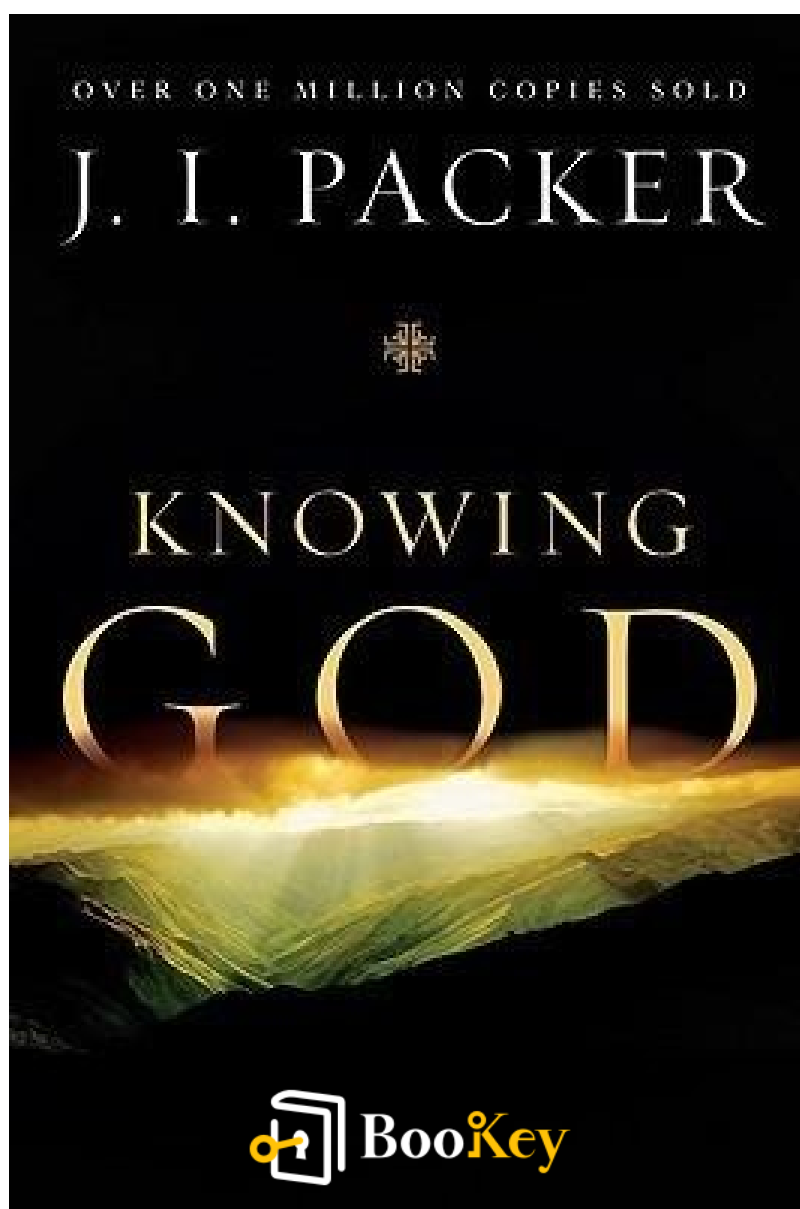


Knowing God PDF

J.I. Packer



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Deepening Your Relationship with the Divine
Through Understanding.

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About the book

For over four decades, J.I. Packer's timeless classic, "Knowing God," has served as a transformative resource for Christians worldwide, inviting them to explore the beauty and joy of a personal relationship with God. Recognized by Christianity Today as one of the top 50 books shaping evangelical thought, this updated edition features Americanized language and a fresh preface by the author. Packer expertly intertwines the significance of knowing about God with the profound experience of knowing Him through Jesus Christ. Structured in three enlightening sections, the book addresses how we come to know God, delves into His attributes, and highlights the blessings of an intimate relationship with the divine. With its engaging tone and depth of insight, "Knowing God" enriches the reader's understanding and encourages a deeper connection with the Creator.

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About the author

J.I. Packer is a distinguished theologian and the Board of Governors' Professor of Theology at Regent College, recognized as one of the most influential evangelicals in America by TIME magazine. Celebrated as “a doctrinal Solomon,” Dr. Packer has played a pivotal role in mediating important theological debates within the evangelical community, helping to bridge divisions among diverse denominations. His seminal work, **Knowing God**, published in 1973, offers a comprehensive articulation of shared beliefs that resonates with conservative Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, and many others. Packer's ability to address profound subjects with clarity and precision has made him a vital voice among American evangelicals for over four decades. He continues to inspire and educate students at Regent College, where his insightful teaching and influential writings are highly regarded.

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Chapter 1 Summary : The Study of God



Section	Summary
Introduction	C. H. Spurgeon highlighted the importance of studying God's nature, works, and existence for Christians, emphasizing it leads to profound growth.
Who Needs Theology?	Studying theology is crucial for meaningful living, especially in a skeptical age. Ignoring God's nature causes confusion; understanding is necessary despite doubts.
The Basic Themes	Key themes include understanding God's self-existence, infinity, justice, mercy, and their implications for worship and behavior, which are often neglected in modern teaching.
Knowledge Applied	The goal of theological study should be to know God intimately, fostering a relationship that encourages service and obedience rather than mere knowledge.
Meditating on the Truth	Transformative knowledge requires meditation on God's truths, leading to prayer and spiritual growth, reinforcing humility and reassurance about His nature.
Conclusion	The chapter urges prioritizing understanding and relationship with God through study and meditation for a transformative experience.

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 1: KNOWING GOD

INTRODUCTION

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On January 7, 1855, C. H. Spurgeon emphasized that while the study of humanity is important, the study of God—His nature, works, and existence—should be paramount for Christians. Contemplating God is both humbling and expansive, leading to profound intellectual and spiritual growth.

WHO NEEDS THEOLOGY?

The necessity of studying theology remains relevant today. Understanding God is essential for meaningful living, especially amid modern skepticism. Ignoring God's nature leads to confusion and unfulfilling existence. Starting our theological journey requires acknowledging the current debates and doubts about God, but it is imperative to proceed regardless.

THE BASIC THEMES

The exploration of God's nature includes understanding His qualities, powers, and moral perfection. Themes include God's self-existence, infinity, justice, mercy, and the implications these have for worship and human behavior. An



understanding of these attributes was once central to Christian education, yet modern teachings often neglect them.

KNOWLEDGE APPLIED

Before delving deeper, it is crucial to assess one's intentions in studying God. The ultimate aim should not be merely theological knowledge for its own sake, but rather to know God intimately. True knowledge leads to a desire for a practical relationship with Him, echoing the psalmist's plea for understanding in service and obedience to God.

MEDITATING ON THE TRUTH

Transforming knowledge about God into a personal experience requires meditation. This involves thoughtful reflection on God's truths, leading to prayer and praise. Meditation, often overlooked today, is vital for spiritual growth and communion with God, encouraging both humility and reassurance as one contemplates His greatness and mercy.

In conclusion, the chapter asserts that the pursuit of knowing God is both essential and transformative, urging readers to



prioritize their understanding and relationship with Him through thoughtful study and meditation.

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Example

Key Point: The pursuit of knowing God transforms our lives and deepens our understanding of our faith.

Example: Imagine sitting alone in a quiet room, taking a deep breath as you slowly close your eyes. You set aside the distractions of your day, such as your phone buzzing with alerts or the noise of the city outside, to focus solely on the nature of God. You contemplate His infinite mercy and justice, realizing how these divine qualities impact your personal life choices and relationships. This reflection deepens your faith, igniting a desire not just to understand God academically but to engage with Him prayerfully and intimately. You emerge from this time filled with a renewed sense of purpose and direction, striving to embody His attributes in your daily life.



Chapter 2 Summary : The People Who Know Their God



SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 2: KNOWING GOD

Introduction to Knowing God

- The author reflects on a conversation with a scholar who sacrificed career aspirations for the gospel of grace, emphasizing that knowing God transcends academic accolades.
- The chapter examines the rarity of individuals confidently claiming they have genuinely "known" God beyond just having a conversion testimony.



Knowing versus Knowing About

- Many should differentiate between knowing a lot about God and truly knowing Him.
- It's possible to possess immense theological knowledge without genuine familiarity with God's presence.
- A variety of teachings on Christian living exist, but understanding of God Himself is crucial for a genuine Christian experience.

Evidence of Knowing God

1.

Great Energy for God

:

- Those who know God are compelled to act decisively in His name.
- Daniel and his friends exemplified this courage through their public stands for their faith, driven by a desire to honor God greatly.

2.

Great Thoughts of God

:



- Knowing God ignites profound respect and contemplation about His sovereignty.

- Daniel's prayers reflect appreciation for God's wisdom and power, an attitude essential for believers.

3.

Great Boldness for God

:

- Knowing God leads to courageous steps, as demonstrated by Daniel and his friends who prioritized loyalty to God regardless of risks.

- True followers will stand firm in their convictions, is unaffected by peer pressures.

4.

Great Contentment in God

:

- A deep relationship with God brings an unparalleled peace, rooted in assurance of His love and care for personal providence.

- The contentment of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the face of death is a testament to their profound trust in God.

First Steps to Knowing God

- Individuals must recognize their spiritual poverty and the



need for deeper knowledge of God beyond mere theological understanding.

- Seeking a relationship with Jesus Christ is pivotal, paralleling the examples in the Old Testament where God manifested Himself to aid believers in knowing Him better. This chapter ultimately emphasizes that genuine knowledge of God leads to transformative effects on one's life including energy, thoughts, boldness, and contentment—elements that are evident in true believers.



Example

Key Point: Genuine relational knowledge of God transcends mere theology, igniting transformative energy and boldness in believers.

Example: Imagine waking up each day with a renewed sense of purpose, fueled by the profound understanding that you are known and loved by God. This is not just about reciting doctrines or attending church; it is about an intimate relationship where your thoughts about God inspire you to act decisively in His name. Just as Daniel refused to bow to earthly pressures, you too might find yourself standing firm in your convictions, driven by the warmth of His presence. This deep familiarity cultivates a sense of peace in trials, allowing you to face life's challenges with unwavering contentment, knowing you are upheld by His providence.



Chapter 3 Summary : Knowing and Being Known



Section	Summary
Purpose of Life	Created to know God; knowledge of God is the ultimate source of joy and described as eternal life in John 17:3.
The Value of Knowing God	Knowledge of God surpasses wisdom, strength, or wealth (Jeremiah 9:23-24), and shapes our priorities.
Understanding Knowledge of God	Involves a relationship deeper than mere acquaintance; recognizing our purpose alleviates life's absurdity.
Complexity of Knowing God	More intricate than knowing inanimate objects or living beings; human relationships add complexity due to secrets.
Illustration of Knowing God	A relationship with someone of great stature; God communicates through Scripture, inviting humility and service.
Elements of Knowing God	Includes listening to God's Word, understanding His nature, acting in obedience, and rejoicing in His love.
Ways to Know God	Knew God framed in familial and relational terms; true knowledge comes through Jesus Christ's divine presence.
Knowing Jesus Christ	Personal relationship akin to that of the original disciples; experienced through faith in Jesus' words and promises.
Personal Relationship with God	Involves emotional involvement, grace, and personal dealings; transcends mere theological knowledge.
Being Known by God	God's intimate knowledge fosters security and humility, promoting worship and highlighting our relationship's comfort.



SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 3: KNOWING GOD

Purpose of Life

- We were created to know God.
- The ultimate aim and source of joy in life is the knowledge of God, which is described as eternal life in John 17:3.

The Value of Knowing God

- Knowledge of God is superior to wisdom, strength, or wealth (Jeremiah 9:23-24).
- This knowledge gives God pleasure and shapes our priorities and values.

Understanding Knowledge of God

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Chapter 4 Summary : The Only True God

IDOLATRY AND THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

Idolatry is commonly associated with visible forms of worship, such as pagan symbols or statues, but more subtle forms exist. The second commandment explicitly prohibits making any idol to worship, whether of God or false gods, emphasizing that the manner of worship is crucial. This commandment addresses the invocation of images in worship, regardless of whether they represent the true God or not.

THE DANGERS IN IMAGES

The prohibition against images in worship may seem unnecessary at first since many find them helpful. However, the commandment indicates that all forms of likeness—whether of gods or Jesus as a man—detract from God's glory and misrepresent His nature. Images, rather than



enhancing worship, obscure and distort the truth about God, leading to misconceptions about His character.

MOLTEN IMAGES AND MENTAL IMAGES

The commandment forbids not only physical images but also mental representations of God. People often have personal interpretations of God that stray from biblical truths, leading to a distortion of His identity. Speculative notions about God's nature that are not grounded in scripture further perpetuate idol worship.

