



Faithful and True

Omniallinfinitude™
begin - return - continue

Journey Five
M.A. Helland

*"**OMNIALINFINITUDE™** builds a bridge on which my head and my heart can shake hands. It combines deep principles with ancient practices, and is a pathway to knowing God in order to love Him. I encourage you to walk the path; cross the bridge."*

*Dr. Jim Altizer
Azusa Pacific University*

Faithful and True

journey elements

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what comes to your mind?

Faithful and True

Your dog at the door,
That old car that always starts,
The phone call from your Mom on your birthday
The money that shows up in your bank account each month.

Or maybe it's the young wife waiting for her husband to return from war, or a business trip
The friend who believes only the best and puts rumors to rest.
The clock that keeps perfect time, and the light that always shines.

Keeping their commitments, the Faithful are dependable and steadfast
Their Yes is always Yes, and their No is really No,
What you see is what you get.....loyalty, honesty, genuine to the core, real.
They're Promise Keepers – True Blue no matter what
In the best of times and the worst of times,
Thru thick and thin, and in sickness and in health
Thru the laughter and the tears.

The Faithful
They are there for us....make us feel safe, hopeful, and comforted
They walk the extra mile with us
And will be the last ones standing for us.
We might even take them for granted, use them, even ignore them.
Old Faithful.....so constant we count on them– sometimes to a fault
They are true to form and a dream come true.

Until they aren't there –

Promises, Promises.....from doing the dishes to cutting taxes
Like a True False Test that we continue to fail
Sometimes our True Colors come shining through and they aren't True Blue,
But often, Green, or Red or even Black.
We expect others to be faithful to us – we demand it, raise our fists
Yet we don't return it.
We just keep making promises to ourselves, to others, to God.

It's just the way it is – true to life
We say, So true! and How true!, all the while looking for the True Story amongst the True Lies
Whatever happened to all those True Friends?
Those Best Friends Forever, all those promises we made to each other.
Where did our True Love go? Why do we only appreciate them when they're gone?

It takes some True Grit to be a True Friend.....There is only One who truly can
He is the Promise that came true
The only True Love we will ever need.
Truly Faithful and Faithfully True.

remember

Joshua 1:9

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”
NIV



Use the space below to help you memorize the verse above.

For additional background on the *remember* element, see the [appendix](#).

Now write out the verses from:

Journey 1: **Psalm 145:3**

Journey 2: **Exodus 3: 14a**

Journey 3: **Revelation 1:8**

Journey 4: **Jeremiah 29:11**

read

Isaiah 53, 55, Luke 23, 24



Read through each chapter completely on three separate days, the first day in a **modern translation** such as the *NIV* or *NAS*, the second in a **modern paraphrase** such as *The New Living* (NLT) or *The Message*, and then the third **with a pad and pencil** by your side as you record your thoughts and observations. It is also helpful to **read the selections aloud**. As you read, underline words that describe who God is or names He is called.

This element is about **reading what it says** – try to put aside any preconceived ideas about what you think it says, or what you may have concluded based on other studies or classes. We are not saying those ideas are not correct, but for this Element, we just want to read it as if for the first time. **Read for the storyline** – and see if you can then faithfully retell it in your own words.

First Reading: Modern Translation – which one did you use?

Second Reading: Modern Paraphrase – which one did you use?

Third Reading: Reading Notes

Isaiah 53:

Isaiah 55:

Luke 23:

Luke 24:

Descriptions of God:

Names Used for God:

journal

5.1 Starting to Rub Off on Us

Our journey so far has revealed that the **transcendent One and Only God** – the God of the Bible – is also **infinite, eternal, immutable and omnipresent**.

Or in simpler words, He exists beyond and outside of time and space and there are no limits to any of his attributes. We live in space traveling through time. He created both and lives beyond them - which allows Him to be everywhere at the same time, in all time. He never changes because change comes within time.

And then things began to get personal as we discovered just how **God's attributes and our lives collide**. We now know He is **in charge**, working out **His plan** because He has **all the power, all the knowledge** and the ability to work them together to use **the right means to the right ends for the right reasons**. These include turning evil and suffering into ways to work out our Good and His Glory.

Moving forward from these great foundational truths, we see God's attributes not only impacting our lives, but rubbing off on who we are at our core. We are made in His Image....He created us, and as a result, a human sized portion of some of his attributes can be seen in us. As He is perfectly Faithful and Trustworthy, we also show glimpses of these very attributes in our relationships with others.

Your turn:

What does it mean when we say that someone is "rubbing off" on us?

What usually has to happen for someone to rub off on us, or for us to rub off on someone else?

List some good and bad ways people rub off an each other.



analyze

Chapter Summary

When the Bible was originally written it had no chapter or verse divisions. These were added by Bishop Stephen Langdon in 1228 to make it easier to read. There are 66 books with a total of 1189 chapters in the Bible. It was written by over 40 authors under the power of the Holy Spirit, in three languages (Aramaic, Hebrew, and Greek) over a period of about 1600 years. It has, to date, been read by more people and translated into more languages than any other book in history.

The Chapter Summary method will familiarize you with the content of one chapter in a quick overview. No other study tools will be needed.

Pick one of the Reading Chapters assigned for this week and answer the following questions.

1. Read it again one more time
2. Give it a short title:
3. Briefly outline the chapter:
4. List the main characters:

5. Pick a main verse and write it out:

6. Write down key words (make sure you know what they mean):

7. Is there something we learn about Jesus in this chapter?

8. What is the main lesson?

9. Did you learn something new?

journal

5.2 Houston, We Have a Problem

We are very good at cleaning up the outside of our lives. We look good, we act good, we obey the rules, we're better than those other people. But we still have that battle within ourselves, the battle over how to use our Free Will, whether to glorify God or glorify ourselves, seek our own good or the good of others – **I mean how good is good enough, who decides?**

And what about our motives, our heart's deepest desires, the secret things that nobody else knows....except for God. Our intentions are good, but we drift, and soon our desires have become the idols we worship instead of God. We worship created things and they rule us.

What we worship, we will serve, and it will rule over us.

God has clearly commanded us to worship only Him as the ONE TRUE GOD – and no other gods. And then He goes on to command us to worship him in Spirit and in Truth, as He truly IS, not as we want Him to be. When we redefine Him in our image, we create an idol and then we try to save ourselves through it.



Sin is so much more than just doing wrong; cleaning up the outside will not hide it from God. Remember God knows everything and sees everything. He sees into places inside us we can't even think of going.

It's so pervasive, the more we try to clean it up, the more we bring it into the light.

Sooner or later it will all come back to us, our Self. Our Self will have to die, and usually it is a very slow death.

Do you see yourself, as I do, in any of these questions?

