

# UNDERSTANDING GOD SERIES

There is something about God, His nature and His person that we need to understand. There are two men in the Bible who have walked with God to the extent that they could be in the boardroom with God.

There are certain types of prayers that relate to Outer Court, which is for your needs. Then there are certain types of prayer that relate to the Holy Place, asking God for gifts for ministries. There are certain prayers that relate to the Most Holy Place of God where it seems to come straight from the throne room of God. In that realm it's like sitting in the boardroom with God.

The first man we want to look at is Abraham and the depths that he moved into. *Gen.18: 1 Then the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. So he lifted his eyes and looked and behold three men were standing by him. When he saw them he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the ground and said, "My Lord if I have now found favor in Your sight do not pass on by your servant. Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet and rest yourselves under the tree. And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts after that you may pass by in as much as you have come to your servant. And they said, "Do as you have said."*

In verse 16, *then the men rose from there and looked towards Sodom and Abraham went with them to send them on their way. And the Lord said these words; 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?' God and Abraham walked together so close that God could say of Abraham, "Shall I hide from him what I want to do?" God was saying that He was doing something that in a sense did not relate to Abraham except for Lot. The fact is that God wanted to share His plans with somebody. God wanted to share with a human being His intentions. And if that was not strange enough,*

stranger still was the fact that man could negotiate and talk with God about His plan.

*In verse 18, 'since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation. And all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him. For I have known him in order that he may command his children and his household after him that they keep the way of the Lord to do righteousness and justice that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him. The Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and because their sins are very grievous I will go down now and see whether they have done although according to the outcry against it that has come to Me and if not I will know" then the men turned away and went towards Sodom. But Abraham still stood before the Lord. And Abraham came near and said, 'Would you also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are 50 righteous within the city, would you also destroy the place and not spare it for the 50 righteous that were in it? Far is it from You to do such a thing.' The Lord said, 'If I find in Sodom 50 righteous within the city then I will spare the place for their sake.'*

I want you to know that when Abraham was talking to God, he was not talking from a position of pride. Neither was he talking from a position of self-confidence. Although he was negotiating with God, it was more in the form of entreaty. He was entreating God. Yet the fact is God was listening to him. And that's a very deep realm that he had moved with God. Abraham's statement here showed he was not approaching God saying, "I can come to God now freely." No, he was also aware that God was the One who is all-powerful. And there is an awesome fear of God that he was experiencing.

*In verse 27, "Indeed now I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose there were five less than the 50, would you destroy it?" And God said, 'If I find there 45 I will not destroy it.' Then he reduced it again and brings it to 40. Then he is a bit frightened now. He had never moved that far with God. Remember this is negotiation talk. How many people could talk with God in that way? Here he started with 50. And he got God to agree on the 50 first and for the final time in verse 32, he says, "Lord, don't be angry if there were 10." God said, "I won't destroy it for lack of 10." The fact is from 50 he reduced it to 10. That is the kind of boardroom meeting that he had with God.*

Here is another man named Moses. When you do things like that, you have to tread very carefully. Exodus 30, notice here the Lord talking with Moses in verse 7, *“Get down for your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way, which I’ve commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf and sacrifice it and said, “This is your God, O Israel that brought you out of the land of Egypt” and the Lord said to Moses, ‘I have seen these people and indeed they are a stiff-necked people.*

*Verse 11, then Moses pleaded with the Lord and said, ‘Lord why does your wrath burn hot against your people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand. Why should the Egyptian speak and say He brought them out to harm them to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth. Turn from your fierce wrath and relent from the harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac and Israel, Your servants to whom you swore by Your own self.’ So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.*

This is a remarkable incident, especially knowing the Lord in verse 10 that says, *“Let Me alone that My wrath may burn hot against them that I may consume them.”* God was saying he was greatly displeased with His people and He wanted to destroy them. He actually told Moses, *“Get aside I am coming to destroy them.”* Moses was in a boardroom with God and he countered, *“God please don’t do it for the sake of our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the covenant that they have made with You. Lord, don’t do it. Remember that covenant.”*

But the fact is how did these people like Abraham and Moses reach that level with God? How is it that it could reach that point where they are like they are in a position to negotiate? They are in a position where they could be part of the planning committee with God. As we say they are those who pray prayers. There are some Christians who know what prayer are answered. But there are different realms. All you know is prayer and you got answers to your needs. You have not gone beyond the Outer Court. And the vast majority of Christians live there. And you could actually live there and die there and said, *“Praise God for answers to my*

prayers I did." But you didn't experience something else that other people have entered into. We should be ashamed of ourselves because those two guys live in the Old Testament and we live in the new covenant.