LOOKING TO THE TRUE GOD

A key question arises regarding our adherence to the second commandment: Do we worship the true God of the Bible or a substituted version? Authentic worship is tied to understanding God as revealed in Jesus Christ. To genuinely know God, believers must engage with scripture and Christ's work rather than relying on personal or cultural images.

ADDITIONAL NOTE (1993)

Some argue against the complete prohibition of images based



on artistic expression and the innate human tendency to imagine. While expressing devotion through art is valid, any representational image of God remains in conflict with the commandment. Symbolic representations can aid in understanding without serving as depictions of God that mislead the faithful. Thus, wisdom advises caution in using images even within a worship context.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The prohibition of images in worship is not merely a matter of artistic expression but fundamentally concerns the essence of God.

Critical Interpretation: Packer emphasizes that both physical and mental images can misrepresent God's true nature, potentially leading to idolatry which distorts authentic worship. He suggests that understanding God requires grounding in scripture rather than personal interpretation. However, one might argue that art can serve as a valuable tool for contemplation and connection, as discussed in sources such as "Image and Imagination in the Bible" by Francesca Stavrakopoulou, which explores the complexity of imagery and representation in spiritual contexts. This highlights the ongoing debate about the role of images in faith and encourages readers to critically assess Packer's perspective.



Chapter 5 Summary : God Incarnate



Section	Summary
Understanding Difficulties in Faith	Many struggle with the gospel due to complexities, particularly regarding atonement, resurrection, virgin birth, and miracles.
The True Mystery: The Incarnation	The Incarnation, where Jesus is God made man, reveals profound mysteries, including the plurality of persons in God and the divine-human union in Jesus.
Who Is This Child?	Jesus' humble birth contrasts his divine nature, underscoring his unique identity as God's Son.
1. The Baby Born at Bethlehem Was God	The New Testament affirms Jesus as the only begotten Son of God, emphasizing his personal deity and eternal presence with God.
2. The Baby Born at Bethlehem Was God Made Man	The mystery of the Incarnation signifies Jesus becoming fully human while retaining divinity, essential for his role as a high priest.
Born to Die	The Incarnation is linked to Christ's mission of salvation, culminating in his sacrificial death and embodying deep personal sacrifice.
The Kenosis Controversy	The kenosis theory lacks biblical support; Jesus' limitations are viewed as submission to the Father's will, not relinquishment of divinity.
He Became Poor	Jesus' incarnation is a profound act of love and sacrifice, urging Christians to embody selflessness and serve others.
Conclusion	The chapter emphasizes understanding the Incarnation in faith and encourages living out its principles as expressions of love and concern for others.

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 5: THE GREATEST

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MYSTERY

Understanding Difficulties in Faith

Many individuals struggle to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ due to complexity and mystery surrounding its core truths. Common points of contention include the atonement, the resurrection, the virgin birth, and miracles attributed to Jesus.

The True Mystery: The Incarnation

However, the most profound mystery lies in the Incarnation—the belief that Jesus was God made man. This claim encompasses two mysteries: the plurality of persons in the unity of God and the union of divine and human natures in Jesus. Understanding the Incarnation illuminates other aspects of Christian belief, such as atonement and resurrection.

Who Is This Child?

Gospels detail Jesus' humble birth, highlighting the stark



contrast between his divine nature and his human circumstances. This event is not merely a historical account but signifies the identity of the child as God's Son, uniquely and personally divine.

1. The Baby Born at Bethlehem Was God

The New Testament frequently emphasizes that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. John's Gospel clarifies that this Sonship signifies Jesus' personal deity, countering claims that Jesus was merely another divine being. The prologue of John's Gospel articulates the divine nature of Christ, emphasizing that he was eternally present with God and instrumental in creation.

2. The Baby Born at Bethlehem Was God Made Man

The mystery of the Incarnation signifies that Jesus became fully human without relinquishing his divinity. His human experiences, including temptation and suffering, were essential for his role as a sympathizing high priest for humanity. This union of natures is a profound mystery that surpasses human understanding.



Born to Die

The purpose of the Incarnation is intricately linked to Christ's redemptive mission. The Incarnation was always intended to facilitate salvation, culminating in Jesus' sacrificial death. The notion of Christ's poverty encompasses not just material deprivation but a deep personal sacrifice for the sake of humanity.

The Kenosis Controversy

The kenosis theory, which argues that Jesus temporarily relinquished divine attributes to become human, faces criticism for lacking biblical support. Instead, Jesus' limitations in knowledge and power during his earthly life are understood as part of his submission to the Father's will, highlighting his humility and obedience while remaining fully divine.

He Became Poor

Jesus' incarnation signifies a profound act of love and sacrifice, leading to the hope of redemption for humanity.



The essence of the Christmas spirit reflects this ethos of selflessness and service, urging Christians to embody the same spirit of poverty for others' enrichment rather than pursuing personal comfort.

Conclusion

The chapter encourages a deeper understanding of the Incarnation and its significance in Christian faith, urging believers to live out its principles throughout the year, as genuine expressions of the Christmas spirit are marked by love and concern for others.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Complexity of the Incarnation

Critical Interpretation: Packer emphasizes the Incarnation as God becoming man, presenting it as the most significant mystery of Christian faith. However, this duality presents philosophical and theological challenges that not all scholars agree on. For instance, critics like Bart Ehrman argue that the synoptic gospels present conflicting views on Jesus' nature and mission, suggesting that uncertainty about the Incarnation's interpretation contributes to broader difficulties in accepting Christian beliefs. While Packer's argument serves as a central pillar of orthodox Christianity, it invites skepticism and deeper inquiry into how theology delineates between divine revelation and human comprehension, urging readers to critically evaluate doctrinal claims against historical and textual analysis.



Chapter 6 Summary : He Shall Testify

Section	Summary
The Trinity in Christianity	Christians believe in one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, forming the foundation of Christian faith; however, this concept is often neglected in practice.
Understanding the Persons of the Trinity	John emphasizes the importance of the Trinity, particularly regarding Jesus Christ's identity. The Holy Spirit is promised as a Comforter who is distinct yet divine, paralleling the essence of God.
The Holy Spirit: Ignorance Within the Church	The Holy Spirit's role is frequently overlooked, with limited discourse compared to Jesus. This neglect affects comprehension of Christian faith and His active presence in believers' lives.
Common Misunderstandings	Many Christians misunderstand the Holy Spirit's mission, often seeing Him as an abstract idea rather than an active presence.
Reflection on Church Practices	A lack of acknowledgment of the Holy Spirit suggests a disconnect in recognizing His role, raising concerns about modern Christian faith's authenticity.
The Importance of the Holy Spirit's Work	The Holy Spirit's work is crucial for Christianity, influencing the existence of the gospel and enabling faith and new birth in believers.
Our Proper Response to the Holy Spirit	Recognizing and relying on the Holy Spirit's authority is vital in faith, life, and witness. Church vitality may depend on a renewed focus on honoring His role.

THE TRINITY IN CHRISTIANITY

Christians worship one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, a concept encapsulated in the doctrine of the Trinity. This doctrine forms the foundation of Christian faith, although it is often seen as a mysterious theological concept that can be disregarded in practice. Many congregations neglect teachings concerning the Trinity, raising questions about its centrality in the Christian gospel.

UNDERSTANDING THE PERSONS OF THE



TRINITY

The apostle John emphasizes the significance of the Trinity, particularly in understanding Jesus Christ's divine nature. In his Gospel's opening, John introduces the "Word" as both in relation to God and as God himself. This sets the stage for grasping Jesus' identity as God the Son. Furthermore, during Jesus' last discourse with his disciples, He promises another Comforter, the Holy Spirit, indicating a continuation of His ministry in the world.

-

The Holy Spirit as Comforter:

The term "Comforter" embodies a range of supportive roles. The new Comforter, the Holy Spirit, is depicted as a distinct person who provides care and guidance.

-

Divine Nature of the Holy Spirit:

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Chapter 7 Summary : God Unchanging

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 7: KNOWING GOD

Pursuit of Understanding God

The chapter begins with the assertion that the Bible is fundamentally the Word of God, intended to guide believers in understanding Him and His will. Despite belief in this truth, readers often find themselves puzzled and frustrated while engaging with biblical texts, feeling disconnected from the narrative and context which seem far removed from their modern lives.

Two Different Worlds

The initial struggle stems from the significant cultural and temporal gap between contemporary believers and the biblical world. Readers feel like mere spectators of a historical account that appears irrelevant to their lives. This dissonance creates a sense of isolation when considering how God's work in biblical times relates to present-day believers.



Not Two Different Gods

To bridge this gap, it's emphasized that the God of the Bible is unchanging. The chapter discusses God's immutability through several points:

1.

God's Life

: God exists eternally and remains unchanged, unlike creation which is mutable.

2.

God's Character

: His moral attributes are constant, unaffected by time or circumstances.

3.

God's Truth

: God's words and promises hold eternal validity, so believers can rely on them today.

4.

God's Ways

: His actions towards humanity maintain consistency through the ages, treating believers in a manner similar to biblical figures.

5.



God's Purposes

: His plans are eternal and unalterable; nothing surprises Him, and His promises will be fulfilled.

6.

God's Son

: Jesus Christ is unchanging, continuing to intercede for believers with the same power as in biblical times.

We Are to Be Like Them

This understanding of God's unchanging nature erases the perceived distance between modern believers and those from biblical times. Believers today can experience the same nature of fellowship with God, which should challenge them to seek a deeper communion and higher moral standards, reflecting the experiences of early Christians. The chapter concludes by reminding readers of God's eternal reliability amid life's uncertainties.



Example

Key Point: Understanding God requires recognizing His unchanging nature and personal relationship with Him.

Example: Imagine sitting quietly in a church, feeling distant and disconnected from the ancient stories of the Bible. You struggle to see how the God of scripture relates to your daily life, your trials at work, and the complexities of modern relationships. Yet, as you reflect on the concept of God's immutability, you realize that just like the early believers, you too can experience His steadfast love and guidance today. When faced with uncertainty or heartache, you find solace in knowing that God's promises are as reliable now as they were thousands of years ago. This realization invites you to deepen your relationship with Him, to pursue a communion that transcends time and culture and assures you of His presence in your life.



Chapter 8 Summary : The Majesty of God

MAJESTY OF GOD

The concept of **majesty**

derives from Latin, meaning **greatness**

. When we refer to someone as majestic, we recognize and respect their greatness, as seen in titles like “Her Majesty” for a queen. The Bible associates majesty with the greatness of God, portraying Him as:

-

Reigning in Majesty

: Psalm 93:1-2 and Psalm 145:5 emphasize God's glorious splendor and His royal authority.

-

Central to Worship

: God’s majesty invites worship, highlighting His greatness that stands above all.



MODERN PERCEPTIONS OF GOD

Today, many Christians possess a limited view of God's greatness, leading to a feeble faith and lackluster worship. There's a tendency to see God as overly personal and relatable, equating His character with human weakness, rather than recognizing His infinite nature. The understanding of God's personal yet majestic nature is crucial.

GOD IN GENESIS: PERSONAL AND MAJESTIC

The opening chapters of Genesis highlight God's personal interaction:

-

Personal Nature

: God engages in self-dialogue, creates, and shows emotional responses.

-

Majestic Power

: God is portrayed as the Creator, with authority over life and the natural order.

His actions establish His unlimited presence, knowledge, and power, as exemplified in Psalm 139, where the psalmist



reflects on God's omnipresence and omniscience.

UNLIMITED GREATNESS

Understanding God's greatness involves two steps:

1.

Remove Limitations

: Recognize that God's presence and knowledge cannot be confined. Psalm 139 illustrates this, demonstrating that one cannot escape God's watchful eye.

2.

Comparison with Greatness

: Isaiah 40 invites reflection on God's tasks compared to human limitations, emphasizing His unmatched strength.

THE INCOMPARABLE ONE

Isaiah 40 emphasizes God's greatness:

- In creation and control over nature.
- His dominance over the nations, viewed as insignificant.
- His command over human rulers and the celestial bodies, showcasing His supreme authority.

OUR RESPONSE TO MAJESTY

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Isaiah challenges us with three essential questions that compel reflection on our understanding of God:

1.

Misconceptions of God

: Are we assigning human limits to God?

2.

Self-Doubt

: Have we wrongly believed that God has abandoned us?

3.

Unbelief in God's Majesty

: Do we doubt God's sovereign power over creation?

These questions encourage a deeper meditation on God's majesty, renewal of strength through faith, and a call to worship Him appropriately.

In summary, recognizing and revering the majesty of God is essential for a vibrant faith and meaningful worship.