- Do you have something within you that rebels at taking orders from anyone? Do you not like being told what to do? Do you like to be in control of your own destiny? That's **Self Will** – 1 Sam. 15:22
- Are your feelings always getting hurt? Do you have a long memory and keep records of wrongs others have done to you? That's **Self-Sensitiveness** – Heb. 12:15
- Do you continually put yourself down? Do you find it hard to accept compliments or praise? Do you lack self assurance? That's **Self-Deprecation** – Phil. 4:13
- Do you blame others or circumstances for your actions? Do you always seek to justify yourself? That's **Self-Defense** – Psalm 62:2
- Do you always bring attention to yourself? Do you seek to continually be the center of attention and bring the conversation back to yourself? Do you comment about how you look, either good or bad, when you see yourself in a picture? That's **Self-Centeredness** – Phil. 2:4
- Do you seek power, seek to lord it over those not as fortunate as you, since their situation must reflect who they really are? That's **Self-Conceit** – John 15:5
- Do you always find something to complain about? If only this, If only that? Are you more often part of the problem instead of the solution? That's **Self Complaining** – 1 Thess. 5:18

Your turn:

What are some of the justifications we come up with to excuse our sin nature, to deny it's existence? What are some of the ways we try to wash away our own sins, deal with our own sin nature, save ourselves?



investigate

Faithful and Trustworthy

Define: Write a brief definition next to each of the above words using a regular dictionary, not a Bible dictionary. (Click on any word to link to dictionary.com)

∞ [Faithful](#)

∞ [Dependable](#)

∞ [True](#)

∞ [Reliable](#)

∞ [Constant](#)

∞ [Confidence](#)

∞ [Loyal](#)

∞ [Steadfast](#)

∞ [Trustworthy](#)

∞ [Responsible](#)

∞ [Truthful](#)

∞ [Sure](#)

∞ [Genuine](#)

∞ [Right](#)

∞ [Correct](#)

∞ [Actuality](#)

Now write your own definition for **Faithful and True** below:

Review: The Promises of God

Because God is faithful and trustworthy He will keep His promises 100% of the time. Read the following verses and briefly state what God has promised to you. This is just a partial list as there are hundreds of promises to us who believe. Pick one or two that really speak to you, where you are right now in your journey, and answer the questions at the bottom.

Also, if I left your favorite promise out of this list, look it up and write it in the blank rows at the bottom of the table.

Verse	God's Promise to Me
Genesis 8: 20-22	
Genesis 9: 12-17	
Psalms 103: 12	
Proverbs 3: 5-6	
Isaiah 26: 3	
Isaiah 40: 31	
Jeremiah 29: 11-13	
Matthew 5: 3-10	
Matthew 7: 7-8	
Matthew 7: 11	
Matthew 11: 28	
Matthew 17: 20	
Matthew 21: 22	
John 3: 16	
John 8: 31	
John 10: 27-28	
John 14: 1-3	
John 14: 14	
John 15: 7-8	
John 16: 13-14	

Verse	God's Promise to Me
Romans 8: 1	
Romans 8: 28	
I Cor. 10: 13	
Galatians 6: 7-8	
Eph. 2: 8-9	
Phil 4: 7	
Phil. 4: 19	
1 Thess. 5: 23-24	
2 Thess. 3: 3	
Hebrews 4: 15-16	
Hebrews 10: 23	
Hebrews 13: 5	
James 1: 5	
I Peter 5: 7	
II Peter 3: 13	
I John 1: 9	
I John 4: 1-4	
Revelation 3: 20	

Conclude:

Why do you think the Promises you chose are especially important to you right now in your journey?

Have you personally experienced the fulfillment of these Promises? Describe this.

Which kinds of Promises do you find the hardest to believe in? Which do you find the easiest to believe in?

10 things

Faithful and True

1. **Migweh Yisrael** is the name for God that means Hope of Israel. Because God is trustworthy we have hope that everything will turn out as He has promised no matter what our current circumstances. Hope is dependent on our belief in His faithfulness as He proves to us over and over that He cares and will care for us, watches over us, strengthens us, and saves us.¹
2. **A. W. Tozer** – “His immutability presupposes His faithfulness. If He is unchanging, it follows he could not be unfaithful, since that would require Him to change.”²
3. **Bruce L. Shelley** – “When Israel went too far, and God had to bring judgment upon his people, even then God was true to his promise. A remnant of Israel and Judah survived the exiles. God would not be untrue to himself. He would fulfill his loving purpose for Israel, even when Israel itself was the major roadblock to it.”³
4. When someone proves unfaithful to us, we are quick to judge and ready to punish.
5. There are no crooked dealings with God. He always does right.
6. **Jeremiah** – “But there's one other thing I remember, and remembering, I keep a grip on hope: GOD's loyal love couldn't have run out, his merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I'm sticking with GOD (I say it over and over). He's all I've got left.” Lam 3:21-24 (from THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language © 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. All rights reserved.)
7. **Beth Moore** – “God will do what He says He will do”.⁴
8. Unfaithfulness is the most common sin of our age.
9. **Apostle John** – “I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.” Rev. 19: 11 NIV
10. **God** - " I'm putting my rainbow in the clouds, a sign of the covenant between me and the Earth. From now on, when I form a cloud over the Earth and the rainbow appears in the cloud, I'll remember my covenant between me and you and everything living, that never again will floodwaters destroy all life." Genesis 9: 13-15 (from THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language © 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. All rights reserved.)

Your turn:

Pick one or two of the above quotes or statements and share any insights or challenges it presents to you.

journal

5.3 Let's Clean Up Our Act



It comes with the territory. You are not alone. We are all born with it. So now - what to do about it?

The first step is admitting we are sinful people. We dealt with this when we talked about Worldviews and saw the different stances on this subject. Just look around you. And then look within you. Even the smallest hints of sin is enough. Sin is sin – no degrees, no blaming.

Next, we need to deal with the impact this has on our life – should we care at all? Can anything be done about it?

Then we need to decide if something can be done about it, how do we participate in that?

Our journey with God requires a lifetime of confession as He gently reveals to us the ways we fall short. The best thing to do at that time is confess and move on. But that is such a battle for us.

Confession is a practice of Engagement best combined with Solitude, Silence and Prayer. He reveals the sins we need to confess - if we don't already know them. As we confess, He is able to provide the power to help us turn around and go the other way, to not continue in sin.

We also need to confess to one another, share our struggles, asking for prayer and assistance. This provides a depth of relationship and a shared battle as we let others know our deepest weaknesses and failures.

The **benefit** to us becomes deeper of faith and greater transparency in our relationship with God and others.

The first step to forgiveness is the realization there is a problem and what we can do about it. Confession is our part – forgiveness is Jesus' part

Your turn:

What are some of the roadblocks that keep us from admitting we are sinful?

Author Frances Schaeffer stated that without adherence to an internal, God given moral code people will allow almost anything to occur as long as it does not affect their own personal peace and prosperity.....Based on your own experiences and observations would you agree or disagree.....explain. Is this true for you? ¹⁵

practice

Confession

Living Transparently



Confession has been referred to as keeping short accounts with God. To confess is to admit or acknowledge that something is true. It is agreeing with Him that we have offended Him with our disobedience and deserve nothing less than His wrath. However, because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, the penalty for our sins has been paid. Now all we need to do is to ask for forgiveness, turn around and go the other way, run from our sin, and toward the life God would create for us.

Easier said than done....

First, Some things we Need to Agree on:

1. We cannot hide anything from God.
2. God does not like our sin, in fact he hates it and He knows all about it. We need to let go of those secret sins we cherish. Unconfessed sin is a great obstruction to growing in our spiritual life and He knows that.
3. We need to get to the place where we agree with Him that whatever it was we did or thought was sin. We need to identify it for what it is.
4. We need to be sorry about it, truly sorry and take responsibility for it. No excuses. No blaming. Not just sorry we got caught. Some sins we immediately deeply regret, some we don't regret but should, and some are so secret we don't even recognize them as sin.
5. Then we can ask for forgiveness and mercy and thank Him for restoring us.
6. Finally, we need to turn around and sin no more. This is what is called repentance, we are to totally break off from the sin and run the other way. We are not just doing damage control here, this is a total reversal.
7. Then move on in joy, you've been forgiven, the slate has been wiped clean. You've been given a fresh start. The burden is gone, healing can begin. You're back on the straight and narrow path, so stay there. Walk in the light!!

