

Do we fully understand the complexities of genes and DNA, or stars, planets and solar systems? Do we completely comprehend the complexities of God, or of ourselves or those closest to us? Even so, this God declares he cares for us humans? What is your response to this God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?



John 16:12-15

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

Reflections

Today's sermon challenges us with one of the many things about our God that goes far beyond our understanding. As we try to wrap our limited human minds around the concept of the Trinity, we come to the end of ourselves. Do we release the need to understand all the things of God or do we struggle and become frustrated? **To follow Him as believers we must be truly humbled and realize that we are not meant to understand all things, yet we are meant to continually grow.**

In any love relationship, it takes really getting to know the other person in order to determine their worthiness of our love. Our love deepens as we share life with them, and we understand more about their character as time is spent together in many circumstances. And so it is in relationship with God.

We get to know God's character through the Bible, by observing His actions over the sweep of history. God is unchangeable. That same character we witness

through scripture is mirrored in our everyday life with God. He is unchangeable and we can count on Him.

Reading God's Word has a cumulative effect to one's understanding of the attributes of God. As you read, look beyond getting a "verse of the day." Instead, look first for broad truths; principles that stand the test of time from one point in history to another. Begin to make notes in your Bible about the attributes of God you observe. Let the Bible teach you first about who God is, then it will follow that you will learn how to live in His presence.

Over the years, I've dug into the Bible along side many different people and watched how they have digested scripture in a journey to more deeply know, love, and trust Jesus. At some point, most everyone reaches a point of confusion or frustration. The Bible is no easy read! But maybe we make it harder than it has to be.

Focus on what you are learning. The Word becomes much more approachable when we

reflect on and apply those things that speak to us in scripture, those things to which the Spirit draws our attention, rather than getting stumped by what we don't understand.

Summer is a great opportunity to try something new; to learn for the sake of learning and to enjoy the process. I invite you to follow along with our daily readings and questions through the summer. You'll find them printed in the Update each week. Clip them out and put them with your Bible. Read beyond what is listed, as you feel led by the Spirit.

You can understand the nature of this God who loves you so much. Each and every day will be enriched with hope and guidance through the Word of God. So dig in, then test and apply what you are learning. Find ways to talk with other believers about your discoveries and questions. Feel free to email me with your insights and struggles. Who knows, perhaps you'll be sharing some of your faith journey with others in the *Readings & Reflections* next year!

—Karen Heist

Readings

Sunday, May 30

Psalm 119:1-8

Psalm 119 is a love poem to honor the law of Almighty God. This week we read Psalm 119 in the context of the Gospel of Jesus, knowing we are saved and perfected through His sacrifice and grace. With that in mind, what does it mean for you to praise the Lord with *an upright heart*?

Monday, May 31

Psalm 119:9-16

Consider a situation in your life that would benefit from the encouragement and guidance that flows out of God's Word which has been *hidden in your heart*. How can you hide the Word in your heart for help in your future?

Tuesday, June 1

Psalm 119:57-64

We are living in the fullness of God's grace and forgiveness. At the same time, we are still growing as disciples. How does this scripture prompt you to reflect on your obedience to God?

Wednesday, June 2

Psalm 119:97-105

What precepts of God would you pass along to someone you love dearly? How do you share these truths?

Thursday, June 3

Psalm 119:113-120

The psalmist writes that he hates "double-minded" men, those who say one thing and do another. Yet it is clear the psalmist knows he is a sinner and needs God's mercy. How does double-minded thinking interfere with you living as He would choose? How do you combat it?

Friday, June 4

Psalm 119:145-152

What is going on in your life that gives you cause to call out to God? Take some time in prayer to speak to Him about these things. The read verse 151 aloud. How does this give you assurance?

Saturday, June 5

Psalm 119:169-176

Even the faithful *stray as lost sheep* and need God to seek us out. What does it tell us about God, that He would do so? How does that sense of His true character encourage you today?

Don't have a Bible? Access these scriptures at biblegateway.com.