

Combined Service Message
June 28
There Is No One Like Our God!
Selected Scriptures

If God had a Facebook page, what would it look like? What would it emphasize? What questions would it answer? Would it demonstrate that God is actively and meticulously engaged in what happens in your life and in your world? Or would it portray God as distant, remote, and uncaring? Does God judge wrongdoers like ISIS in this life? Does God express wrath toward people and nations in this age? Or is God only kind, forgiving, and helpful to people in need? What exactly is God like? Is God a celestial police officer who looks for opportunities to pounce upon erring and straying people? Is the country song right when it says “God’s gonna get cha for that; ain’t no use to run or hide, cuz he knows where you’re at.” Or is he some kind gentlemanly grandfather who runs to fulfill every whim and fantasy of his subjects? Well whatever this FACEBOOK page might look like, one thing is certain. There is no one like our God! Indeed, getting to know God is a journey that begins with the day when you come to know him as your personal Savior and it will never end. In the trillions of years to come, you will ever be learning something new and exciting about our God. You will ever be growing in your understanding of those qualities of God which constitute what he is: those spellbinding characteristics of his nature. Today we would like to look at just a few of them that fall under the category of God’s greatness. And we will do so in a very practical way.

I. God is Independent

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” (Acts 17:24-25)

God does not need you or the rest of creation for anything. The three persons of the Godhead could’ve existed forever together and have been perfectly fine without you, the angels, or anyone or anything else. There

is nothing that God lacks or any way in which he is incomplete. There is nothing that you can give him that fills a void in him.

Well right about now you are saying, “Well that’s encouraging!” But just give me a minute and you will see how encouraging that is! What does this all mean?

1. God does not love you for what he can get from you since he needs nothing from you.

With absolutely pure motives, he chooses to love you. He does not need you to make him happy, but he is absolutely committed to bringing you joy that far exceeds anything else that this world can give you. John Piper writes, “With God the honeymoon never ends. (Take a moment and reflect on your honeymoon.) God says his joy over his people is like a bridegroom over a bride. He is talking about honeymoon intensity and honeymoon pleasures and honeymoon energy and excitement and enthusiasm and enjoyment. He is trying to get into our hearts what he means when he says he rejoices over us *with all his heart.*”

2. God does not need you and yet he has spent and will spend an eternity providing for you and serving you.

God thought of you before he created one galaxy or one planet. God ordered the events of history so that the day would come when his Son would die for you on the cross. Today in heaven Christ is serving you by building you a home that will exceed all of your dreams in the new heaven and new earth. Each day he serves you by being your advocate and your high priest before God the Father. When Satan accuses you, God answers “All is forgiven and all is forgotten!” Christ will come again and he will spend all of eternity lavishing you with his grace and goodness. And all this will come from someone who withheld from you what you deserved and daily and eternally gives you what you do not deserve. How great is our God! Not once has he used you, missused you, wrongfully manipulated you, or abused you.

II. God is infinite.

God is not subject to any limitations nor can he be subjected to any limitations.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable (Psalm 145:3). Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you (First Kings 8:27).

1. God is present everywhere.

God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being. There is no place where he cannot be found, and there is no space that can contain him. God is not localized. He cannot be left behind. And because he is present everywhere he is able to give his full undivided attention to millions of people at one time. God is present everywhere to punish, to sustain, or to bless.

*Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit?
to be out of your sight?*

If I climb to the sky, you're there!

If I go underground, you're there!

*If I flew on morning's wings
to the far western horizon,*

*You'd find me in a minute—
you're already there waiting!*

Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark!"

At night I'm immersed in the light!"

It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you;

night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.

(Psalm 139:7-10)

I want to focus on just one aspect of his omnipresence. He will always be there to sustain you. **(Story of Troy and Amy) I first got to know them when I taught them in my AP Bible class in high school. Later they would become a part of my extended family when my son Keith married Amy's sister. Troy and Keith went to the same seminary and both are pastors. Consequently, this tragedy is very personal to me. Troy and Amy had gathered with the family (about 100 people or more) and were celebrating Amy and her dad and mother's anniversary. Their five-year-old son had been playing with the other children and they took their eyes off of him for only about five minutes. When they looked around, he was gone. They would discover his body less than a half hour**

later. He'd walked away from the group down over a nearby bank and had drowned in the creek. You cannot understand the horror, the agony, the self blaming, and the paralyzing grief that followed. Yet the omnipresent God stepped into that situation and they felt deeply his presence, sustaining them as they dragged themselves through it. He reminded them again and again of how the child had sincerely and wholeheartedly given his life to God at the age of four. It has only been months, but the sustaining presence of God has never left their side. Because God is everywhere present he was able to give his undivided attention to Troy, Amy and the family and felt the pain of their hearts more deeply than they could even feel it. I am sure that for a moment the heavens convulsed with the shedding of a sympathizing tear. And I want you to know that whatever tragic or triumphant situation you may experience, God is there to both sustain you and to share it with you every day, every moment, every hour.