Logical Consequences: Now this doesn't mean that we won't have to accept the logical consequences of our sin if there are any. We may need to perform restitution, make amends, ask forgiveness, feel some pain, pay a fine, serve some time.

As Far as the East is from the West: Your guilt and shame should be gone, and the sin should look significantly less attractive, perhaps even as ugly as it does in the eyes of God. It no longer holds any power over you.

Sometimes sin is satisfying a legitimate need in an illegitimate way so make sure you understand what the need was/is and the correct way to satisfy it otherwise you will continue to frustrate yourself.

Who do we Confess to?

There is private confession just between God and us, and then there is confession that is part of being in a community of believers. This should be to a mature, trustworthy and safe individual. This would not be the same person you would need to ask forgiveness from, but someone to guide you, pray for you, and support you as you bare your soul. The result is deeper fellowship and transparency and release of the burden of pretending and hiding.

We are all sinners saved by grace. None of us has it all together. There is no room for judgment, ridicule or rejection when one of us is struggling with sin. We fear no one else would understand, yet, we would all understand if we were really honest. Someone has walked in our shoes before us and could be an encouragement to us.

What are we Confessing?

Adam and Eve started it off in Genesis when they disobeyed God and got kicked out of the Garden of Eden. Sin, simply put, is disobeying God. It disconnects us from his power and His Spirit's working in our lives. God has put standards in his Word as well as in our hearts that we are to obey. **There are sins of commission: doing or thinking something we should not, and omission; not doing and thinking things we should.** It is putting ourselves in charge, seeking to be like God, ignoring Him, thinking wrongly about Him, thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought.

The 10 Commandments in Exodus 20 were given by God to Moses and have served as the standard of godly behavior since then. These would be a good place to start when asking God to work in our lives. Paraphrased below.

1. Have no other Gods but me
2. Do not create or worship idols.
3. Do not misuse the name of God.
4. Keep the Sabbath Day holy. Use it to rest.
5. Honor your parents
6. Do not murder
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie about your neighbor
10. Do not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Idolatry: Human beings were made to worship and serve God and then rule God's creation. After Adam and Eve sinned, men began to stop worshipping God and began worshipping His creation instead. These created things then began to rule over mankind.

Idolatry is simply unbelief – it is breaking one of the first two Commandments

1. Worship no other Gods
2. Worship no Idols – or God as we want Him to be – something we make in our image

You can't break the other Commandments without first breaking one of these two.

We create these idols because we want to control our lives. We create substitutes for the God we were created to worship, because we need to worship something. We cannot eliminate God from our lives without creating God substitutes or idols to replace Him. We try to save ourselves and we fail miserably.

Any time loyalty to something leads us to disobey God, we are in danger of making it an idol. When we believe that we must have something to be happy that is more important to our heart than God, then we have found our idol.

Idols are as diverse as there are people who worship them. But all can be rooted in heart attitudes that stem from deep fears, anger and worry. Some signposts for us would be any inordinate desires in the areas of Power and Influence, Approval and Respect, Comfort and Quality of Life, or Control or Accomplishment. Another way to view these are from the Fear perspective: Fear of humiliation, fear of rejection, fear of stress, or fear of uncertainty.

Idols never satisfy – they lead us to create a delusion and a false set of definitions of success happiness and worth. We believe in the cause and effect of “If this happens – Then I will be happy”. The result is always intellectual confusion and frustration.....but we never blame the idol – we blame everything else, including the God we don't believe in.⁵

The Seven Deadly Sins:

These are foundational sins that usually show up in outward actions that might not initially be linked with these underlying attitudes. This is when we need to go deep and get at the root cause of our sin. You can see how they reveal the frustration idols cause in our lives. They all stem from not being in a right relationship, and looking to ourselves, others, or created things for the peace and satisfaction that can only be found in God.

Pride is excessive belief in one's own abilities that interferes with the individual's recognition of the grace of God. It has been called the sin from which all others arise. Seeing ourselves as we are and not comparing ourselves to others is humility. Pride is competitive. If someone else's pride really bothers you, you probably have a lot of pride.



Envy is the desire for others' traits, status, abilities, or situation. Love actively seeks the good of others for their sake. Envy resents the good others receive or even might receive.

Gluttony is the strong desire to consume more than one requires. Temperance accepts the natural limits of pleasures and preserves this natural balance. This does not pertain only to food, but to entertainment and other legitimate goods, and even the company of others.

Lust is craving for the pleasures of the body. Self control prevents pleasure from killing the soul by suffocation. Lust is the self-destructive drive for pleasure out of proportion to its worth.

Anger shows up in the individual who spurns love and opts instead for fury. Kindness means taking the tender approach, with patience and compassion. Anger is often our first reaction to the problems of others and stems from our impatience with the faults of others.

Greed is the desire for material wealth or gain, ignoring the realm of the spiritual. This is about more than money. Generosity means letting others get the credit or praise. It is giving without having expectations of the other person. Greed wants to get its "fair share" or a bit more.

Sloth is the avoidance of physical or spiritual work. Zeal is the energetic response of the heart to God's commands. The other sins work together to deaden the spiritual senses so we first become slow to respond to God and eventually drift off into complacency.

The Bible has many lists of attitudes and actions that result naturally from our sinful selves. Just be careful though, your sin may not show up on these lists. Rely on the Holy Spirit to bring it to your mind, let Him convict you, then you need to deal with it accordingly.

Proverbs 6: 16-19 has the following list:

“Here are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

1. haughty eyes,
2. a lying tongue,
3. hands that shed innocent blood,
4. a heart that devises wicked schemes,
5. feet that are quick to rush into evil,
6. a false witness who pours out lies
7. and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.” NIV

Galatians 5:19-21 has another list. “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” NIV

And Romans 1: 29-31 has this list. “They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.” NIV

The Greatest Commandment

Up to this point, it all seems pretty negative – There sure are a lot of sins to confess, but then again we are talking about confession. Most of us figure we’re doing pretty good, we look at our positive qualities, our good deeds, and compared to everyone else we are doing ok.

Jesus summed up how we are to live in one Great Commandment:

“Love the Lord, your God,
with all your **heart**,
with all your **soul**,
with all your **mind**,
and with all your **strength**.” Mark 12:33

or **Love⁴**



This is where we seek for God’s compassionate heart, our soul is filled with the wonder of God, our minds are inspired with holy curiosity about God, and our passions are flamed with supernatural energy from God.

That’s where we want to live – Confession frees us to move our focus from our idols, eventually destroying them altogether, to the amazing adventure of walking with God.

It appears we have plenty to work on. So where do we start?

Practicing Public and Private Confession

This week we will combine three of our practices: Solitude, Prayer and Confession.

1. Find a quiet place and prepare for 30 minutes of uninterrupted time.
2. Quiet your heart.
3. Invite God to show you areas that you need forgiveness in. Ask Him to be specific. God will bring them to your remembrance. (God will not bring all our sins to our remembrance at once. That would be overwhelming. He will decide which ones for us to work on first, if it is not obvious.)
4. Now you may be surprised and not immediately agree with Him. Talk to Him about it. You may already know.
5. Ask Him to lead you into Godly sorrow and then ask for His forgiveness.
6. Agree to turn from the sin and run the other way.
7. Ask Him if there is something else you need to do such as ask forgiveness of someone or make restitution.
8. Ask Him if you should share this with someone else for spiritual support and prayer.
9. Then Praise Him, and move on.