Then there are others who moved further, they have gone beyond the first veil. And they seek God for ministries. They seek God for gifts, which you need too. We are talking about in terms of proportion. How much of your time do you spend in those areas? We are not talking in terms of just "yes/no" we know as long as you are on this earth, you have spiritual needs, soul needs and physical needs. And Jesus included it in the Lord's Prayer when He taught, "Give us this day our daily bread." So the question is not just yes/ no. But the question is of proportion. Apparently Jesus wants the proportion on physical thing to be quite small. Otherwise He would not have given Matt. 6:33, "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added onto you.*" He is talking about physical things and if you analyze the percentage in the Lord's Prayer, there is actually one main verse that covers physical needs. The rest cover other areas. But in the majority of Christian life perhaps the Outer Court prayer takes 95% of their prayer time. Wouldn't it be a shame? If we get a chance to live in heaven for even one day and come back, your whole perspective will be quite different. The things in this life, whether you drive a new car, you live in a new house, you buy a new shirt, a new shoe becomes things that are not so important. Its good you have them but they are not so important like before. One thing you realize is the temporal nature of this life and the eternal things that we actually work for while we are here. But yet a lot of Christians live 95% of their life on the natural. And they live and die in the Outer Court.

There are some that move into the Holy Place. They are like Paul. They covet after the best gifts and then operate the best gifts. There is another veil that Jesus has opened. See there are 2 veils. The other veil will be broken at Jesus' coming. There is a veil that separates the Outer Court. So when you enter the first veil you get into the Holy Place with three pieces of furniture. Then there is another veil that when you move in, you enter the Most Holy Place with one piece of furniture called the Ark of the Covenant. When Jesus died on the cross only one veil was opened. When Jesus died on the cross He opened the way by which the spiritual world could have a dramatic impact upon your soul.

Comparing our human body to the Tabernacle of Moses, your Outer Court is your physical body. The Holy Place is your soul. The spirit man is the Most Holy Place, or the Holy of Holies. The Holy Place is your intellect, your emotion, and your will, which comprises your soul. And the spirit man is the Most Holy Place. When Jesus died He actually paid the price for the complete transformation of the human soul into a god-like, god-kind of soul. The veil is opened between this soul and the spirit so that the spirit could move into the soul and transform it fully.

But the other veil separating the soul and the body is not opened yet. If it is opened what will happen? The physical world would see the spiritual world like the physical world. Now it's only opened through the gift of the discerning of spirits. But that veil will only be fully opened when Jesus comes again and we receive a new body. And in your new body there is no difference between physical and spiritual. In your new body, the spiritual and physical realms flow into one another. And there is no such thing as invisible any more. Now there are angels that are invisible that only by the grace of God through the gift of discerning of spirits that we can see them as the Spirit wills. He allows us to see beyond that veil once in a while. But otherwise He demands that we walk by faith with that veil closed. But one day Jesus will take off that veil and there is no such thing as invisible. Jesus had not opened the other veil. The other veil will be completely opened at His coming when we are given a new body. Now for the time being, once in a while according to His purpose and plan, He will open that veil for us to experience the spiritual realm. But most of the time we should realize that the ultimate transformation as far as this life is concerned, the maximum that you could reach in this life is where your soul is so much like the spirit. In this way God could use both your spirit and your soul.

You reach the day where Hebrews 8 and 10 take place, where He has His laws and His will written in our hearts and in our minds until our minds and our will and our emotions function very much in that spirit world. Which is why Jesus has opened the veil separating the spirit from the soul. So that Jesus could flow and fully saturate the soul until the soul is totally renewed. What a wonderful promise He has given to us.