2. God knows everything!

God's knowledge is exhaustive and immeasurable. God fully knows himself, all people, and all things actual and genuinely possible. This means that God is always fully aware of everything. He could tell us the number of grains of sand on the seashore, the number of stars in the sky, and he would not have to count them all quickly like some giant computer. A sparrow cannot fall to the ground without him seeing it fall. He always knows all things at once. There is nothing that God needs to learn or nothing that he could be taught. It also means that if we go one billion years into the past or 10 trillion years into the future God sees clearly and knows vividly everything that has happened or will happen as if it were happening right now. Consequently God has knowledge and access to all information. He never has to revise or rethink any of his decisions because he will never receive any additional or incorrect information. He knows everything!

Great is our Lord... His understanding is beyond measure (Psalm 147:5). First John 3:20 says that "he knows everything."

1) Because God has an exhaustive knowledge of you he will in every situation know what is best for you both now and in the future.

2) Because God knows everything he will always be able to give the best answer to your prayers.

3) Because God remembers everything vividly, it demonstrates how gracious he is in forgiving us. When the Bible says that God forgets our sins, it does not mean that he no longer knows them, but that even in knowing them he refuses to allow them to affect our relationship with him. That is amazing grace!

4) God hears the cry of our hearts and at every moment knows the condition of our souls. He knows how we are hurting from that biting remark, how we are rejoicing over that new promotion, how we are grieving over the loss of an animal. He knows our fear that he could not possibly forgive us of that sin or that the things that we do don't really matter. **Interestingly, doctors have discovered that the cry of a newborn infant means far more than that they are hungry or need their diaper changed. Doctors at Brown University have developed a computer program that analyzes the cry of these babies. They have discovered that the analysis of a baby's crying can signal that there is something wrong with the baby's nervous system and probably a host of other things.** If we humans are discovering this, imagine what God knows about the cry of every child.

3. God has the power to do all his holy will.

Jeremiah 32:17 says, *“Lord God, it is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.”*

It is important to realize that we are not saying that God can do anything. He cannot do those things which go against his nature or character. He cannot lie, die, be tempted, or renege on a promise. But he has unlimited power to do anything that his holy will chooses to do. He can overcome seemingly insurmountable problems such as enabling Sarah to birth a child many years passed any capability that she would've had to do so. He has the power over nature to perform miracles such as turning water into wine or healing all sorts of diseases. He can change the hearts of people who hate him and overcome addictive behaviors or sinful habits that have gone on for years. He has the power to keep all of his promises even when the devil sets up every roadblock possible.

***Many signs and billboards in the path of Hurricane Charley were no match for the violent storm. However one billboard resisted the hurricane's violent 100 mile winds and still stands. Interestingly, the advertisement that was there was peeled back to reveal an earlier message. It read "We need to talk! God."

***I will never forget when God spared me from the blood cancer multiple myeloma and instead localized that cancer in one spot. It baffled the doctors but it did not baffle our God! I will never forget when he liberated me from the neurological disease, Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia, and enabled me to instantly get up and walk after five years in a wheelchair. There is no one like our God!

Conclusion

All of us remember saying the simple grace before meals which began with "God is great..." What we discovered in this message is what comes under the heading of God's greatness. God is great in that he does not need you or the creation for anything but he has included you to one day enjoy everything. God is great in that he is not and cannot be limited in any way. He is present everywhere! He knows everything! He has the power to do anything that he chooses! Why not share some of that with your little child when they say, "God is great. God is good. And we thank him for our food." Our God is an awesome God. In the words of the song, "indescribable, uncontainable you placed the stars in the sky and you know them by name. You are amazing, God! Incomparable, unchangeable you see the depths of my heart and you love me the same. You are amazing, God!