Did the Holy Spirit encourage you to confess this to someone else?

Do you have someone in mind?

Have you done it? How did it go?

For additional background on the *practice* element, see the [aboutthepractices](#).

Personal Reflections on Confession:

1. Generally speaking, what are some roadblocks to confession?
2. What are some self-centered motives for good behavior, or for keeping someone compliant to external rules? How do others “manage” our behavior?
3. How do you personally know that you need to confess something?
4. What are some things, desires, attitudes that have the potential of becoming idols in your life?
5. How are our idols related to our deepest fears?

why?

Confession

"The one counsel concerning sin is to bring it daily to the only One who can take it away — God Himself. You should learn that one of the greatest privileges of a child of God is — the confession of sin. It is only the holiness of God that can consume sin; through confession I must hand over my sin to God, lay it down in God, get quit of it to God, cast it into the fiery oven of God's holy love which burns against sin like a fire. God, yes, God Himself, and He alone, takes away sin." (from New Life, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database Copyright © 2003 BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

Dallas Willard – "Confession is a discipline that functions within fellowship. In it we let trusted others know our deepest weaknesses and failures. This will nourish our faith in God's provision for our needs through his people, our sense of being loved, and our humility before our brothers and sisters."⁶

John Ortberg – "True confession involves entering into the pain of the person we have hurt and entering into God's pain over sin."⁷

Augustine of Hippo – "The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works."⁸

Douglas Steere – "An examination of conscience is the time where the soul comes under the gaze of God and where in His silent and loving Presence this soul is pierced to the quick and becomes conscious of things that must be forgiven and put right before it can continue to love the One whose care has been so constant."⁹

Richard Foster – "There must be a definite termination point in the self examination process. Otherwise, we can easily fall into a permanent habit of self condemnation. Confession begins in sorrow, but it ends in joy."¹⁰

Jesus – "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

John 8: 3-11 NIV

Your turn:

Pick one or two of the above quotes or statements and share any insights or challenges it presents to you.

journal

5.4 Promises, Promises

Qualities and actions of a faithful person:

- Keep their promises
- Supportive in good times and bad, share in your successes and your failures
- Loyal – believe good things about you
- Dependable – come through for you - Go the extra mile
- Give you some slack – forgive you
- Understand you – know your strengths and weaknesses
- Come to your defense – protect you
- Play by the rules



Ways we are unfaithful:

- Cheat, improper relationships
- Push the envelope
- Make excuses
- Sneak around and Lie, spread gossip
- Neglect our relationships
- Put personal needs first
- Ignore others
- Do not adhere to agreements, promises, our word
- Do not do what we say we will do
- Refuse to help, aid, pray



Unfaithfulness is said to be the spirit of our current age, in business, government, marriage, friendship, as well as our devotion to God. It is so prevalent that it is almost unnoticed.

Faithful people are few and far between. They are light in the darkness, a little bit of God shining through. Some people are impacted directly, others observe, and many others hear a good report. Then maybe faithfulness will start rubbing off.

God is always Faithful. He promises to protect us from evil, provide us with a hope and a future, forgiveness and cleansing, lead us out of temptation, keep us from worry, preserve his own, discipline his own, glorify his own – just for starters....

Your turn:

List some ways unfaithfulness impacts personal relationships.

List some ways unfaithfulness impacts a community or culture.

In what life arenas or relationships are you most challenged to increase your faithfulness?

inventory

Who do you trust ... and for what?

Describe the level of trust you have for or in the following segments of society, in what area you might trust them, and why. (Use a scale 1 to 10, 1 being no trust and 10 being complete trust)

Yourself

Your spouse or significant other, if you have one

Your children or grandchildren, if applicable

Your siblings

Your parents

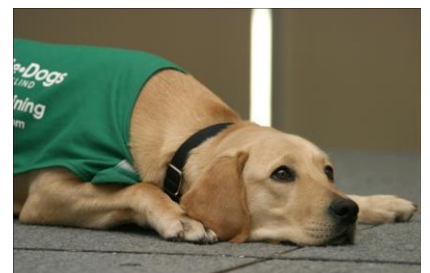
Your friends

Your peers/generation

Your boss

Your co-workers

Your church/pastor



Teachers/Universities

News media

Government Leaders

Scientists

Hollywood/Sports/Entertainment

Social Media/Tech Industry/Internet

Military

Police and Fire

Legal System (Judges and Lawyers)

Doctors, Nurses, Hospitals, Pharmacists

People in general



Who do you trust? Why do you trust them?

journal

5.5 The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow...Right?

What are some things we trust without even a second thought?

- The sun will come up tomorrow
- The food we buy isn't going to kill us
- The pharmacist will give us the right medicine
- The water will be hot in the shower
- The lights will come on when we flip the switch
- The fire department will come when I call them
- The grocery store will take my money



When we don't trust something we make contingency plans and backup plans. We pay closer attention, we don't rely on them, find an alternative and many times, just do it ourselves.

Who can you trust and why do you trust them?



Can you really trust God? Is He the only One who is always Faithful? Our problem now is that we look at mankind with our little bit of godliness and reflect that back to God.

We know what man is like, and so we assume God is also like man. We have it backwards. We need to hang out with God more so He rubs off on us.

God's faithfulness is so far beyond ours – It's Divine integrity – God does what he says He will do.

His Trustworthiness is dependent of His Faithfulness.

Because He is faithful, He can be trusted.

You can only trust what is true, and true describes what is real and actual.

The Truth stands opposed to the world's illusions, deceptions, it's empty substitutes, as well as the sin nature and the devil.

Truth is God's reality.

He keeps His word, His promises,

He is never hypocritical, and never inconsistent.

Because God is true – His Word is true and Truth.

His Promises are true because He keeps them.

There are no contradictions in His actions or teachings – we must believe all He has said, without editing God's self revelation to suit ourselves. Remember, believing things about God that aren't true is idolatry and heresy.

His immutability (never changing) is also closely tied to Faithfulness. We can count on Him because He never changes.

If He was trustworthy once, He will always be so.

He will never lose interest – like we do. Losing interest is the first step to unfaithfulness.

Have you ever lived or worked with someone who kept moving the targets?
Who never came through, was never on time, never paid their bills, didn't do their part of the project, couldn't be counted on?

That's not God.

Our Hope is based on His faithfulness – His ability to fulfill His promises to us.

Your turn:

How do desire, fear, distraction, apathy, weakness, and outside influences cause us to lose interest in God or another object of our faithfulness?

How does losing interest in something lead to unfaithfulness?

adventuring

Grocery Swap

Your adventure this week is to do your grocery shopping in a different part of town from where you regularly shop. Try to go to an area that is culturally or economically different from your usual store. Bring a friend or family member along if you feel uneasy doing this. Or you can go to a store you would not usually go to for whatever reason if you can't get to another area.

Look around and notice anything different about the store, the people shopping there, the people working there, the type of food they stock, as well as things that are the same.



Notice your reactions and then be honest about why you might feel this way. Buy something from this store that you don't think would be available at your regular store. Record your observations and reactions below.

What was the same:

What was different:

What did I buy that was unique to this store?

Any personal reactions?



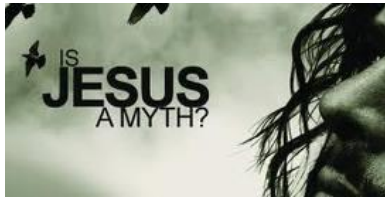
journal

5.6 The Most Important Question



God fulfilled His promises and prophecies to Israel and the world by sending Jesus as His Answer to the problem of Sin, Suffering and Evil. In doing this, He also sent Jesus as the second type of Special Revelation – with the intent of making the triune God fully known to all mankind.

