

Be Still and Know: Beholding God in the Psalms

Lesson 7: You Alone Are God

Psalm 86

Main idea: The single most important response to the revealed character of God is faith/dependence expressed in prayer.

- I. **God is full of _____.** (vv. 1-7, 13-15, 17)
 - a. The Psalmist's condition: afflicted and needy, crying out, experiencing trouble, life threatened, hated
 - b. The Psalmist's confidence: the character of God and the conviction that He hears and answers prayer

"Nothing is more suitable to the true nature of God than to help the afflicted." – John Calvin

- II. **God is _____.** (vv. 2, 4, 16)
 - a. "godly man" in vs. 2 means loyal, devoted, faithful
 - b. "my Lord" – "Adonai" = master, sovereign – used 7 times in this Psalm
 - c. "son of your handmaid" (v. 16) – servant by birth, servant his whole life – His identity was deeply rooted in this position of submission!

III. God is _____ . (vv. 8-10)

- a. “gods”: all angels, all demons, all evil spirits, all principalities and powers and world rulers of this present darkness and the idols they promote (Eph. 6:12; 1 Cor. 8:6)

- b. When it comes to being an effective servant, the issue is not the instrument. It’s not your competence, your talent, your giftedness, or the size of your platform. The issue of your impact hinges on one question: *Have you beheld the incomparable greatness of God?*

IV. God is _____ . (vv. 11, 12)

- a. The jealousy of God means that He demands from those He has loved and redeemed utter and absolute loyalty (J.I. Packer, “Knowing God”)

- b. Wholehearted obedience

- c. Wholehearted awe

- d. Wholehearted gratitude

- e. Wholehearted display of God’s glory

Time to “marinate”:

- 1) What truth stood out to you the most from today’s lesson and why?
- 2) How has an increased understanding of the character and attributes of God changed the way you pray?
- 3) What most often keeps you from fully embracing your identity as God’s *servant*? In other words, what makes the kind of humility expressed in Psalm 86 a challenge for you?
- 4) What divisions currently exist in your heart? In other words, what competes with God for your affections? (you may have already written out an answer on day 5, question 3)
- 5) Some of the divisions in our hearts are really good things, important things (marriage, family, ministry, career, etc). In light of this, how do we keep them from becoming the ***MOST*** important things?