Chapter 9 Summary : God Only Wise

WISDOM IN GOD

The Bible describes God's wisdom as a moral and intellectual quality that combines intelligence with the right intentions. Wisdom involves recognizing and choosing the highest goals and the best means to achieve them. It is considered a fundamental aspect of God's character, making Him wholly wise in all His actions.

WISDOM: OURS AND GOD'S

Human wisdom can be hindered by external factors, as seen in the story of Ahithophel, whose advice was ignored by Absalom, leading to his despair. In contrast, God's wisdom is inseparable from His omnipotence, meaning that it cannot be thwarted. God's wisdom works in conjunction with His power across creation, providence, and grace, ensuring that His divine purposes are fulfilled. Misunderstanding God's wisdom often leads to erroneous beliefs about a trouble-free life; however, God's intention does not guarantee comfort but seeks to draw people to a place of love and obedience.



towards Him.

GOD DEALING WITH HIS PEOPLE

Scriptural narratives illustrate God's wise dealings with individuals, such as Abraham's growth in faith, Jacob's transformation from deceit to dependence on God, and Joseph's rise from slavery to leadership. Each story showcases a unique way God guided these figures to develop trust and faithfulness, with His wisdom crafting their journeys to fulfill divine purposes, both personally and for the greater good of His people.

OUR PERPLEXING TRIALS

Challenges faced by Christians today reflect the same divine wisdom that guided biblical figures. These trials serve as opportunities for growth and deeper reliance on God. They

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Chapter 10 Summary : God's Wisdom and Ours

Topic	Description
Attributes of God	Exploration of God's characteristics, divided into incommunicable and communicable attributes.
Incommunicable Attributes	Qualities highlighting God's transcendence and uniqueness: Independence, Immutability, Infinity, Simplicity.
Communicable Attributes	Qualities shared with humanity: spirituality, freedom, omnipotence, and moral attributes (goodness, truth, holiness).
Restoration of God's Image	Post-Fall, God's image in man is defaced but is restored in believers through redemption in Christ.
Pursuit of Wisdom	The Bible, especially Proverbs, emphasizes the importance of seeking divine wisdom.
Prerequisites for Wisdom	Reverence for God: Acknowledging God's sovereignty. Receiving God's Word: Engaging with Scripture to cultivate wisdom.
Misconceptions of Wisdom	Many believe wisdom gives insight into all of God's plans, which can lead to confusion.
Realism in Wisdom	Wisdom is about appropriate living and responses in daily life, rather than understanding every divine purpose.
Teachings of Ecclesiastes	Encourages realistic facing of life's transient nature and the unpredictability of God's providence.
Conclusion on Wisdom	Wisdom encompasses reverence for God, living in the present, and involves faithfulness, leading to transformation and Christlikeness.

Attributes of God

Incommunicable Attributes

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- These qualities emphasize God's transcendence and uniqueness, distinguishing Him from humanity:
 - Independence (self-existence and self-sufficiency)
 - Immutability (freedom from change, leading to consistency)
 - Infinity (freedom from limits of time and space; eternity and omnipresence)
 - Simplicity (no internal conflicts, unlike humans)

Communicable Attributes

- These qualities, including God's spirituality, freedom, omnipotence, and moral attributes (goodness, truth, holiness), correspond to aspects shared with humanity. The Bible states humans are made in God's image, possessing the ability to commune with Him.

Restoration of God's Image

- Since the Fall, God's image in man has been defaced, but through redemption, believers are renewed in the image of Christ and God, regaining moral qualities.



Pursuit of Wisdom

- Wisdom, a communicable attribute, is highly valued in the Bible, particularly in Proverbs, emphasizing the importance of seeking divine wisdom:
 - “Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.”
 - Wisdom is personified, welcoming those who seek it.

Prerequisites for Wisdom

1.

Reverence for God:

Wisdom begins with “the fear of the LORD.” True humility and acknowledgement of God's sovereignty are vital.

2.

Receiving God’s Word:

Wisdom is cultivated through engagement with Scripture and applying its teachings.

Misconceptions of Wisdom

- Many mistakenly believe wisdom enables them to discern God's providential purposes in their lives, akin to seeing everything from a privileged perspective. This leads to



confusion and frustration rather than true understanding.

Realism in Wisdom

- Wisdom is not about understanding every divine purpose but about living wisely in daily life, focusing on actions and responses appropriate to circumstances, akin to learning to drive properly.

Teachings of Ecclesiastes

- The book of Ecclesiastes is a profound reflection on life's enigmas:

- It teaches to face life realistically, acknowledging its transient nature and the inscrutability of God's providence.

- The sermon highlights that seeking reasons for every event leads to despair; true wisdom stems from acknowledging life's unpredictability.

Conclusion on Wisdom

- Wisdom involves fearing God and keeping His commandments, living for the present, and engaging fully in life's tasks. The essence of wisdom lies in faith and



faithfulness amidst life's challenges.

- Ultimately, God's gift of wisdom results in transformation, reflecting Christlikeness, and drawing believers closer to Him through humility and love.

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Chapter 11 Summary : Thy Word Is Truth

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 11: KNOWING GOD

Introduction to God's Sovereignty and Word

The chapter explores two fundamental facts about God: He is the absolute monarch of the universe who governs all aspects of life, and He communicates His will through His word. Understanding God's rule necessitates understanding His word.

The Dual Nature of God's Word

God speaks on two levels:

1.

Regulations and Laws

: These define the environment in which His subjects live, similar to an ancient king establishing laws and standards.

2.



Personal Communication

: God's word also seeks to create a relationship between Him and His followers, inviting cooperation and trust.

In the sphere of creation, God's word is a powerful decree (e.g., "Let there be..."). In the realm of personal guidance, it takes the form of divine instruction (Hebrew: *torah*), which encompasses laws, promises, and testimonies about God and humanity.

The God Who Speaks

The chapter emphasizes that God's word not only creates the world but also establishes a direct relationship with humanity. This interaction begins in Genesis with God's commands and assurances directed at Adam and Eve, demonstrating the multifaceted nature of divine communication: command, testimony, prohibition, and promise.

God's Rule Through His Word

The chapter asserts that all events and circumstances in the world align with God's sovereign word, which is active in shaping history and human affairs. Biblical accounts



illustrate that true authority comes from the word of God, which is fulfilled in His divine action.

Absolute Truth of God's Word

The truth of God's word is underscored by its nature as a reflection of God's character, which is inherently true and reliable. The commands and promises of God offer stability and direction for human life, illustrating that obedience to His word results in true humanity and flourishing.

Belief and Obedience

The essence of being a Christian involves acknowledging and living under God's word. True Christians submit to God's written word, finding conviction in their sin and assurance in forgiveness. Christians aspire to align their lives with God's commands, trusting His promises and understanding His governance over their circumstances.

Overall, the chapter emphasizes the sovereign authority of God as expressed through His word and illustrates how this divine communication invites believers into a deeper relationship with Him.



Example

Key Point: Understanding God's Sovereignty

Example: Imagine you're navigating a complex labyrinth where every turn seems daunting. Now, envision receiving a map directly from the architect of the maze himself. This map represents God's word, providing clarity and guidance as you seek your way through life's challenges. When you trust and follow it, you not only traverse the labyrinth more confidently, but you also begin to grasp the overarching design that the architect has set in place. This understanding transforms your perception of obstacles into opportunities for growth, illuminating the path toward deeper faith and relationship with God.



Chapter 12 Summary : The Love of God



SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 12: GOD IS LOVE

Introduction to Divine Love

St. John's declaration, "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8, 16), is profound yet often misconstrued. Understanding its true meaning is essential for Christians as it offers a deep assurance of God's love. The experience of knowing this love is presented as a normal aspect of Christian life, not just for a select few. Paul emphasizes this knowledge as a result of the Holy Spirit's work in believers (Rom 5:5).



A Flood of Love

Paul's description of God's love includes three significant points:

1.

Shed Abroad

: The term used refers to a generous pouring out, indicating that God's love is abundant and overwhelming.

2.

Perfect Tense

: This conveys a consistent and enduring state of experiencing God's love.

3.

Ministry of the Spirit

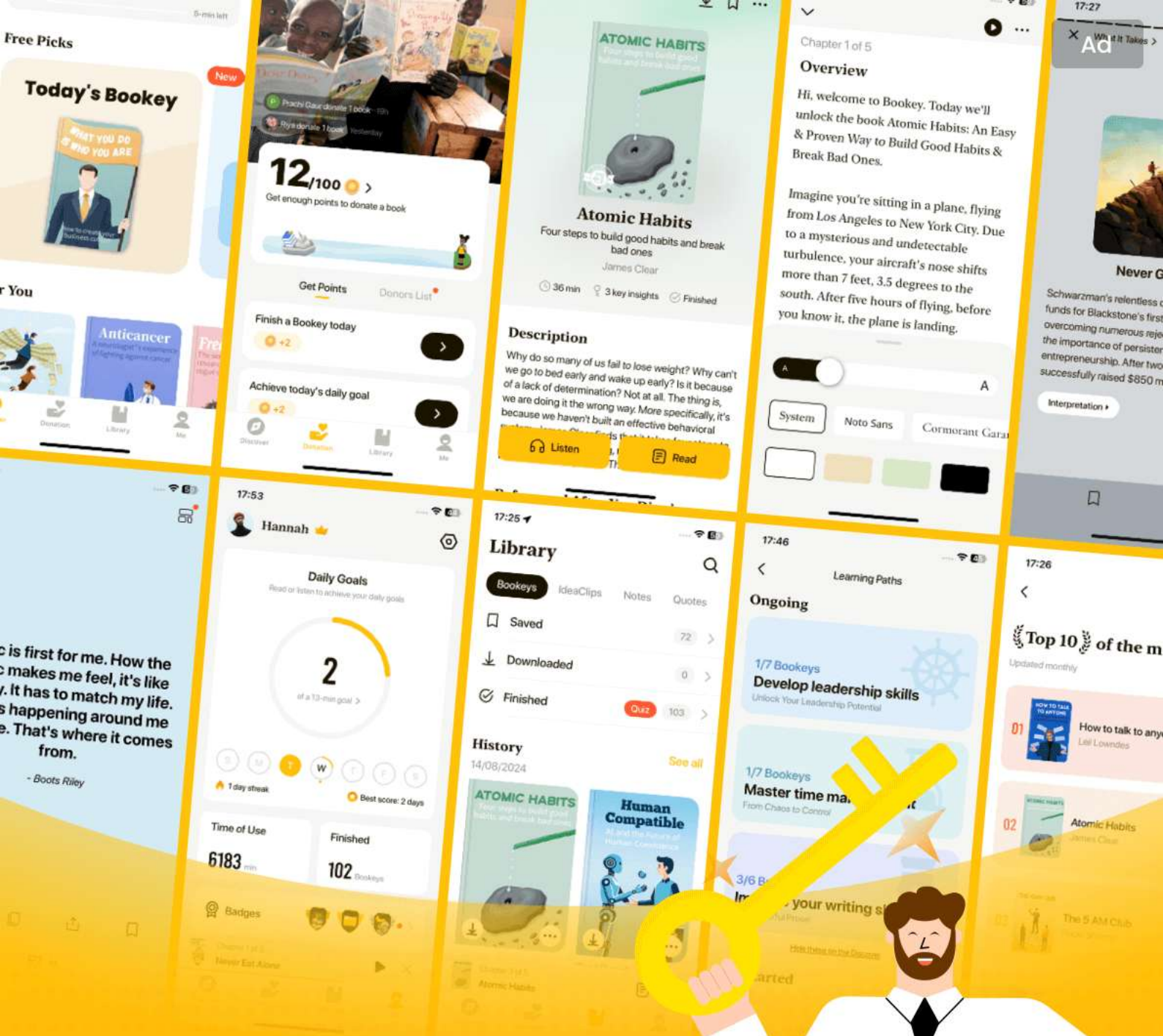
: The Holy Spirit actively instills knowledge of God's love in believers, which is vital for a healthy Christian life.

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Chapter 13 Summary : The Grace of God

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 13: GRACE

Understanding Grace in Christianity

Christianity is often described as a religion of grace, which is not an impersonal force but a personal activity of God expressing love. The Greek word for grace (charis) represents a unique notion of kindness absent in Greco-Roman ethics. Despite this, many churchgoers fail to grasp the true essence of grace; it remains an abstract concept for them rather than a reality.

No Grasp of Grace

Many professing Christians struggle to believe in grace due to four core truths that underlie the doctrine:

1.

The Moral Ill-desert of Man



: Modern individuals often overlook their moral failings, believing themselves to be fundamentally good and deserving of God's approval.

2.

The Retributive Justice of God

: Society tends to ignore wrongdoing, failing to appreciate that God's justice demands a response to sin.

3.