There are men of God who have walked quite close in that realm. In modern history one such person is John G. Lake. Through his writings we can see that he has understood how the soul of man can be the very carrier of God's Spirit and anointing. And I know that men like Enoch and Elijah and Moses have walked close with God to the extent that God has done a special work in bringing them to heaven ahead of time. Theirs are an exceptional case since their souls and bodies are so transformed. But these fellows are in the Old Testament. We have a better covenant, better promises, and better access to God and greater power, release of greater measure of the Spirit than the Old Testament has experienced. We have a greater potential because we have a new spirit, which the Old Testament saints do not have. The work of Jesus is actually billions of times greater than the Old Covenant. There should be many more "Enoch"s, and "Elijah"s and "Moses"s in our time.

One of the reasons why in the book of Jude it records that the angels disputed over Moses' body is because Satan actually had a legal ground not to let people who have died be taken up and transported spirit, soul and body to heaven. Now in Enoch's and Elijah's case they didn't die. The spirit of death could not touch them at all. They were just taken up. Satan didn't even have a chance. Then there was this Moses. It was a little bit different. He died and the angel of death caught him. But God buried him. God had such wonderful fellowship with him.

Remember in those days before Jesus died, a righteous person who died would look forward to Jesus' coming to meet them in Hades. In the Old Testament normally those who were righteous would go down into a place called Hades. In Hades there are two parts like Jesus mentioned in the parable of Lazarus. There is a side called Abraham's bosom. The other side is filled with torments, and the two sides are separated by a great chasm. And Abraham's bosom is the part that we call paradise. It is like a waiting room but more luxurious than that. It's like an airport lounge. They are waiting on God and all they did was waiting. When Moses died he went there. After Jesus died, He went to the waiting room and all those who were there got discharged. So when Jesus came down and went to the center of the earth, one of the works He did was to open up the waiting room. Matt.27, "When He arose the graves were opened and many came out." They were physically resurrected and that was the first resurrection. So their spirit, soul and body were physically

resurrected. Eph. 4 says that Jesus took captivity captive. From that time onwards, those who died after Jesus came and gone go into heaven with their spirit and soul but waiting for their body. When Robert Liardon and Percy Collette went to heaven (separately at different times), they said that they fellowshiped with the Old Testament saints and the New Testament saints. There is a difference. The New Testament saints did not have their bodies yet. But the Old Testament saints already had their new spiritual bodies like Jesus.

In the light of that when Moses died, his spirit and soul went to the waiting room. But because of his close fellowship with God, God may have desired for him to come to heaven for further fellowship. In those days there was not many human in heaven. Elijah was not born yet. Enoch was possibly the only human being in heaven. The rest of the Old Testament saints who died were in the waiting room. The book of Jude tells us that Michael went there to get the body of Moses. He wanted to resurrect Moses' spirit, soul and body. I am sure it was very easy for Michael to just take Moses' spirit and soul up. But he wanted to get that body resurrected too. But Satan came and said, "This is unfair, he is not due yet." So he made a hue and cry. That's what happened in the book of Jude. He cooked up a fuss. But there were higher laws that Satan was not aware of. In Moses' case, there was the law of walking with God. It is the same law that operated in Enoch's life, where he walked with God and he was not. So Satan doesn't know all things and cannot read your mind. So he kicked up a fuss and a row. And Michael said, "The Lord rebuke you," and went ahead and took that body up. See Satan was protesting a law that he thought he understood. He thought that there was no ground. But there was a ground. Moses had walked so close with God that later you would notice on the Mount of Olives in Matt.17, Lk.9 and Mk.9, Jesus when He was transfigured, He fellowship with Moses and Elijah.

One of the ways to get into this key is to compare the similarities between the life of Abraham and the life of Moses. There are certain things similar in them in their walk with God that will help us to walk into the realm of what I call understanding God. Being very close with God. Having a rapport with God.