What is true of God is true of Jesus and what is true of Jesus is true of God. He is fully man and fully God. God in the flesh – for all to see, hear and touch.



The response of mankind has been mixed – many have believed, making Him their Lord and Savior. Many however only consider Him a great historical figure or teacher, or a Good man, perhaps a Revolutionary, Prophet, Sorcerer, Guru, Lunatic, Angel, or a Myth at best.

But if He is not Lord and Savior, Son of God, He can only be a liar.....for He claims to be God.

The evidence is overwhelming in His favor. God has not left us without Proof of Life. He came on a visit to show us Himself, in the flesh.

Now granted, that was a long time ago. There's more to this story still to be told.

God was and is faithful – He sent His Son to prove it.
What is our response to His faithfulness?

This brings us back to the key questions of human existence -

Can God be trusted?

And Jesus' most important question for every person,

“Who do you say that I am?”

Your turn:

Review the difference between the two types of Proof of Life God has provided and give examples of each.

General Revelation:

Special Revelation:

What are some of the challenges that get in the way of people trusting God?

What does it mean to trust God?

Does knowing about Jesus make it easier or harder for you, or people you know, to believe in God?

Who do you say that Jesus is?

lyrics

You might wonder why lyrics are included in a study like this.

I believe lyrics, or poetry put to music, as well as the accompanying music, have always been used by the Most High to impact our hearts and minds –

- either by **our part in its creative process** –
- or through **our participation in its expression** –
- or through **our pleasure as a recipient** of its

sensory benefits.



Please try to listen to the musical versions on your own - **iTunes** and **youtube** are great online resources. If you are using the PDF version of this study and are connected to the internet, clicking on the song title will bring up a youtube video of each song. The lyrics presented will not always be spiritual in their original context – but much can still be gained from applying them to how they describe and point to the Most High God.

In Christ Alone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjiiF83q7G0>

Written and performed by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2001
Recorded by various artists, including Brian Littrell, The Newsboys, and Avalon.

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
 This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
 What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
 My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe!
 This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save:
 Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied -
 For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain:
 Then bursting forth in glorious Day - Up from the grave he rose again!
 And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
 For I am His and He is mine - Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;
 From life's first cry to final breath. Jesus commands my destiny.
 No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;
 Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand. ¹¹

Julian Keith Getty (born Dec. 16, 1974, in Lisburn, Northern Ireland) is an Irish composer, best known for pioneering "modern hymns." Getty collaborates frequently with Stuart Townend, a songwriter that he met through his involvement with Kingsway Music. The first song they co-wrote, "In Christ Alone", proved to be very successful. In 2001, Keith Getty and Stuart Townend developed the song with the purpose of creating a modern hymn that would explain the life of Christ. Getty/Townend hymns also develop a particular poetic and musical style that unites people of diverse traditions and generations, choosing influences of folk and classical music as well as of contemporary songwriting and standard hymnody.

"There are two reasons we write modern hymns," explains Keith. "First, it's to help teach the faith. What we sing affects how we think, how we feel and ultimately how we live, so it's so important that we sing the whole scope of truth the Bible has given us. The second reason is to try to create a more timeless musical style that every generation can sing, a style that relates to the past and the future."

Your turn:

What are some things we look to instead of Christ or in addition to Christ to provide us with hope, comfort, peace, strength, victory or love?

Honesty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuFScO4tb0>
Written and performed by Billy Joel, 1979.

If you search for tenderness
it isn't hard to find.
You can have the love you need to live.
But if you look for truthfulness
You might just as well be blind.
It always seems to be so hard to give.

Honesty is such a lonely word.
Everyone is so untrue.
Honesty is hardly ever heard.
And mostly what I need from you.

I can always find someone
to say they sympathize.
If I wear my heart out on my sleeve.
But I don't want some pretty face
to tell me pretty lies.
All I want is someone to believe.

Honesty is such a lonely word.
Everyone is so untrue.
Honesty is hardly ever heard.
And mostly what I need from you.

I can find a lover.
I can find a friend.
I can have security until the bitter end.
Anyone can comfort me
with promises again.
I know, I know.

When I'm deep inside of me
don't be too concerned.
I won't ask for nothin' while I'm gone.
But when I want sincerity
tell me where else can I turn.
Because you're the one I depend upon.

Honesty is such a lonely word.
Everyone is so untrue.
Honesty is hardly ever heard.
And mostly what I need from you.¹²

Your turn:

How do you determine if someone is being honest with you? What are common motivations for dishonesty in relationships?

Jesus is Still Alright

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqCccV6Y31s>

Words and Music by Arthur Reynolds ,1965
Performed by DC Talk, 1992

Beyond comprehension
I believe that I failed to mention that
There's a lack of recognition
When it comes to His position
'Cause if Christ can't be crossed over
Then I'll keep my beat up NOVA.

Jesus is still alright with me
Jesus is still alright, oh yeah!
Jesus is still alright with me
Jesus is still alright...
You know that He's alright!

I don't care what they may say
I don't care what they may do
I don't care what they may say
'Cause Jesus is still alright.

Back in place
And I'm all up in your face
With a rhyme that I embrace
Like a mother to a child
I'm kickin' it Jesus style
To the ones that think they heard
I did use the J-word
'Cause I ain't too soft to say it
Even if DJ's don't play it!

Jesus is still alright with me
Jesus is still alright, oh yeah!
Jesus is still alright with me
Jesus is still alright..
You know that He's alright!
Strike a pose! -- H-h-how do they do that?!

Jesus is alright
I know He's alright
Jesus is alright
You know He's alright
Jesus is alright
We know He's alright
Jesus is alright
We know He's alright...
Now we come to the play-off!

I am the one that is known as the Son
Of the G to the O to the D never done
With the flow in the know
On the go like a Pro
Not for show 'cause I aint
In the biz for the dough
Or the me or the ray
All the dough's gotta stay
'Cause I can't, no I can't take it home anyway
Never trite when I write
'Cause the Lord is my light
And His Word is my bond
So you know... He's alright

Jesus is still alright with me
 Jesus is still alright, oh yeah!
 Jesus is still alright with me
 Jesus is still alright...

(You know that He's alright!) ¹³

The band's primary songwriter, TobyMac (Toby McKeehan), retained the song's chorus but added a number of new verses consisting of his own lyrics. These lyrics were rapped. DC Talk's version also includes subtle lyric alterations, with the line "Jesus is just alright" being intermittently changed to "Jesus is still alright". Thus, DC Talk's recording can be seen as something of an update on the previous version. McKeehan changed the line in an attempt to express his feeling that Jesus was still alright with him even if many others did not share his beliefs. The song's lyrics also comment on the lack of acceptance and recognition that faith-based music often receives from mainstream radio. In addition to being musically based upon the earlier Byrds and Doobie Brothers' recordings, DC Talk's version of the song also features samples of Madonna's hit single "Vogue" and the Snap! song "The Power".

Your turn:

Over 2000 years after Jesus walked the earth, He is still "alright" with His current followers. He crosses over culture, generations, national identity, ethnicity, tradition, languages and political or economic classes.

Often Jesus is considered old fashioned and out of date. Why do you think this happens and what particular areas do people have the most problem with?

Why do you think it is important to use different styles of music to share Jesus and His message? Why do many people have such a problem with this?

more cool stuff

The Answerer



Because **God is transcendent** - there is much about Him we can't know or understand.