The Spiritual Impotence of Man

: Contemporary beliefs suggest that individuals can earn God's favor through good deeds, disregarding biblical teachings about the need for divine grace.

4.

The Sovereign Freedom of God

: Many modern thinkers believe God is obligated to show grace, failing to acknowledge that such grace is given freely and not owed to humanity.

Not Earned or Deserved

Grace is the unconditional love shown by God to guilty sinners, highlighting His goodness despite humanity's failures. For those who understand their dire need for grace, the gospel brings immense joy, revealing that their Judge is



also their Savior. Grace is the foundation of salvation (Ephesians 2:5, 8) and is linked closely to God's redemptive purpose.

1.

Grace as the Source of Pardon

: Justification, the acceptance of sinners, is a free gift through faith, made possible by Christ's sacrificial death.

2.

Grace as the Motive of Salvation

: The plan of salvation, rooted in God's eternal grace, assures believers of their place in His divine economy.

3.

Grace as the Guarantee of Preservation

: The assurance of eternal security rests in God's power, affirming that faith is sustained by grace throughout the believer's life.

A Proper Response to Grace

True knowledge of God's grace calls for a response marked by gratitude and transformed living. A correct understanding should lead to a life of good works, driven by the love awakened within. This grace should compel believers to live in a manner that honors God, demonstrating their



acknowledgment of His unmerited favor through sincere acts of devotion and service.

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Chapter 14 Summary : God the Judge

DIVINE JUDGMENT: AN INTRODUCTION

The concept of God as a judge is often met with discomfort in contemporary thought, contrasting the more appealing images of God as a loving Father or helper. Nevertheless, the Bible emphasizes the reality of divine judgment throughout its narratives and teachings.

BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF JUDGMENT

God's role as judge is established in both the Old and New Testaments. Significant instances include:

-

Old Testament

: Judgment of Adam and Eve, the Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, and the oppression of Israel in Egypt, among others.

-

New Testament

: Judgment upon the Jews for rejecting Christ, as well as severe judgments on individuals such as Ananias and



Sapphira, highlighting the continuity of divine judgment across scriptures.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JUDGE

1.

Authority

: God is both the legislator and judge, possessing the sovereign authority to enforce his law.

2.

Goodness and Rightness

: God's judgments align with his nature, which is inherently just and righteous.

3.

Wisdom

: God possesses perfect wisdom to discern the truth behind human actions.

4.

Power

: As the ultimate judge, God has the authority to execute his sentences.

RETRIBUTION IN DIVINE JUDGMENT



Biblical justice is intrinsically linked to retribution, reflecting God's moral perfection. The final judgment emphasizes accountability, rewarding good deeds while punishing evil actions.

THE IMPACT OF DIVINE JUDGMENT ON LIFE

Awareness of divine judgment instills moral significance in human actions. It is a revelation of God's character, assuring that justice will ultimately prevail.

JESUS AS THE AGENT OF JUDGMENT

Jesus assumes the role of judge, entrusted by the Father to deliver final judgment. Numerous scriptures affirm his authority in determining the eternal fate of individuals based on their lives.

FINAL JUDGMENT BASED ON WORKS AND HEART

The final judgment will assess individuals based on their works, which reveal the status of their hearts. While believers are shielded from condemnation, their actions as Christians



will be evaluated for rewards or loss.

NO NEED TO FLEE FROM JUDGMENT

Confronted with the reality of divine judgment, the New Testament encourages individuals to seek Christ as Savior rather than avoid him. Embracing faith now fosters assurance in facing judgment later without fear of condemnation.

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Chapter 15 Summary : The Wrath of God

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 15: THE WRATH OF GOD

Understanding Divine Wrath

Wrath is described as deep, intense anger and is considered an attribute of God. Despite its biblical significance, modern Christianity often downplays this theme. While God's kindness garners frequent discussion, His judgment and wrath often remain unaddressed, leading to a societal taboo around the topic.

Biblical Emphasis on Wrath

The Bible prominently features God's wrath, with both Testaments highlighting its seriousness and reality. Numerous references illustrate that God's wrath is an appropriate response to sin and moral evil. Passages such as



Nahum 1:2-8 and the writings of Paul emphasize that God's anger is both just and deserved for those who disobey and rebel against Him.

Misconceptions About Wrath

A common misunderstanding is that God's wrath reflects human emotions such as irrationality or cruelty. However, the biblical portrayal clarifies that God's wrath is a righteous response to moral evil, devoid of human imperfections. It is a necessary part of His moral perfection and is judicial in nature, meaning it is a rightful reaction to sin.

The Nature of God's Wrath

God's wrath is characterized as judicial and is always proportionate to the actions of individuals. Individuals themselves choose to be under God's wrath by rejecting His

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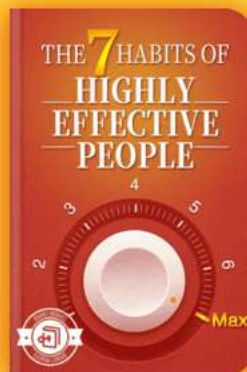
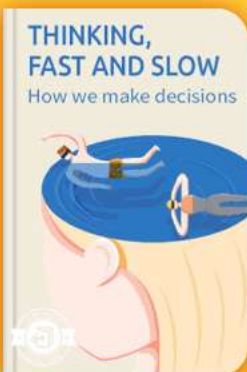


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Chapter 16 Summary : Goodness and Severity

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 16: KNOWING GOD

Behold the Goodness and Severity of God

Paul, in Romans 11:22, highlights the dual nature of God's character—both His goodness and severity. This reveals God's interactions with Jew and Gentile, emphasizing that both attributes must be considered together for a true understanding of God. Failure to acknowledge either leads to a distorted view of His character.

The Crisis of Understanding God Today

In modern times, confusion reigns regarding faith in God. Many claim belief without understanding who God is, leading to misguided notions about faith and spirituality. Solutions involve guiding people back to biblical teachings rather than personal interpretation or a diluted view of God.



derived from varied sources, including other religions.

The Influence of Santa Claus Theology

The "Santa Claus" view of God—a benevolent figure without wrath or judgment—has become prominent in contemporary thought. This view undermines true Christianity, which centers on the need for atonement and the reality of sin. Without God's severity, the idea of divine judgment becomes obsolete, leaving believers vulnerable to a superficial faith that neglects essential truths.

God's Goodness

God's goodness encompasses all moral qualities that make Him praiseworthy. The Bible frequently affirms His moral perfection and generosity, emphasizing that God blesses all creation. His ultimate act of goodness is seen in the redemptive work for humankind, especially through Jesus Christ. Psalm 107 illustrates numerous examples of God's deliverance and compassion, underscoring His goodness in times of distress.

God's Severity



God's severity, as indicated by Paul, refers to the withdrawal of His goodness from those who reject it. This principle is exhibited through God's actions in history, such as cutting off Israel for unbelief. There lies a threat behind divine kindness: neglecting God's goodness can lead to judgment. However, God's nature remains patient and longsuffering, providing ample opportunity for repentance.

Our Response

This understanding of God's goodness and severity leads to three critical lessons:

1.

Appreciate God's Goodness

: Acknowledge and give thanks for both natural and spiritual blessings while recognizing the sacrifice of Christ.

2.

Appreciate God's Patience

: Reflect on God's enduring patience and strive to emulate it toward others.

3.

Appreciate God's Discipline

: Recognize that God's corrective actions are meant for



guidance and spiritual awakening, prompting continued faith and reliance on Him.

By engaging with these truths, believers can cultivate a holistic understanding of God, incorporating His goodness and severity in their spiritual lives.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Necessity of Duality in Understanding God

Critical Interpretation: Packer's insistence on recognizing both God's goodness and severity invites readers to reassess the balance between these attributes. While this offers a thorough theological framework, it may oversimplify the complexities of personal experience with faith. The singular focus on duality risks overshadowing other interpretations of God's nature, which could be equally valid. Such perspectives might be supported by theologians like C.S. Lewis, who emphasized the multifaceted nature of God and the necessity of exploring diverse understandings of the divine. Readers are therefore encouraged to engage critically with Packer's views and consider alternative theological insights.



Chapter 17 Summary : The Jealous God

THE JEALOUS CHARACTER OF GOD

The concept of a "jealous God" may seem offensive given our understanding of jealousy as a vice. However, the text clarifies that this idea is not from imagination but is rooted in God's self-revelation through Scripture. God characterizes Himself as jealous, emphasizing the importance of this attribute.

THE NATURE OF GOD'S JEALOUSY

1.

Anthropomorphism

: Biblical descriptions of God's jealousy use human terms. While these terms help convey God's characteristics, they do not imply the limitations of human emotions, as God's jealousy is not akin to human envy or spite but is a pure zeal for what is right.

2.

Types of Jealousy

: There are two forms of jealousy in humanity—one that is



sinful and destructive, and another that is protective and righteous, aiming to preserve relationships. God's jealousy aligns with the latter, representing His commitment to His covenant with His people, demanding loyalty akin to that expected in a marriage.

God's jealousy arises from His covenant love for Israel, viewing their unfaithfulness (e.g., idolatry) as spiritual adultery. God's judgment against infidelity is an affirmation of His righteous jealousy. This zeal is further aimed at preserving His glory and righteousness.

THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

1.

Zeal for God

: In response to God's jealousy, believers are called to be zealous for Him, exhibiting a passionate desire to honor and serve Him. Scripture encourages such zeal as a requirement for God's people.

2.

Warning Against Apathy

: Complacency and lukewarmness in churches provoke God's jealousy, making congregations vulnerable to His displeasure. A call for revitalization through genuine zeal is



essential to avoid judgment.

The chapter highlights the intersection of God's jealousy, the expected loyalty of His followers, and the consequences of complacency within the faith community.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Complexity of God's Jealousy as a Divine Trait

Critical Interpretation: Packer's interpretation of God's jealousy raises questions about the nature of divine emotions, challenging readers to understand that such traits might not align with human experiences. Viewing God's jealousy as purely protective, in opposition to human jealousy which can be destructive, may simplify a complex theological concept. This invites discussion about the implications of attributing human emotions to God, especially regarding His actions and expectations, which could be seen as requiring loyalty from followers in a manner that mimics possessiveness or control. Reliance on anthropomorphic language in scripture, while useful, may intuitively mislead believers into inferring forms of divine emotion that don't correspond to traditional understandings of love. Critics like David Bentley Hart in "The Experience of God: Being, Consciousness, Bliss" argue against anthropomorphism, suggesting it diminishes the transcendent nature of God, provoking further exploration into how these concepts shape Christian morality and community dynamics.



Chapter 18 Summary : The Heart of the Gospel

PROPITIATION IN PAGANISM AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Pagan Propitiation

- The legend of the Trojan War illustrates the concept of propitiation, deeply rooted in pagan beliefs where gods are appeased through significant offerings, often including human sacrifice. This approach portrays religion as a commercial transaction aimed at manipulating the gods to avoid their wrath.

Propitiation in the Bible

- The Bible departs from this pagan perspective by presenting a singular, omnipotent Creator, devoid of capriciousness and ill will. Despite this, the concept of propitiation is central in Scripture, underlying numerous rituals and narratives,



particularly in the Old Testament, including sin and guilt offerings and the Day of Atonement.

THE NEW TESTAMENT'S EXPLICATION OF PROPITIATION

Key New Testament Texts

- Paul outlines three key passages that highlight the role of Jesus as propitiation:

1. Romans 3:25 describes Jesus as a propitiation through faith in His blood to demonstrate God's righteousness.
2. Hebrews 2:17 emphasizes Jesus undertaking propitiation for the sins of the people.
3. 1 John 2:2 identifies Jesus as the propitiation for our sins.

Understanding Propitiation

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Chapter 19 Summary : Sons of God

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

A Christian is defined as someone who has God as their Father, a relationship not granted to all by birth but obtained through faith in Jesus Christ.

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT VIEWS

The Old Testament portrays God as the Father solely of Israel, while the New Testament extends this through Christ to all who come to faith, emphasizing that sonship is a supernatural gift rather than a universal status.

THE GIFT OF SONSHIP

Sonship is achieved through being “born again” and is a grace-filled, adoptive relationship where believers are made heirs, akin to the Roman practice of adopting adult sons.

THE REVELATION OF FATHERHOOD



The essence of Christianity is recognizing God as our Father, a theme culminating in New Testament revelation where believers are encouraged to live with this understanding at the forefront of worship and morality.

HOLY RELATIONSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

In the New Testament, believers approach God as their Father with a sense of confidence and assurance, unlike the intimidating holiness emphasized in the Old Testament.

OVERCOMING NEGATIVE HUMAN EXPERIENCES

A flawed human experience with fatherhood does not diminish the concept of divine fatherhood as a perfect, loving model. God's fatherhood transcends human failings.

