacle of God revealing His glory as He reveals His heart or emotions.
- <sup>6</sup>The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness...” (Ex. 34:6)*
- C. **The LORD God:** First, God revealed His power and authority to direct the nations and our lives. Then He revealed His emotions as merciful, gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness.
- D. **The Lord is merciful:** He is tender in how He relates to us in our weaknesses and sin. This is the first aspect of His personality that He revealed to Moses because it is the one we need first and most. It is one of the primary issues that the Devil seeks to distort about God (Rev. 12:10). Some resist God's mercy because it violates their sense of justice knowing that they do not deserve it. At the cross, the Father satisfied the claims of justice. When we understand that God's wrath was poured out on Jesus, then we stand confident in receiving mercy since justice has been satisfied.

1. The Lord delights in mercy. It is one of His favorite things to do in leading the universe.

*<sup>18</sup>Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity...He delights in mercy. (Mic. 7:18)*

2. God offers us a new start every day if we will repent of our compromises.  
*<sup>22</sup>Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. <sup>23</sup>They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. (Lam. 3:22-23)*
3. God's mercy in giving us forgiveness is far beyond anything that we can compare with it.  
*<sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake his way...let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him...for He will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways... <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isa. 55:7-9)*
- E. **The Lord is gracious:** He does not give us what we deserve. He is generous in how He evaluates our weak efforts to obey and serve Him. When we have confidence before God, we run to Him instead of from Him in our weakness. He remembers our frailty and does not reject us because of our weakness. We can be surprised and exasperated by our weakness, but God is not.  
*<sup>10</sup>He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities...<sup>14</sup>For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. (Ps. 103:10-14)*
- F. He graciously rewards us for every movement of our heart and act of obedience (Mt. 10:42; Heb. 6:10). This dignifies every day of our life. Our small and seemingly insignificant acts of obedience are remembered and rewarded by God though they are weak, flawed, and imperfect.
- G. **The Lord is longsuffering:** He bears long with us instead of “writing us off.” God suffers long with our sinful responses to Him. He does not lose enthusiasm for us when we fail. His love for us is greater than the sadness we cause Him in the times when we intentionally resist Him.  
*<sup>4</sup>Do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? (Rom. 2:4)*
- H. **The Lord is abounding in goodness:** He overflows with good plans for us. The song that is recorded most often in Scripture is “The Lord is good, His mercy endures forever” (1 Chr. 16:34, 41; 2 Chr. 5:13; 7:3, 6; 20:21; Ezra 3:11; Jer. 33:11; Ps. 100:5; 106:1; 107:1; 118:1; 138:8; 136). God will not withhold His best from us in relationships, ministry assignments, finances, etc.  
*<sup>11</sup>No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. (Ps. 84:11)*
- I. **God proclaiming God's name:** Jesus referred to Moses' experience when promising to declare God's name or personality to awaken love in us. Paul also referred to this experience in Moses' life (2 Cor. 3). The “beholding and becoming” principle teaches us that whatever emotions we behold (by study and meditation) about God's heart for us are imparted to our heart for God. When God wants to empower us to love Him, He reveals Himself as the One who loves us.  
*<sup>26</sup>I [Jesus] have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them... (Jn. 17:26)*  
*<sup>18</sup>Beholding...the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image... (2 Cor. 3:18)*  
*<sup>19</sup>We love Him because [we understand that] He first loved us. (1 Jn. 4:19)*