Because of this He provides **us Proof of Life** - through creation and it's physical and morals laws, our own soul cravings, math, music, and so much more.

As we investigate this Proof of Life - God's *General Revelation* about Himself, we are forced to **make choices** about if we believe in God and what kind of God He is. We go God Shopping. Some of us actually create our own gods, gods in our images, ones that look like bigger and better versions of ourselves - gods we now know are nothing more than idols.

These beliefs culminate in our **Worldview**, the framework through which we each make sense of life and the world

around us. Based on the **general revelation God provides** it is **possible to grasp the Truth that there is One and Only One God.**

But God is so much more. We need to finish the journey and come to an understanding of all His attributes, the totality of all the Proof of Life He has provided....yet even at this point we will need something more. **We need more information.** And God already knew that.

He provided what is called *Special Revelation*, two very extraordinary means of communication to man about His most marvelous and glorious Self.

He wrote us a book, which we now know as the Bible, and He came on a visit, in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, came to earth with the distinct purpose of making God known. John 1:18, Col. 1:15 - 20, Heb. 1: 1-4

Everything that is true of God, is true of Jesus.¹⁴

Let's look at what we know about Jesus -

Jesus was a real historical person

- Extra Biblical testimony - 39 separate reliable ancient sources cover over 100 facts concerning Jesus life and teachings
- From these historical sources we know he lived, gathered disciples, performed healings, and was sentenced to death by Pilate.
- Biblical sources in the NT are 99.5% free of textual discrepancies (which we have established are trustworthy, grounded in history, unique and accurate)
- Four gospel writers cover his life from birth, childhood and adulthood
- 515 people saw him between his resurrection and ascension into heaven
- 12 disciples lived with him for almost 3 years and went to their deaths proclaiming Him
- His brother James came to believe in Him
- Saul persecuted Him and then proclaimed Him
- What kind of historical proof is there that you lived?

What do we know about His life?

- He was born a Jew, in Bethlehem, in a stable to Mary and Joseph – Mary was a virgin
- He grew up in Nazareth, and was quite adept in the knowledge and wisdom of Jewish Scriptures
- His began public ministry when he was baptized by John the Baptist at age 30
- He selected 12 disciples
- Over the next three years, He performed numerous miracles, including healings, mass feedings, control over the power of nature, raising people from the dead and the ability to know the thoughts of others.
- He claimed to be the Messiah and drew crowds of people which upset both the Romans and the Jewish leaders
- He cleansed the Temple, calling out the Jewish leaders on their hypocrisy
- He taught His disciples and followers how to live, who He was, and about life in the Kingdom
- He lived a humble, righteous, gentle, sinless life, yet was tempted as we are and betrayed
- His three years of ministry changed the world forever
- 1 Peter 3:18, Phil. 2: 6-8, 2 Cor. 5:21, Heb. 2:18, 4:15, 1 Cor. 1:23

But is He God?

Does the Jesus of History = the Jesus of Faith? Jesus asks His disciples who the people say the Son of Man (referring to Himself) is? (Matt. 16: 13)

They answer, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Then Jesus says, "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answers – "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Jesus confirms that what Peter says is indeed the truth – He is the Christ.

Who do people say that He is today?

Perhaps a Great historical figure, a Great teacher, or a Good man

A Revolutionary, Prophet, or Sorcerer

Or even a Guru, Lunatic, an Angel, or a Myth.....

Or.....Jesus IS God

How do we know?

He was called things only God would be called

Here is what He said about Himself

- I and the Father are One – John 10:30
- Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father - John 14:9
- I AM (the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One) – Mark 14:62
- Before Abraham was, I AM – John 8:58
- I who speak to you am He (the Messiah, called Christ) – John 4: 26
- So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath. – Mark 2:27-28

Here are Names He called Himself

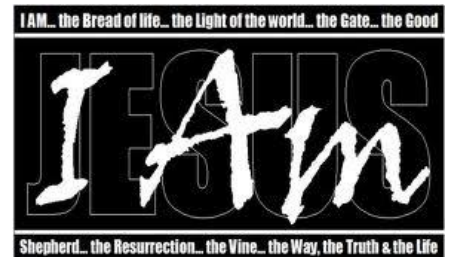
- **Son of God** – name given to Jesus at baptism and transfiguration by God, stresses His relationship to God, his exact likeness, equality with God and Godhood. Used 37 times in NT
- **Son of Man** – most often used by Jesus of Himself. – the Ideal Man, the representative of God’s people to God, total identification with suffering of mankind, the second Adam, the One who grants us access to God. Used 43 times in NT
- **The Christ** – (Greek translation of Messiah) true Messiah, anointed One, who comes to do what no one else could do – deal with their sins as well as rule and reign - true prophet, priest and King – will make good all promises and covenants to the Jewish nation, the Chosen People. Occurs 514 times in NT.

The I AM’s from the Gospel of John – These are things Jesus said He was - so we would really understand who He is.

- **Living Water** – John 4:10-14 – provision of divine renewal
- **Bread of Life** – John 6: 32-35 - source and sustainer of eternal life
- **Light of the World** – John 8:12, 9:5 – reveals truth and falsehood - shows the way
- **The Gate** – John 10:7-9 – only way into eternal life, only way out to new pastures
- **Good Shepherd** – John 10:11-14 – sacrificial protection, provision, and care of “sheep”
- **The Resurrection and the Life** – John 11:25 – giver of life and victory over death
- **The Way, the Truth, and the Life** – John 14:6 – everything we need for eternal life – the only access, the only knowledge, the only true experience of joy.
- **The True Vine** – John 15:1-5 – only way to learn to live a fruitful life

Other names for Jesus

- **Word** – John 1:1
- **Son of David** – suffering ones - Matt. 9:27, 12:23, 15:22
- **Immanuel** – God with us - Isaiah 7:14
- **Lord** – Matt. 7:21, Mark 11:3
- **Bridegroom** – Matt 25:1, Mark 2:19-20
- **First and Last** (Alpha and Omega) – Rev. 1:4-8
- **Ancient of Days** – Daniel 7:21-22
- **Firstborn** – Col. 1: 15-20, Heb. 1: 1-14



What others called Jesus

- Nicodemus – **Rabbi** – teacher from God – John 3:2
- John the Baptist - **Lamb of God** – John 1:29
- Demons - **Son of the Most High God** – Mark 5:1-7
- Pilate – **King of the Jews** – Luke 23:1-25, Mark 15:1-15
- Roman Centurion at Cross – **Son of God** – Matthew 27:54
- Peter – **Lord and Christ** – Acts 2:36
- Paul – **Son of God, The Christ** – Acts 9:20-22

He did things only God could do

- **Miracles** – just a selection
 - Born of a virgin – Matt 1:20-21, Luke 1:26-31
 - Water into wine – John 2:7-10
 - Walked on water – Matt.14:25-27
 - Multiplied bread – John 6:10-14
 - Opened eyes of blind – John 9:6-11
 - Made lame walk – Mark 2:3-12
 - Healed multitudes – Matt. 9:35-36
 - Raised the dead – John 11:30-45
 - Knew what men were thinking – John 2: 23-25
- **Cast out demons** – Mark 1:34
- **Tempted without sin** - Sinless life – 2 Cor. 5:21
- **Voluntarily emptied Himself** – Phil. 2:5-11
- **Forgave sins** – Mark 2: 5-11
- **Included the outcasts** – Luke 10:25-37, Luke 5:27-32
- **Authority to cleanse temple** – Matt. 21:12-15, Mark 11:15-18
- **Raised and judged the dead** – John 5:25-29
- **Gives Life** – John 5:21
- **Gave up his own life** – Matt. 27:50, Luke 23:46, John 19:30
- **The only way to the Father** – Matt. 10:32-33, Mark 8: 34-38
- **Reveals the Father** – John 14:9