TEACHING OF JESUS ON SONSHIP

The New Testament refines our understanding of sonship through Jesus, articulating attributes such as authority, affection, fellowship, and honor, which are all extended to



God's children.

ADOPTION AS THE GREATEST PRIVILEGE

Adoption is highlighted as a greater privilege than justification, as it evokes an intimate relationship as children of God, contrasting with the more legalistic notion of justification.

INHERITANCE AND PROMISE

Adoption guarantees believers a promised inheritance, making them co-heirs with Christ and ensuring that their ultimate hope lies in sharing His glory.

THE FAMILY GATHERING OF HEAVEN

The culmination of Christian hope is envisioned as a grand family reunion in heaven, affirming the relational aspect of salvation through God the Father and Christ.

HOLY SPIRIT AND ADOPTION

The Holy Spirit operates as the Spirit of adoption, helping



believers to recognize their identity as God's children and empowering them to maintain that relationship.

GOSPEL HOLINESS AND ETHICS

Gospel holiness is merely living consistently with the identity of being God's children, motivated by love for the Father, while acknowledging the role of discipline in maintaining holiness.

ASSURANCE IN SONSHIP

Believers are assured of their status as children of God through the dual witness of their own spirit and the Holy Spirit, fostering confidence in their relationship with God.

THE GREAT SECRET OF ADOPTION

Reflecting on one's identity as a child of God and the blessings of adoption is crucial for a fulfilling Christian life, urging continuous self-examination and assurance.

SELF-EXAMINATION QUESTIONS



Regularly revisiting the implications of being adopted as God's children encourages believers to assess their relationship with God, their conduct as His children, and the nature of their hope for the future.

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Chapter 20 Summary : Thou Our Guide

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 20: GUIDANCE IN KNOWING GOD

GUIDANCE AS A CHRONIC PROBLEM

Many Christians experience anxiety about divine guidance, not due to a lack of faith in God's ability to guide them, but out of fear of missing His guidance due to their own shortcomings. This chapter discusses misconceptions and foundational truths about divine guidance.

GOD HAS A PLAN

Divine guidance depends on two key truths: God's plan for individuals and His ability to communicate that plan. The Bible affirms that God has a unique purpose for every believer, as evidenced in Scripture, and promises guidance to those who seek to follow His will through various forms such as scripture and the Holy Spirit.



HOW WE RECEIVE GUIDANCE

Many earnest Christians misinterpret divine guidance. A common error is expecting inward promptings of the Holy Spirit to guide them without referencing the written Word of God. This leads to misguided decisions, particularly regarding "vocational choices" where multiple lawful options exist. True guidance requires rational engagement with Scripture and understanding of God's expectations.

SIX COMMON PITFALLS

While pursuing guidance, Christians face several pitfalls:

1.

Unwillingness to think:

Guidance requires rational thought; divine wisdom fosters careful consideration.

2.

Unwillingness to think ahead:

Long-term consequences of decisions must be weighed.

3.

Unwillingness to take advice:

Seeking counsel is vital, as wisdom may be found in the insights of others.



4.

Unwillingness to suspect oneself:

Self-reflection is necessary to discern the true motivations behind feelings or decisions.

5.

Unwillingness to discount personal magnetism:

Charismatic figures can mislead; believers must evaluate their guidance critically.

6.

Unwillingness to wait:

Patience is crucial, as God often provides guidance gradually.

NO SIMPLE ANSWERS

Experiencing trouble after following what was believed to be divine guidance does not always signify being off-course. Biblical examples illustrate that following God's will can often lead to hardships, yet such struggles can also fulfill God's purpose.

WHEN WE MISS THE ROAD

Mistakes in discerning God's guidance do not irrevocably



derail a believer's path. God is capable of restoring and redeeming missteps, weaving them back into His overarching plan for good. Christians are encouraged to trust in God's sovereign guidance both during and after seeking His will. In conclusion, guidance should be sought within the framework of confidence in God's goodness and grace, recognizing that His will is ultimately for His glory and our good.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The complexities of divine guidance often lead to anxiety among believers.

Critical Interpretation: Packer emphasizes that many Christians struggle with interpreting divine guidance not because they doubt God's ability to lead, but due to fears of making mistakes. This highlights a critical point: the perception that divine will is a rigid path can create unnecessary pressure. It's essential to consider that the author's view may overlook different interpretations of divine guidance found across various religious and philosophical traditions. For instance, process theology argues that God's guidance is more dynamic and relational rather than strictly prescriptive (see 'God Without Passability' by Charles Hartshorne). Thus, non-traditional views could propose that anxiety around guidance stems from narrower interpretations of God's nature, encouraging followers to explore a broader theological landscape that may alleviate such fears.



Chapter 21 Summary : These Inward Trials

CRUEL MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL

The chapter discusses a particular type of gospel ministry deemed

cruel

due to its unintended consequences.

IMPACT OF CRUEL MINISTRY

This type of ministry, despite aiming to magnify grace,

minimizes the seriousness of sin

and neglects God's purpose. It fails to provide a comprehensive gospel that meets the deep needs of individuals, leading to spiritual discomfort and hindered growth in grace.

NATURE OF THE MINISTRY

1.



Evangelical Foundation

: The ministry recognizes the Bible as the Word of God, focusing on themes like justification by faith and new birth.

2.

Inaccurate Application

: Even with a sound doctrinal basis, the ministry misapplies truths about grace, leading people to underappreciate the challenges involved in Christian life.

MISAPPLIED DOCTRINES

This ministry often overemphasizes the positive aspects of being a Christian, promising freedom from struggles, which can set false expectations. On the other hand, stressing only difficulties can give a gloomy impression of the Christian life.

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Chapter 22 Summary : The Adequacy of God

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 22: KNOWING GOD THROUGH ROMANS

PAUL'S LETTER TO ROME: THE HIGHEST PEAK OF SCRIPTURE

- Romans is regarded as the clearest expression of the Gospel, integrating key doctrines about God, humanity, sin, salvation, and the nature of the Church.
- Understanding Romans leads to profound insights into the entire Bible, offering transformative effects on individuals' hearts.

ROMANS: BOOK OF RICHES

- Romans provides comprehensive doctrine central to the Christian faith, covering topics such as grace, faith, and sin.
- It illustrates the life of grace versus sin and explores the



journey of faith through various human experiences.

- Romans serves as a classic declaration of the Church's identity; it emphasizes God's selection of both Jew and Gentile and their collective justification through faith.

READING ROMANS AS A PERSONAL LETTER

- Romans holds unique power to confront and deal with personal sinful habits and attitudes, fostering spiritual joy and assurance.

- Engaging deeply with Romans yields life-changing applications, akin to how Jonathan Edwards characterized the interrelation of doctrine and application.

THE RELEVANCE OF ROMANS 8

- Chapter 8 of Romans is deemed the pinnacle of the letter, emphasizing the Christian's assurance of salvation and love amid suffering.

- The understanding gained from earlier chapters lays a foundation for the comfort found in Romans 8, which reiterates the themes of grace and hope.

APPLICATION OF DOCTRINES IN ROMANS 8



- Paul encourages readers to consider their identity as justified believers committed to righteousness amidst pressures.
- He exhorts Christians to actively respond to their spiritual status, emphasizing the blessings they possess through faith in Christ.

KEY THEMES IN ROMANS 8

1.

IF GOD IS FOR US

: No opposition can ultimately crush believers; God's covenant commitment ensures their protection.

2.

NO GOOD THING WITHHELD

: God's giving of Christ signifies his readiness to provide all necessary gifts to his people.

3.

WHO WILL ACCUSE US?

: No charge against God's elect can alter their justified status, thanks to God's sovereign decision.

4.

WHO CAN SEPARATE US?



: Nothing can sever believers from Christ's love, affirming the security of their relationship with God.

LEARNING TO KNOW GOD IN CHRIST

- To know God is to engage in a personal relationship, exhibit faith expressed through obedience, and experience the transformative power of divine love.
- The summit of the Christian experience leads to a life characterized by victory and fulfillment, prioritizing the pursuit of knowing God above all else.
- True fulfillment emerges not from external achievements but through a deepening understanding of God's nature, leading to unwavering joy and assurance.

By internalizing these teachings from Romans, believers can find a robust foundation for their faith, promising them spiritual richness and guiding them towards a life fully surrendered to God.





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Chapter 1 | Quotes From Pages 12-19

- 1.The proper study of a Christian is the Godhead.
- 2.The most excellent study for expanding the soul, is the science of Christ, and Him crucified, and the knowledge of the Godhead in the glorious Trinity.
- 3.Would you lose your sorrow? Would you drown your cares? Then go, plunge yourself in the Godhead's deepest sea; be lost in his immensity.
- 4.Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction.
- 5.If we pursue theological knowledge for its own sake, it is bound to go bad on us.
- 6.Our aim in studying the Godhead must be to know God himself better.
- 7.Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking

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over, and dwelling on... the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God.

Chapter 2 | Quotes From Pages 20-28

1. But it doesn't matter," he said at length, "for I've known God and they haven't.
2. The attitude we show to the world is a sort of dried-up stoicism, miles removed from the 'joy unspeakable and full of glory' which Peter took for granted that his readers were displaying.
3. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.
4. A little knowledge of God is worth more than a great deal of knowledge about him.
5. Those who know God have great energy for God.
6. Those who know God show great boldness for God.
7. There is no peace like the peace of those whose minds are possessed with full assurance that they have known God.
8. Do we desire such knowledge of God? Then two things



follow.

Chapter 3 | Quotes From Pages 29-38

1. What were we made for? To know God.
2. What aim should we set ourselves in life? To know God.
3. What is the “eternal life” that Jesus gives? Knowledge of God.
4. What is the best thing in life, bringing more joy, delight and contentment than anything else? Knowledge of God.
5. The relationship in which sinful human beings know God is one in which God, so to speak, takes them onto his staff, to be henceforth his fellow workers.
6. What happens is that the almighty Creator... comes to you and begins to talk to you through the words and truths of Holy Scripture.
7. Knowing God is more than knowing about him; it is a matter of dealing with him as he opens up to you, and being dealt with by him as he takes knowledge of you.
8. What matters supremely, therefore, is not, in the last analysis, the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which



underlies it—the fact that he knows me.

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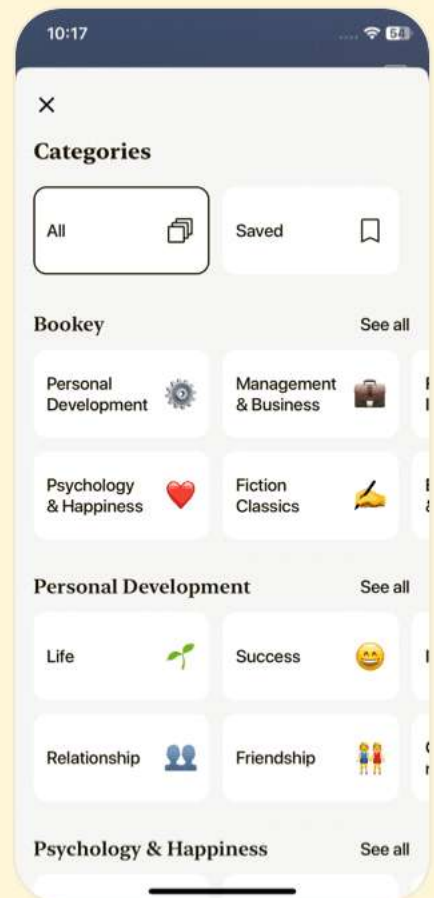
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Chapter 4 | Quotes From Pages 39-47

1. Idolatry consists not only in the worship of false gods, but also in the worship of the true God by images.
2. Images dishonor God, for they obscure his glory.
3. Images mislead us, for they convey false ideas about God.
4. God is not the sort of person that we are; his wisdom, his aims, his scale of values, his mode of procedure differ so vastly from our own that we cannot possibly guess our way to them by intuition or infer them by analogy from our notion of ideal manhood.
5. The positive purpose of the second commandment becomes plain. Negatively, it is a warning against ways of worship and religious practice that lead us to dishonor God and to falsify his truth.

Chapter 5 | Quotes From Pages 48-59

1. The really staggering Christian claim is that Jesus of Nazareth was God made man—that the second person of the Godhead became the “second man,”



determining human destiny.

2.Once the Incarnation is grasped as a reality, these other difficulties dissolve.

3.He had to be made like his brothers in every way. . . .

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

4.The crucial significance of the cradle at Bethlehem lies in its place in the sequence of steps down that led the Son of God to the cross of Calvary.

5.The Christmas spirit does not shine out in the Christian snob. For the Christmas spirit is the spirit of those who, like their Master, live their whole lives on the principle of making themselves poor—spending and being spent—to enrich their fellow humans.