So point No. 1 Abraham and Moses had both given up everything. Abraham knew what it was to totally depend on God. In Gen.12, when God spoke to him and said,

“Get thee out of the land, get out of your kinsfolk and go to the land, which I call you to.” He left everything. He knows that God was his source. He has already passed through the Outer Court. Gen.14, after he fought and won and delivered Lot and the Sodomites, Melchizedek came and blessed him. But when the king of Sodom said to Abraham, “You keep the spoils.” In verse 12, *Abraham said, “I have lifted my hand [that means he had a covenant with God, a vow with God] to the Lord God Most High, the possessor of heaven and earth.”* Now only a person who has made God the source of everything can make a confession that God is the source of everything.

What you confess about God, your knowledge of God reveals your application of God’s principles. If you are someone who constantly says, “God is the source and the supplier of all the earth,” it shows your knowledge of God and how dependent you are on God for your own supplies. So here he says, “He is the possessor of heaven and earth. I will take nothing from a thread to a sandal strap, indeed I will not take anything that is yours lest you should say I have Abraham rich.” He said he does not even want something offered to him in case they said they should say they have made Abraham rich. He doesn’t want that. He wants only God to say, “I have made Abraham rich.” Look at his dependence on God. One thing I realize that Abraham had made a decision not to receive from anyone but God. He has also made a decision not to have anything but what God gives. In other words he has given up everything. Everything that he could get by himself and everything that man could give, he had already given up. He had no desire for it. He is a man that has gone out of the Outer Court. And he said if these others want it, let them take but I am not taking.

Remember Jesus Christ was confronted by the devil in Matt. 4. One of the temptations said, ‘I will give you all these riches and the glory of them if you bow down and worship me.’ The devil didn’t promise one thousand dollars or one million dollars. The devil promised everything. And Jesus said, ‘No.’ It is the same as Abraham said, “No.” A lesser man would say, “Just give me a million dollars would do.” But something has happened to his life as it has happened to Jesus’ life.

And it had happened to Moses’ life. Moses had everything. But Heb.11 tells us he

gave up all. There is something about a surrendered heart; a surrendered mind and surrendered body that reaches into the depth of God like nothing else can reach. Heb.11: 24-26, *“By faith, Moses when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin. Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt. He said no to the treasures of Egypt for he looked for the reward.”*

There was one thing common about these people. They have passed the limit test. They were found to be people who just were not interested in this world. Moses had all the treasures of Egypt before him. I am talking about people who had opportunity in that area and counted it as nothing. That’s one of the things that brought them very close to God.

Pride always comes before a fall in the world. I remember in the early days the Shah of Iran was strong and mighty. He said he is the Lion of Judah; pride crept in. His kingdom began to fall. As I analyze both previous history and present history, once in awhile you get a leader or nation that show pride. Watch out, the Bible is never wrong. Bible principles cannot be violated by individuals, by families, by cities, by nations or by the world and not taste the consequences. The Bible says, pride comes before a fall. But if a nation had been humble and does not forget God, then God will continue to bless that nation. America has that kind of attitude to in a certain extend. In their peak, they sometimes have a very humble president that will come and say, *“The grace of God has brought us this far. Let us not forget that God has given us this bountiful land.”* In the generations past there had been good Christian Presidents and God continues to bless them. You see history repeats itself and the Bible principles are taking place.

There are some things that attract God and some things that cause God to be angry with you. One of those things is pride and self-dependence. In 1 Peter 5, it says God exalts the humble and what does He do to the proud? What did he say? Resist the proud. I want you to know the word *resist* implies judgment. To resist is different from to ignore the proud. When you get proud God pays attention. But it is the kind of attention that you don’t want. In other words God pays attention to both the humble and the proud. Whenever success is tasted the first thing to do is get on your knees and say, *“Thank You, my Father and God, it’s by Your grace.”*

Perhaps none of us are in a position where a whole nation looks up to you. But some of you may be in a lesser position where you could be heading a multinational company and maybe having 50,000 employees. When you taste success, pride comes. Remember that's the fastest way to get judgment. If you want extra help quickly bend your knees. Or some of you are just starting off and you are starting to taste success in your ministry or in business. My friends one of the fastest things you should do is to run to God at every success. See these are things people forget to learn. Human beings know how to run to God in a crisis. Let me tell you that it is vital to run to God in success too. Run to God at the peak of acceptance. Because that is when it is also critical. In a crisis it is critical. It could be a life and death situation. Let me tell you. Successes are also potential failure because the peak of success could mean saturation point. And saturation point means you need a new breakthrough after that. And a new breakthrough cannot come to break to another plateau or another higher realm unless you bend the knees and ask God to lift you higher by humbling yourself saying, "God we recognize Your grace," and then God will exalt you further. This is one of the great principles in drawing God's favor.