He fulfilled Old Testament prophecy only God could fulfill

Below is just a **selection of the 322 Old Testament prophecies Jesus fulfilled** at astronomical odds

- **Born of a** woman (Gen. 3:15) who would be a **virgin** (Isaiah 7:14)
- From line of Abraham, tribe of Judah, **house of David** (Gen. 12:1-2, 22:17-18, 49:10, 2 Sam. 7:10-12, Matt. 1:1, Luke 3:23-33)
- **Born in Bethlehem** (Micah 5:2, Matt. 2:1)
- **Anointed by Holy Spirit** (Is. 11:2, Matt. 3:16-17)
- **Heralded by messenger of God** (Is. 40:3, Matt. 3:1-2)
- **Perform miracles** (Is. 35:5-6, Matt. 9: 35)
- **Cleanse temple** (Malachi 3:1, Matt. 21:12)
- **Enter as king riding on a donkey** (Zech. 9:9, Luke 19:32-38)
- **Rejected by own people** (Ps. 118:22, I Peter 2:7)
- **Die 483 years after 444 BC** (70 weeks of Dan. 9:20-27)
- **Had to die prior to 70 AD** (destruction of Jewish Temple – Daniel 9:20-27)
- **Die Humiliating Death** (Ps. 22:6-21, Luke 23:26-49)
- **Hands and feet pierced** (Ps. 22:16, John 20:25)
- **Crucified with thieves** (Is. 53:12, Luke 23:32-43)
- **Prayed for persecutors** (Is. 53:12, Luke 23:33-34)
- **Side Pierced** (Zech. 12:10, John 19:34)
- **Buried in rich man's tomb** (Is. 53:9, Matt. 27: 57-60)
- **Casting of lots for his garments** (Ps. 22:18, John 19:23-24)
- **Rise from the dead** (Ps. 16:10, Mark 16:6, Acts 2:31)
- **Ascend to heaven** (Ps. 68:18, Acts 1:9)
- **Sit at right hand of the Father** (Ps. 110:1, Heb. 1:3)

He embodied the attributes of God

- **I AM** – John 8:24, 58, Mark 14:60-62
- **Giver of Life** – John 5:21, 10:15-17, 11:25
- **Forgiver of Sins** – Mark 2:1-12, Acts 26:14-18, Col 2:13
- **Omnipresent** – Matt. 18:20, 28:20
- **Omniscient** – Matt. 11:27, Luke 5:4-6, John 2:25, 16:30, 21:17
- **Preexistent** – John 1:15,30, 3:13, 31-32, 6:62, 16:28, 17:5
- **Eternal** – Isaiah 9:6, Micah 5:2, John 8:58
- **Immutable** – Heb. 13:8
- **Righteous** – I Peter 3:18

He is God's man confirmed by God's signs

The Promise of a Messiah that came true.

God's answer

and solution

to the problem of evil, suffering and sin.

“Jesus did not come into the world to make bad people good, He came into the world to make dead people alive.” Ravi Zacharias¹⁵



Who do you say that He is?

What more do you need to know?

journal

5.7 Nitty Gritty

1. **Because God is trustworthy we have hope** that everything will turn out as He has promised no matter what our current circumstances.
2. **God will do what He says He will do.**
3. **We create idols because we want to control our lives.**
4. **Confession frees us** to move our focus from our idols, eventually destroying them altogether, to the amazing adventure of walking with God.
5. **Losing interest** is the first step to unfaithfulness.
6. **If Jesus is not Lord and Savior, Son of God,** He can only be a liar.....for He claims to be God.
7. **Confession is our part, forgiveness is Jesus' part.**
8. **We need to hang out with God more, so He rubs off on us.**
9. **Extra Credit Reading Recommendation:** Vintage Jesus by Mark Driscoll & Gerry Breshears and Primal by Mark Batterson.



Any final thoughts?

closure

Because it matters what we think about God

We have come to the end of **Faithful and True**, the fifth of the 12 OmniInfinity™ Journeys. This journey has caused us to **Remember** *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9) and **Read** Isaiah 53 and 55 and Luke 23-24.

We **Analyzed** by making a Chapter Summary, **Investigated** the Faithful and Trustworthy One, and **Practiced** Confession. We took **Inventory** of Who we trust and Why and went on an **Adventuring** Grocery Swap. We were challenged by The Answerer in **More Cool Stuff**. And finally, **Lyrics** spoke to our hearts and souls as we pondered the impact of God's Truth and Faithfulness to us through music.

The **Journal** guided us through discovering that not only do God's attributes and our lives collide, but **He rubs off on us**, impacting us at our very core. We still have that battle within us – the struggle over how to use our Free Will, to Glorify God or ourselves, to serve our own interests or those of others. **What we serve, we will worship** and God commands us to both serve and worship Him. Yet we rebel and that rebellion shows up in our **struggle with Self and Sin**.

It's so hard for us to admit we are sinful people, yet the **act of confession cleans us up and turns us around** going back in the right direction. The result of confession is **fresh access to God's forgiveness** and the power to live the life only He can offer.

His faithfulness is our model and yet we fall so far short. We see so few examples of faithful people in our current culture, as it seems **unfaithfulness is the spirit of our age**. But His promises always come true – He cannot break them – and the more we hang with HIM, His faithfulness starts to live itself out in our lives.

Who can we really trust but God? Yet, we don't trust Him because we see Him in our image, just a bigger version of ourselves, and we certainly cannot be trusted. **Because He is Faithful, he can be Trusted**. Truth is His Reality. Often we edit His Self Revelation to suit ourselves and at that point **we commit idolatry – believing things about God that aren't true**.

God sent His Son, Jesus, as His Answer to the problem of Sin, Suffering, and Evil. Jesus came, fully Man and fully God – God in the flesh, so that all could see, hear and touch the Almighty. The **most important question** we will need to answer in our lives is one that Jesus asks, **"Who do you say that I am ?"**

Now it's time to **think back** over this part of your journey and **reflect** on what you have discovered and learned. The sections below may help jog your memory. **Describe** the details of any areas that **apply** to you.

New Things I Learned



Old Things I was reminded of

Questions I have



Areas I was challenged in

First steps I took

Areas I would like to study more

“AHA!” moments



Dreams and visions

appendix

- [About the Journeys](#)
- [About Remembering](#)
- [About the Practices](#)

about the journeys...

Welcome to **OmniInfinity™**.. a series of guided journeys leading to greater knowledge and understanding of the attributes of God and the Spiritual Practices necessary to gain this knowledge.

The only requirement is a willingness to learn and discover through a variety of activities. Some elements you may naturally be drawn to, some will challenge you, and some may be way out of the box for you. It is important to do them all, in order, completing one journey before moving on to the next.

There are twelve journeys or units, **each designed to be completed in two months** - either by yourself, with a friend or in a small group setting. It is important to remember we all start from different places, we start with what we know and move on from there, but we are all traveling together.

journey elements

The following elements make up each journey and should be completed in order. Some of the elements require some advance planning, so you might want to review the entire contents of each journey before you begin. Use the Table of Contents to check off your progress.

Remember: One or more Bible verses to memorize for each journey unit.

Read: Throughout the twelve journey units you will read some of the most profound and well loved chapters in the Bible.