Chapter 6 | Quotes From Pages 60-67

1.The heart of Christian faith in God is the revealed mystery of the Trinity.

2.The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is the Cinderella of Christian doctrines.



- 3.Important! Why, were it not for the work of the Holy Spirit there would be no gospel, no faith, no church, no Christianity in the world at all.
- 4.Without the Spirit there would be no faith and no new birth— in short, no Christians.
- 5.Do we honor the Holy Spirit by recognizing and relying on his work? Or do we slight him by ignoring it, and thereby dishonor not merely the Spirit but the Lord who sent him?





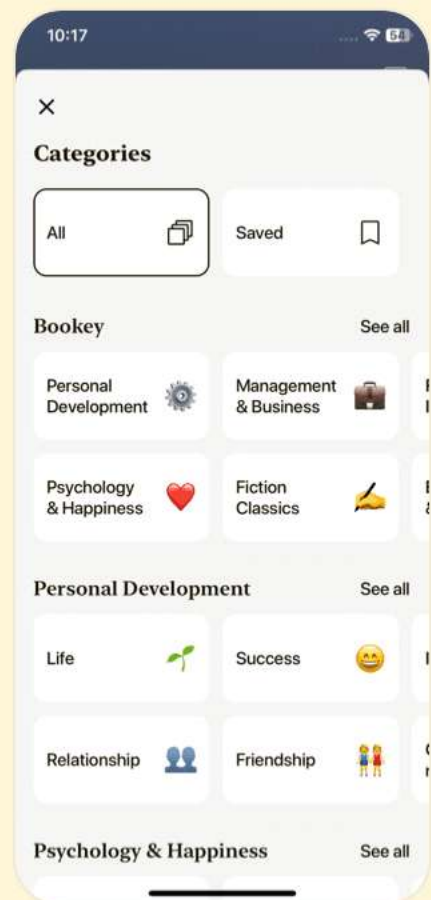
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Chapter 7 | Quotes From Pages 68-74

1. They tell us that the Bible is the Word of God—a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. They tell us that we shall find in it the knowledge of God and of his will for our lives. We believe them; rightly, for what they say is true.
2. Our Bible reading takes us into what, for us, is quite a new world—namely, the Near Eastern world as it was thousands of years ago, primitive and barbaric, agricultural and unmechanized.
3. The link is God himself. For the God with whom they had to do is the same God with whom we have to do.
4. God does not change.
5. Fellowship with him, trust in his word, living by faith, standing on the promises of God, are essentially the same realities for us today as they were for Old and New Testament believers.
6. If our God is the same as the God of New Testament believers, how can we justify ourselves in resting content



with an experience of communion with him, and a level of Christian conduct, that falls so far below theirs?

Chapter 8 | Quotes From Pages 75-83

1. When we ascribe majesty to someone, we are acknowledging greatness in that person, and voicing our respect for it.
2. The word majesty, when applied to God, is always a declaration of his greatness and an invitation to worship.
3. But this is knowledge which Christians today largely lack: and that is one reason why our faith is so feeble and our worship so flabby.
4. A well-known book is called *Your God Is Too Small*; it is a timely title.
5. The God of Genesis is the Creator, bringing order out of chaos, calling life into being by his word, making Adam from earth's dust and Eve from Adam's rib.
6. How may we form a right idea of God's greatness? The Bible teaches us two steps that we must take.
7. Behold your God!



Chapter 9 | Quotes From Pages 84-92

1. Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.
2. Omniscience governing omnipotence, infinite power ruled by infinite wisdom, is a basic biblical description of the divine character.
3. God's wisdom is not, and never was, pledged to keep a fallen world happy, or to make ungodliness comfortable.
4. His ultimate objective is to bring them to a state in which they please him entirely and praise him adequately, a state in which he is all in all to them.
5. God in his wisdom means to make something of us which we have not attained yet, and he is dealing with us accordingly.
6. He knows the way he taketh, even if for the moment we do not.
7. Paul saw part of the reason for his own afflictions in the fact that God 'comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can



comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.'

8. As he responded to God's call, leaves home, and travels through the land which his descendants are to possess... we observe in him a new meekness...





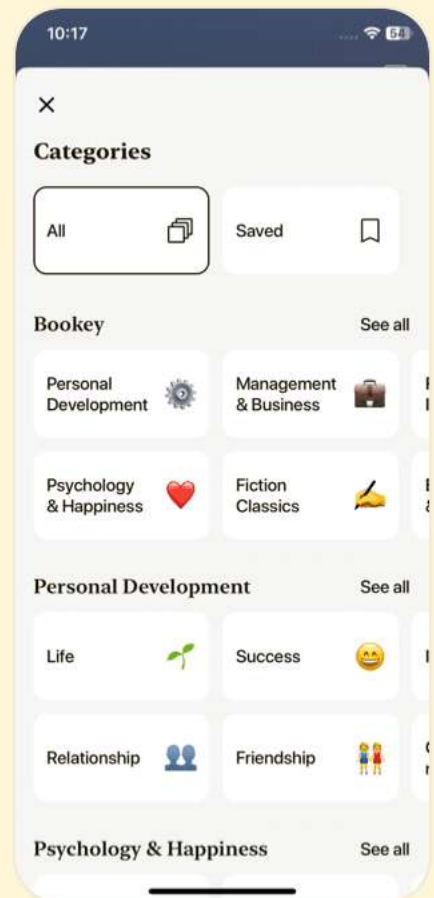
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Chapter 10 | Quotes From Pages 93-103

1. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.

Though it cost all you have, get understanding..."

(Prov 4:7, 13)

2. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Ps

111:10; Prov 9:10)

3. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault..." (Jas 1:5)

4. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies" (Ps 119:98)

5. Look (says the preacher) at the sort of world we live in.

Take off your rose-colored glasses, rub your eyes and look at it long and hard. What do you see?

6. Fear God and keep his commandments" (12:13); trust and obey him, reverence him, worship him...

7. The kind of wisdom that God waits to give to those who ask him is a wisdom that will bind us to himself...

Chapter 11 | Quotes From Pages 104-112

1. God speaks both to determine our environment



and to engage our minds and hearts.

2. God, our Maker, knows all about us before we say anything; but we can know nothing about him unless he tells us.
3. The whole Bible insists that all circumstances and events in the world are determined by the word of God.
4. The essence of impiety is the proud willfulness of 'these wicked people, who refuse to listen to my words.'
5. True Christians are people who acknowledge and live under the word of God.

Chapter 12 | Quotes From Pages 113-123

1. We know and rely on the love God has for us.
2. God's love has flooded our inmost heart.
3. The love of the God who is spirit is no fitful, fluctuating thing as human love is.
4. God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.
5. God's love to sinners was expressed by the gift of his Son



to be their Savior.

6.The knowledge that this is so for us personally is the supreme comfort for Christians.

7.Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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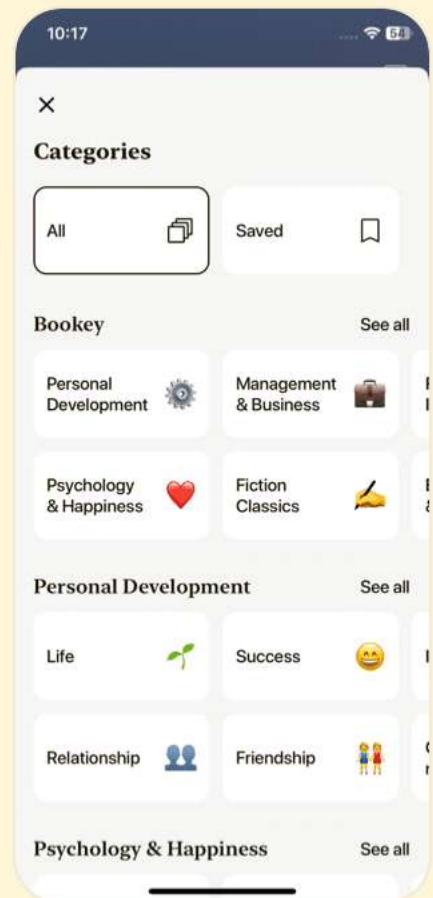
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Chapter 13 | Quotes From Pages 124-133

- 1.The grace of God is love freely shown toward guilty sinners, contrary to their merit and indeed in defiance of their demerit.
- 2.It is by grace you have been saved (Eph 2:5, 8).
- 3.Not the labours of my hand can fulfil Thy law's demands.
- 4.The God of the Bible does not depend on his human creatures for his well-being.
- 5.Oh! to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;

Chapter 14 | Quotes From Pages 134-143

- 1.Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Gen 18:25)
- 2.The Lord the Judge be judge this day..." (Judg 11:27 KJV)
- 3.God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil" (Eccles 12:14)
- 4.It is God who judges; rise up, O God, judge the earth" (Ps 75:7; Ps 82:8)
- 5.He is the one who has been designated by God as judge of



the living and the dead" (Acts 10:42 NEB)

6. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2 Cor 5:10)

7. The Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son" (John 5:22)

8. Prepare to meet your God" (Amos 4:12)

9. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom 8:1)

Chapter 15 | Quotes From Pages 144-151

1. Wrath is an old English word defined in my dictionary as 'deep, intense anger and indignation.' Anger is defined as 'stirring of resentful displeasure and strong antagonism, by a sense of injury or insult'; indignation as 'righteous anger aroused by injustice and baseness.'

2. The fact is that the subject of divine wrath has become taboo in modern society, and Christians by and large have accepted the taboo and conditioned themselves never to



raise the matter.

3. One cannot imagine that talk of divine judgment was ever very popular, yet the biblical writers engage in it constantly.
4. God's anger in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil.
5. Before hell is an experience inflicted by God, it is a state for which a person himself opts by retreating from the light which God shines in his heart to lead him to himself.
6. The essence of God's action in wrath is to give men what they choose, in all its implications: nothing more, and equally nothing less.
7. If we would know God, it is vital that we face the truth concerning his wrath, however unfashionable it may be, and however strong our initial prejudices against it.
8. Our readiness or our reluctance to meditate upon the wrath of God becomes a sure test of how our hearts really stand



affected towards Him.

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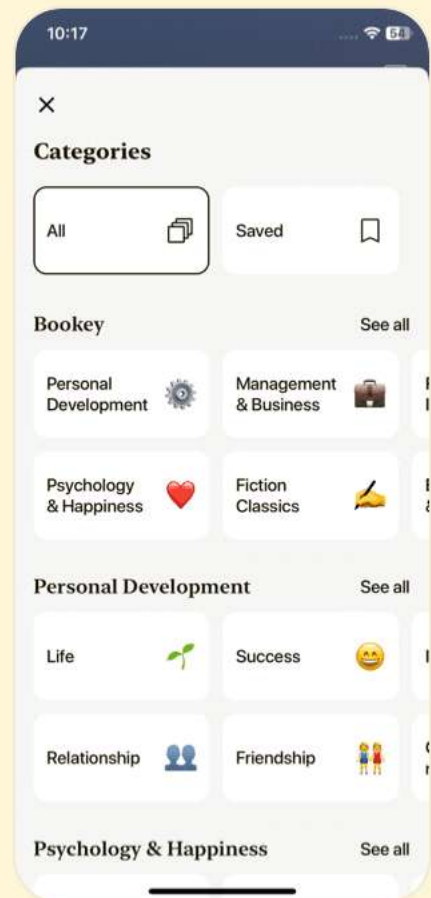
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Chapter 16 | Quotes From Pages 152-160

1. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God," writes Paul in Romans 11:22 (KJV). The crucial word here is 'and'. The apostle is explaining the relation between Jew and Gentile in the plan of God.
2. Never, perhaps, since Paul wrote has there been more need to labor this point than there is today.
3. To reject all ideas of divine wrath and judgment, and to assume that God's character...is really one of indulgent benevolence without any severity, is the rule rather than the exception among ordinary folk today.
4. But the Santa Claus theology, sins create no problem, and atonement becomes needless; God's active favor extends no less to those who disregard his commands than to those who keep them.
5. Yet the Santa Claus theology carries within itself the seeds of its own collapse, for it cannot cope with the fact of evil.
6. How can those who have strayed this way get back on the



true road? Only by learning to relate God's goodness to his severity, according to the Scriptures.

7. God's generosity in bestowing natural blessings is acclaimed in Psalm 145.

8. The principle which Paul is applying here is that behind every display of divine goodness stands a threat of severity in judgment if that goodness is scorned.

9. It is no wonder that the New Testament stresses that longsuffering is a Christian virtue and duty; it is in truth a part of the image of God.

10. Or if you are a true believer, and he still puts thorns in your bed, it is only to keep you from falling into the somnolence of complacency and to ensure that you 'continue in his goodness'...