The Bible has a blessing that was given to the priest to pronounce on the people. It was made into a song. "The Lord blesses you and keeps you. The Lord makes His face shine upon you and be gracious to you." God gave that. God teaches them how to bless. What I like is the part that say, "The Lord makes His face shine upon you." See God has a face. When His face turns to you that means favor. See there is something that draws God.

We find that in Moses' life and Abraham's life. They have given up everything and put their dependence on God at the peak of crisis and at the peak of success. They have acknowledged the same God. See Abraham was at the peak of success. He had just won a battle. But he says, "God is my source." He had a covenant with God, which Moses had too. But Moses learned it the hard way. He had tasted the other side. And he had to taste the next side. And he is nothing before God. The Bible called Moses in the book of Numbers, "the meekest man on earth." Num.12: 3, "Now the man Moses was very humble." That's one of the characteristics that caused God and Moses to have a good rapport. I am giving you secret that brings

God's attention and face.

One of the big principles of understanding God and how He operates is to know how He values humility. And how He values people who give up all and to trust none, to trust Him alone. Numbers 12: 3, *"Now the man, Moses was very humble, more than all the people of the earth."* That is why at that time he was the closest man to God in his generation. Now in every generation there is always one man living closest to God. Otherwise Paul wouldn't talk about a race we were running.

One of the most inspiring things to me in David Brainerd's writing was in his diary when he recorded in his mission to the Red Indians or American Natives. One of his inspiring statements that he wrote is he aspired in his generation to be the man when God looks down of the planet earth saying, *"There is the man who is closest to My heart."* Wouldn't that be lovely? Tonight go after that. Why not say more by saying, *"Lets aspire and stir one another up to run that race to be the closest man in our generation."*

Moses was that low and humble before God. Look at what God did. God told Aaron in verse 6, *"Hear now My words if there is a prophet in your nation, I make Myself known to him in a vision and I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses. He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face even plainly and not in dark saying and he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?"* He is saying about Moses who actually stands in the office of a prophet. And He is saying he is not only a prophet. He is My friend. Have you ever heard God defend His friend? It can be awesome.

There are some that desire to see visions. There are some that desire to dream dreams. But thank God, get all the dreams you can. Thank God get all the vision you can. But lets desire for a face-to-face meeting with God. We are talking about the Holy of Holies, face to face, seeing the form of God. What was the key? Moses was the meekest man on the face of the earth. To me meekness and humility mean total surrender. You have surrendered your right. You have surrendered your property. You have surrendered your life. In fact you regard that you are

somebody's ownership, His. If you are in that position, it's very hard to be proud because you are just owned. If you are in that position, you'll realize there is nothing that will react and cause reaction in your life. So one of the first keys is humility and meekness. I can only sum up as a total surrender to God to move into the realm that God move.

Lets aspire to reach into the realm of God even tonight. Let me tell you that humility and meekness are things that don't come instantly. Human beings don't surrender easily. We may surrender certain portion of our life. The more we grow in God the more we discover there are more areas to surrender until we are fully surrendered. But if tonight you reached into the realm of God and you really come into the face-to-face encounter, remember there is a strong spiritual magnetic force that causes God to turn His face in favor upon you. There is something that draws God. There's something that displeases God. God is a person we cannot fully understand. If there is someone whom you cannot fully understand, the other aspect is to must come in with trust. The reason trust applies more than understanding when we relate with God is because He is so big. Even if every cell in our mind work to comprehend Him it will still blow us up. That is why when you relate to God, trust is more important than understand. If you get into that place, there is such an awesome drawing that God draws you to Himself as He draws near to you. James 4: 7-8, *"Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh unto you."*