Analyze: A variety of Bible Study methods will be offered to help you analyze in greater depth a section of the Reading above. The goal of this section is to familiarize you with various ways to greater understand God's Word.

Investigate and 10 things: Each journey unit focuses on a group of God's attributes, defining terms, and completing a directed investigation page.

Practice and Why?: Part of growing in our relationship with God is the intentional practice of skills that have helped Christians from the beginning. Each journey unit will focus on one or more of these with instructions for developing each discipline skill. Some Practices involve doing a specific activity, while others require we stop doing certain things.

Inventory: A personal inventory will be completed regarding areas related to the attributes and skills studied in each unit, reviewing your personal history and evaluating your current practices and beliefs.

Adventuring: This section guides you to venture out into the world with a specific assignment to observe, interact with or impact your surroundings and neighborhoods. The intent is to allow God to reveal Himself through nature, media and other people.

Lyrics: You are encouraged to read the included song lyrics as poetry for your inspiration, go online and listen to the actual recordings and then reflect on the questions that follow.

Journal and More Cool Stuff: The author has included some musings and further information pertaining to the subject of each journey unit for your consideration, personal response and reflection.

Closure: At the conclusion of each journey there is a place to recap where you've been, what you learned, new thoughts, challenges, growing pains.....

enjoy the adventure ...

about remembering...



Think of this exercise as a necessary foundation for future excellence – like practicing scales on the piano or doing wind sprints or swimming laps, taking your vitamins, or eating your vegetables.

We actually recall or remember all kinds of things we've memorized without really even trying. Can you think of any?

How about your phone number, email address, street address, zip code, social security number, birthday, names of your family, how to get to work, how to drive a car, that secret recipe...or how to spell or multiply, song lyrics, movie scenes, jokes, what someone was wearing, what car they drove, sports statistics, what chocolate tastes like, what the ocean smells like, and on and on.

Why do we remember what we remember?

Recollection is just the tip of the memory iceberg. Within our marvelous and mysterious brain the memory works in collaboration with us and the world – it uses all our senses and emotions. We associate smells, colors, places, rituals, symbols, landmarks, even people, with memories and when we sense the trigger, we remember.

There are tremendous spiritual benefits from Remembering Bible verses:

- Strengthens our faith
- Shapes how we view the world
- Makes God's Word immediately accessible
- Guards our minds.....and that's just for starters.

Experts say that we will forget more in the first hour after our memory event than in one day, and more in the first day than the first month...What we remember for one month, will probably stay with us.....so the idea is to remember regularly for one month and we've got it.

Here are some suggestions to help you get started. We all learn differently – so don't be afraid to try some of the more unusual methods. Not only do we need to remember the verse, **we need to remember to work on remembering the verse.**

- Write the verse on several post it notes or index cards and put them where you will see them such as the car, the bathroom mirror, the kitchen sink, a bulletin board, your computer screen saver, your cell phone, by your bed....
- Make plans to spend five minutes, twice a day (usually as you get up and before bed) to review.
- Say it slowly, 15 times in a row, emphasizing each word.
- If you have already learned it in another translation, review that one. Once you know it in one, look it up in a couple of other translations to see what is different.
- Review it when you are waiting in line, or on hold on the phone.
- Sing it – make up a tune to go with it
- For extra credit, add the verse before and the verse after.

about the practices...

The Spiritual Practices put us in a place where we are better able to interact with our environment and God. God can then reach inside our spirits and transform them.

Just as our body needs to eat, breathe, exercise, drink, sleep, etc., so our spiritual self needs to make sure it is being sustained, cared for, and trained.

The results include spiritual growth, a life controlled by the Holy Spirit, evidence of the fruit of the spirit, and the ultimate goal, living life like Jesus did.

The Spiritual Practices are not:

- Meritorious laws that earn favor with God
- A way to show how spiritually mature we are
- Unpleasant or difficult

Instead, they are:

- Intentional
- Activities we do that when practiced allow us to do activities we cannot now do.
- Adaptable to work with our temperaments and gifts
- Adjustable according to the rhythm and seasons of our lives

There are two kinds

Practices of Abstinence - when we stop doing something that is perfectly normal to allow ourselves to focus more on God, His Word, and growing in godliness. These also help us resist our tendency toward sins of commission (when we do something we shouldn't do). We withdraw to breathe in all that God can provide to us, breaking the hold that the world has on our lives. Practices of Abstinence help ready us and create room for the Practices of Engagement.

Practices of Engagement - when we do certain activities that help us grow in Christ and obey his commandments. The Practices of Abstinence have opened up the time and broken up the preoccupations so we are now free to learn of, focus on, and practice those things that God commands us to do. These assist in keeping us from our tendency toward sins of omission (not doing the things we should do). We engage to breathe out all that God commands us. ¹¹

As their name implies, the Spiritual Practices are not one-time events, but skills to be learned and developed over time. So don't be discouraged in the beginning if you struggle with them or find them difficult. Make them a regular part of your life. In our Journeys we would rather **emphasize the actual practicing of the Practices** and not so much the reading about them.....and let you discover the benefits as they appear in your life.

credits

1. Ann Spangler, [Praying the Names of God](#), Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004, page 267. This book is a wonderful presentation of the history behind the names used for God in the Bible and works well as a daily devotional.
2. A. W. Tozer, [The Knowledge of the Holy](#), San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1961, pages 78. This is one of the classic concise explanations of the attributes of God. A must read for those who want to grow in their knowledge of God.
3. Bruce Shelley, [Theology for Ordinary People](#), Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1993, page 81.
4. Beth Moore, [Believing God Workbook](#), Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2002, page 48.
5. Timothy Keller, [Gospel in Life](#), Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010, pages 36-39.
6. Dallas Willard, [The Spirit of the Disciplines](#), San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1988, pages 187. This is a more in depth discussion on the subject of practices of abstinence and engagement.
7. John Ortberg, [The Life You've Always Wanted](#), Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002, page 187. A very user friendly book with personal, practical modern interpretations and applications of the spiritual practices.
8. St. Augustine (354-430 AD) was an ancient Roman Christian Theologian and the Bishop of Hippo from 396 to 430 AD. He was also one of the Latin Fathers of the Church.
9. Douglas Steere, [On Beginning from Within](#), New York: Harper & Brothers, 1942, page 80.
10. Richard Foster, [Celebration of Discipline](#), San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1978, page 134.
11. Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, "In Christ Alone", lyrics and music, Kingsway Thankyou Music, 2001.
12. Billy Joel, "Honesty", lyrics and music, 1979.
13. Arthur Reynolds, "Jesus is Just Alright", music and lyrics, 1965. Performed by DC Talk in 1992 as "Jesus is Still Alright".
14. Statistical data for this section compiled from [A Ready Defense](#) (Here's Life Publishers, 1990) and [Evidence That Demands a Verdict](#) (Campus Crusade for Christ, 1972) both by Josh McDowell.
15. Francis A. Schaeffer, [How Should We Then Live?](#), Old Tappan, NJ:Fleming H. Revell Company, 1976, page 205.

All scripture references noted by NIV are taken from [The Holy Bible, The New International Version](#), by International Bible Society, 1984, Zondervan Publishers, Grand Rapids.

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so what now?

Continue your OmniInfinity™ adventure with

- Journey Six: Good and Ready**
- Journey Seven: Bright, White and Right**
- Journey Eight: Hot, Hot, Hot**
- Journey Nine: O Mercy Me**
- Journey Ten: To Die For**
- Journey Eleven: Up Close and Personal**
- Journey Twelve: Perfect Ending**