Chapter 17 | Quotes From Pages 161-167

1. 'The LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God' (Ex 34:14).

2. 'I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.' (Isaiah 42:8).



3. 'Zeal in religion is a burning desire to please God, to do His will, and to advance His glory in the world in every possible way.'
4. 'What the prohibition of idolatry in the second commandment implies is that God's people should be positively and passionately devoted to his person, his cause and his honor.'
5. 'The jealousy of God requires us to be zealous for God.'

Chapter 18 | Quotes From Pages 168-188

1. The only course at that point is to humor and mollify them by an offering.
2. Has the word propitiation any place in your Christianity? In the faith of the New Testament it is central.
3. The doctrine of the propitiation is precisely this: that God loved the objects of His wrath so much that He gave His own Son to the end that He by His blood should make provision for the removal of His wrath.
4. So far from calling into question the morality of God's way of dealing with sin, says Paul, the truth of propitiation



establishes it and was explicitly intended to establish it.

5.The gospel tells us that our Creator has become our Redeemer.

6.In the upper room, after Judas had gone out into the night to betray him, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him.'

7.God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

8.Peace with God is the state of affairs in which God, instead of being against us, is for us.





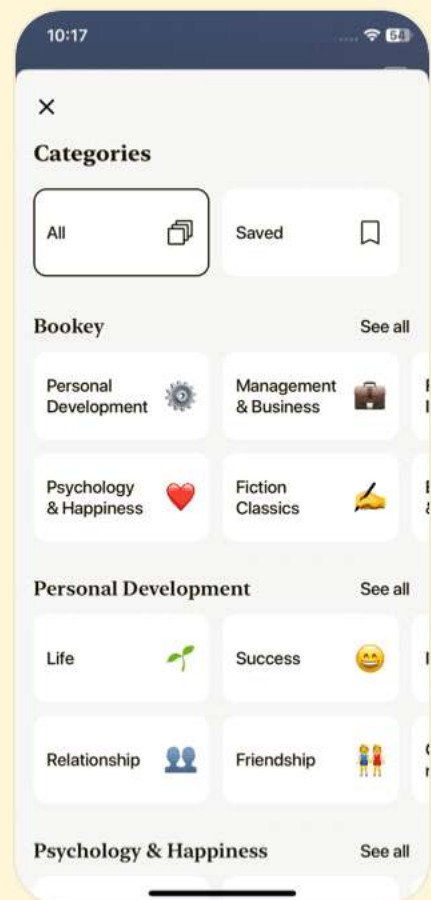
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Chapter 19 | Quotes From Pages 189-217

1. A Christian is one who has God as Father.
2. Sonship to God is not, therefore, a universal status into which everyone enters by natural birth, but a supernatural gift which one receives through receiving Jesus.
3. Adoption is a family idea, conceived in terms of love, and viewing God as father.
4. How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
5. You sum up the whole of New Testament teaching in a single phrase if you speak of it as a revelation of the Fatherhood of the holy Creator.
6. The Spirit is given to Christians as the Spirit of adoption...and in all his ministry to Christians he acts as the Spirit of adoption.
7. This is the Christian's secret of a happy life... of a God-honoring life.

Chapter 20 | Quotes From Pages 218-230

1. 'I will instruct you and teach you the way you



should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you,' says God to David (Ps 32:8 RSV).

2. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:6)
3. 'If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him' (James 1:5 RSV).
4. 'He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.' (Psalm 23:3)
5. The Spirit leads within the limits which the Word sets, not beyond them. 'He guides me in paths of righteousness' (Psalm 23:3)—but not anywhere else.
6. 'I simply had to bow in the knowledge that God was his own interpreter... you are probably in for a very rude awakening because nobody knows the will of God for his entire life.'
7. 'The cloud of Thy protecting love; Our strength, Thy grace; our rule, Thy Word; Our end, the glory of the Lord.'
8. "'Tis Jesus, the first and the last, Whose Spirit shall guide



us safe home; We'll praise Him for all that is past, And
trust Him for all that's to come.'

Chapter 21 | Quotes From Pages 231-240

1. A certain type of ministry of the gospel is cruel. It does not mean to be, but it is... It scales down the problem of sin and loses touch with the purpose of God.
2. The effect is twofold: first, to depict the work of grace as less than it really is; second, to leave people with a gospel that is not big enough to cover the whole area of their need.
3. What is grace? In the New Testament, grace means God's love in action toward people who merited the opposite of love.
4. God can bring good out of the extremes of our own folly; God can restore the years that the locust has eaten.
5. Unreality in religion is an accursed thing.





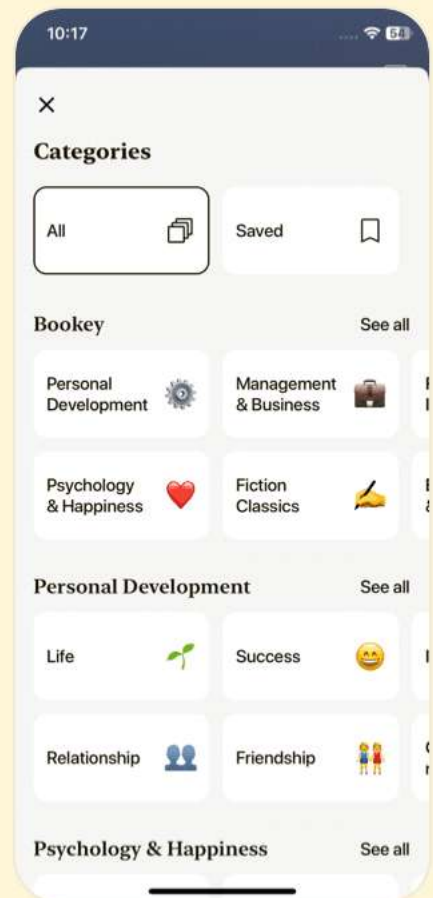
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Chapter 22 | Quotes From Pages 241-265

1. Paul's letter to Rome is the high peak of Scripture, however you look at it. Luther called it 'the clearest gospel of all.'
2. What do you look for in the Bible? If we are wise, we will have our eyes open for several things, and Romans is supreme on them all.
3. The wise person also reads the Bible as God's personal letter to each of his spiritual children.
4. No man verily can read it too oft or study it too well... Wherefore let every man without exception exercise himself herein diligently.
5. What then shall we say to these things?
6. If God is for us, who is against us?
7. He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?
8. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
9. In all these things we are more than conquerors through



him who loved us.

10. The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; thou
holdest my lot.

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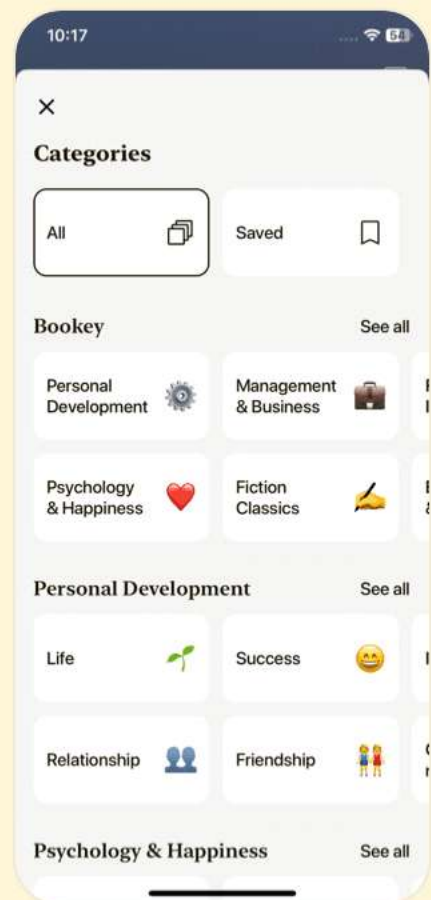
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Knowing God Questions

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Chapter 1 | The Study of God| Q&A

1.Question

What is the significance of studying God according to C.H. Spurgeon?

Answer:Spurgeon emphasized that the study of God is the highest and most profound endeavor for a Christian. It humbles the mind, expands the intellect, and offers comfort and consolation in times of sorrow. Contemplating the Divinity leads to a deeper understanding of one's existence and purpose.

2.Question

Why is understanding God essential for living in today's world?

Answer:Understanding God is crucial because it provides context and direction in life; without this knowledge, individuals may find themselves lost and disoriented in a

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complex, often confusing world.

3.Question

How does the author suggest we start our study of God?

Answer:The author suggests starting the study of God by acknowledging the cultural and intellectual storms surrounding the doctrine of God. Despite skepticism, individuals should approach the subject with determination and a willingness to explore profoundly enriching truths.

4.Question

What are the five foundational principles of knowledge about God that the author outlines?

Answer:The five foundational principles are: 1) God has spoken to humanity through the Bible. 2) God is sovereign and rules over the world for His glory. 3) God acts as Savior through Jesus Christ to redeem believers. 4) God exists as a Trinity. 5) True godliness means responding to God's revelation with trust, obedience, and worship.

5.Question

What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God?



Answer: Knowing about God refers to having intellectual or doctrinal knowledge of His attributes and works, while knowing God involves a personal relationship and experience with Him—understanding His character and will, which leads to a life transformed by that relationship.

6.Question

How should we approach our study of theology to avoid pride and spiritual pitfalls?

Answer: We should approach our study of theology with the intention to know and enjoy God more deeply, not merely to accumulate knowledge for its own sake. This attitude guards against pride and promotes genuine growth in faith and obedience.

7.Question

What role does meditation play in transforming knowledge about God into knowledge of God?

Answer: Meditation helps individuals internalize truths about God, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of His nature. It involves reflecting on God's works and



promises, which can lead to personal communion with God, encouraging humility and reaffirming His comfort and mercy.

Chapter 2 | The People Who Know Their God| Q&A

1.Question

What is a defining characteristic of someone who truly knows God, according to the scholar's reflection in the text?

Answer:A defining characteristic is that their past disappointments and present hardships become irrelevant when compared to the joy and fulfillment of knowing God. Their perspective shifts from loss to gain, focusing on their relationship with Christ rather than their struggles.

2.Question

Why do many claim to know God but do not truly feel they have known Him?

Answer:Many people confuse knowledge about God, often acquired through study and church attendance, with personal



knowledge of God. They can articulate doctrine yet miss the profound, personal experiences of God that truly illuminate one's faith.

3.Question

How does the knowledge of God affect a person's emotional state regarding loss?

Answer:For those who genuinely know God, losses cease to weigh them down as their gain in Christ overshadows any hardship. This deep relationship brings peace and assurance that circumstances do not define their worth or joy.

4.Question

What does Packer mean by distinguishing between knowing about God and truly knowing God?

Answer:He emphasizes that one can possess extensive theological knowledge and still lack a personal relationship with God. True knowledge involves experiencing God's presence and character in a transformative way, leading to a deeper faith.

5.Question

Can you give an example from the text that illustrates



how knowledge of God leads to boldness?

Answer: In the story of Daniel and his friends, their steadfast commitment to pray and their refusal to worship the king's image exemplify boldness. Despite the threat of death, their knowledge of God's power gave them courage to act faithfully.

6.Question

What might be a sign of a person not truly knowing God, according to the reflections on prayer?

Answer: A lack of energy and practice in prayer could indicate that a person does not truly know God. The passage suggests that true knowledge of God ignites fervent prayer and a desire to communicate with Him.

7.Question

In what way does knowing God provide contentment, even in difficult circumstances?

Answer: Knowing God brings a profound peace and assurance that His presence sustains them, regardless of life's trials. A true believer reflects the sentiment of being



untroubled by external circumstances, trusting wholly in God's plan and presence.

8.Question

What are the two steps suggested for those desiring to grow in knowledge of God?

Answer:First, recognize the depth of their lack in knowing God, focusing on the state of their hearts and prayer life.

Second, actively seek the Savior, acknowledging that genuine connection with Christ leads to knowing the Father.

9.Question

How does Packer conclude regarding those who can testify they know God?

Answer:He posits that only those who earnestly seek Jesus and find Him can confidently and authentically say that they have known God, as this deep relationship transforms their entire perspective on life.

Chapter 3 | Knowing and Being Known| Q&A

1.Question

What were we made for?

Answer:To know God.



2.Question

What aim should we set ourselves in life?

Answer:To know God.

3.Question

What is the ‘eternal life’ that Jesus gives?

Answer:Knowledge of God.

4.Question

What is the best thing in life that brings more joy, delight, and contentment than anything else?

Answer:Knowledge of God.

5.Question

What, of all the states God ever sees man in, gives God most pleasure?

Answer:Knowledge of himself.

6.Question

How can a big enough objective affect one's life?

Answer:Once you recognize that knowing God is your main purpose, many of life's problems fall into place.

7.Question

What makes life worthwhile according to the text?



Answer: Having the exalted and compelling goal of knowing God.

8.Question

What are the complexities involved in ‘knowing God’ compared to knowing another person?

Answer: Knowing God is more complex and involves understanding His nature and how He interacts with us.

9.Question

What does the relationship of knowing God involve?

Answer: It involves listening to His Word, understanding His nature, accepting His commands, and recognizing His love.

10.Question

How does one know God according to the Bible?

Answer: In the manner of a son knowing his father, a wife knowing her husband, a subject knowing his king, and a sheep knowing its shepherd.

11.Question

How do we come to know God through Jesus Christ?

Answer: We know God through a personal relationship with Jesus, who reveals the Father to us.



12.Question

What is the significance of God taking the initiative in knowing us?

Answer:It emphasizes grace, indicating that knowing God is a result of His love and initiative.

13.Question

What is the ultimate source of comfort in knowing God?

Answer:The knowledge that God knows me and cares for me, providing peace and reassurance.

14.Question

Why is it important to recognize God's knowledge of us?

Answer:It highlights the unfathomable nature of His love and the reality that nothing can disillusion Him about us.

15.Question

How do emotional and experiential aspects fit into knowing God?

Answer:They are vital; knowing God involves joy, grief, and participation in His cause, much like personal relationships.

16.Question

What does knowing God require beyond intellectual



understanding?

Answer:It requires personal involvement and emotional engagement with God.

17.Question

What could 'tasting and seeing' the goodness of the Lord entail?

Answer:It involves experiencing God's goodness through faith and relationship, similar to enjoying a delicious meal.

18.Question

In what way is pride associated with knowing God?

Answer:It is a matter of pride and glory to serve and know the Lord of heaven and earth.

19.Question

What is a key point made about biblical figures and their relationship with God?

Answer:Progressive understanding of God is not solely dependent on theological knowledge, but on personal relationship and experience.

20.Question

How does the relational aspect of knowing God differ



from mere knowledge about Him?

Answer: Knowing God involves interaction and experience, unlike simply knowing facts about Him.

21.Question

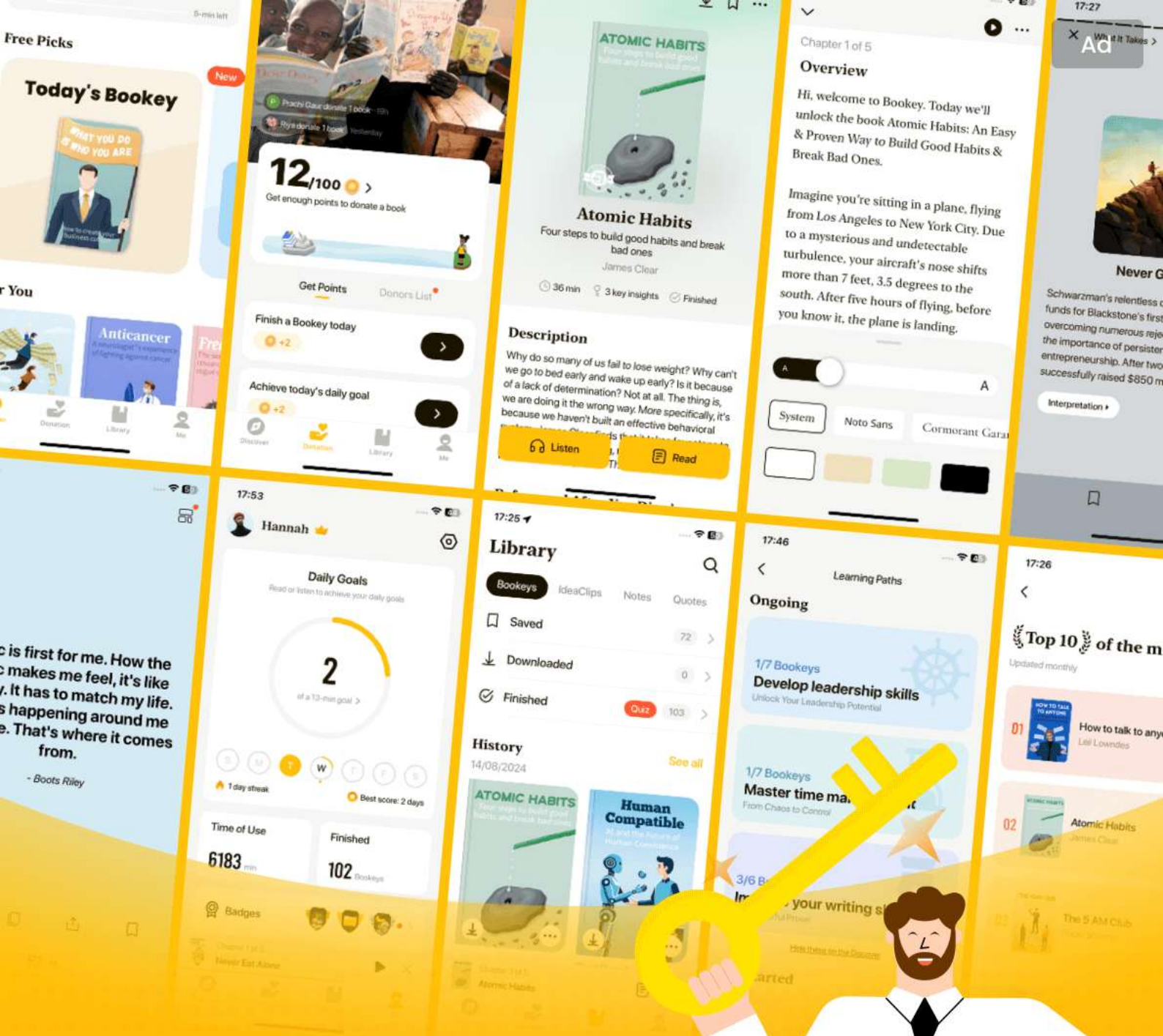
What implications does being known by God have on personal comfort and confidence?

Answer: It assures us of His constant love and care, which brings comfort and energizes faith.

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Chapter 4 | The Only True God| Q&A

1.Question

What does the second commandment teach us about worshiping images of God?

Answer:The second commandment prohibits the making and worshiping of images, emphasizing that God is to be worshiped without physical representations, as they distract from his true nature and glory.

2.Question

Why are images considered a dishonor to God according to J.I. Packer?

Answer:Images obscure God's glory and misrepresent his true nature, as anything created cannot adequately reflect the divine. They can lead to a distorted understanding of God's character.

3.Question

How do images lead to misconceptions about God?

Answer:Images can mislead worshipers into associating God with human qualities or emotions, resulting in a false



understanding of his character and will, such as characterizing him as a figure who embraces debauchery.

4.Question

Is the prohibition against images limited to physical representations, or does it extend to mental images as well?

Answer:It extends to mental images; imagining God in specific terms is a breach of the second commandment as it distorts one's understanding of his true nature.

5.Question

How should believers view God to align with the second commandment?

Answer:Believers should take their understanding of God exclusively from Scripture, recognizing His transcendence and listening to His revelation through the biblical text.

6.Question

What significance does the phrase 'jealous God' hold in the context of the second commandment?

Answer:It signifies God's desire to protect His glory from distortion through images, as image worship risks



misrepresenting his divine identity.

7.Question

How does J.I. Packer differentiate between artistic expression and idolatry?

Answer:While artistic expressions can enhance worship, the creation of images that represent God risks being seen as idolatrous if they are treated as literal representations of His being.

8.Question

What is the role of Jesus Christ in understanding the character of God?

Answer:Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God's nature, and believers are urged to center their understanding of God around Christ's person and work.

9.Question

How does the text challenge the notion of personal interpretations of God?

Answer:The text emphasizes that personal interpretations rooted in individual preference or cultural bias can lead to a form of idolatry, as these do not align with God's own



revealed nature in Scripture.

10.Question

What is the importance of Scripture in forming a correct understanding of God?

Answer:Scripture is the authoritative source that teaches believers about God's true nature, allowing them to know Him accurately rather than through flawed images or personal imagination.

11.Question

What are the implications of treating images as symbolic rather than representational?

Answer:If images are seen merely as symbols, they may serve as aids in worship without distorting the truth of God, but care must be taken to ensure they do not evoke representational interpretations.

Chapter 5 | God Incarnate| Q&A

1.Question

What makes the concept of atonement difficult for many people to believe?

Answer:Many people question how the death of



Jesus, one individual, could possibly account for the sins of all humanity. They struggle with the idea that such a singular event in history can have worldwide implications for forgiveness.

2.Question

Why is the resurrection a stumbling block for belief?

Answer:The belief that Jesus physically rose from the dead is hard for many to accept, as they find it easier to adhere to alternative explanations, such as the body being stolen or Jesus merely having fainted.

3.Question

What is the core mystery of the Christian faith, according to Packer?

Answer:The greatest mystery lies in the Incarnation—Jesus being both fully divine and fully human. This paradox challenges our understanding of both God's nature and the human condition.

4.Question

How does understanding the Incarnation help resolve other theological difficulties?



Answer: Once the Incarnation is grasped, challenges related to atonement, resurrection, and miracles become less daunting, as they all inherently connect back to the divine nature of Jesus.

5.Question

What do the Gospels say about the identity of Jesus at birth?

Answer: The Gospels emphasize that the baby born in Bethlehem was not just any child but was God Himself, the only begotten Son, fully divine even as He became fully human.

6.Question

What significance does Packer attribute to Jesus being 'God made man'?

Answer: Jesus becoming man means He experienced human conditions fully, including temptation and suffering, allowing Him to empathize with our struggles and ultimately bring us salvation.

7.Question

In what way does Packer argue that the Incarnation



relates to the atonement?

Answer:Packer asserts that the Incarnation cannot be separated from its redemptive purpose; it is tied to the events leading up to the Crucifixion, affirming that Christ's birth was inherently linked to humanity's need for salvation.

8.Question

What should the 'Christmas spirit' represent according to Packer?

Answer:The Christmas spirit should embody selflessness and concern for others, reflecting the humility of Christ who became poor for the sake of humanity. It calls for active engagement in addressing human needs throughout the year.

9.Question

How does Packer distinguish between Christian attitudes and societal norms regarding wealth and generosity?

Answer:He criticizes Christians who focus solely on their middle-class comforts without helping those in need, suggesting that true Christianity is about enriching others, not just oneself.



10.Question

What is implied by the phrase 'He became poor'?

Answer: This signifies that Jesus voluntarily relinquished His divine privileges and glory to fully experience human hardships, ultimately paving the way for humanity to gain spiritual wealth through His sacrifice.

Chapter 6 | He Shall Testify| Q&A

1.Question

What does the term 'Trinity' represent in Christian belief?

Answer: The term 'Trinity' represents the Christian doctrine of one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It signifies the complexity of the divine nature, affirming that while there is one God, He exists as three distinct persons who are co-equal and co-eternal.

2.Question

Why is the doctrine of the Trinity often neglected in modern worship and teaching?

Answer: The doctrine of the Trinity is often perceived as a



mysterious theological concept that many feel they can live without. This neglect is reflected in church practices, where recitations of the Athanasian Creed occur infrequently, and sermons on the Trinity are rarely preached.

3.Question

What is the significance of the Holy Spirit in relation to the gospel?

Answer:The Holy Spirit is crucial for the existence of the gospel; without Him, there would be no revelation of Jesus Christ or the New Testament. He enables the apostles and disciples to bear witness to Christ and ensures the accurate transmission of the gospel message.

4.Question

How does the Holy Spirit function in the life of a believer?

Answer:The Holy Spirit serves as a Comforter, illuminating the truth of the gospel, enabling believers to understand and accept God's Word. He also regenerates individuals, bringing them to faith and transforming them into new creations in Christ.



5.Question

What does the author mean by 'the doctrine of the Holy Spirit is the Cinderella of Christian doctrines'?

Answer: This phrase suggests that the doctrine of the Holy Spirit is often overlooked or undervalued within Christianity compared to the more emphasized doctrines about Jesus Christ. Just as Cinderella was neglected and dismissed, so too is the Holy Spirit's role often ignored in both teaching and practice.

6.Question

How do we honor the Holy Spirit, according to the text?

Answer: We honor the Holy Spirit by acknowledging and relying on His work in our lives, recognizing His role in inspiring and authenticating Scripture, living according to that Scripture, and trusting Him to empower our witness for Christ.

7.Question

What impact does the Holy Spirit have on the church's effectiveness?

Answer: The Holy Spirit is essential for the church's life and



effectiveness; without His work, the church might be spiritually barren. Acknowledging and honoring the Holy Spirit is seen as crucial for revitalizing the church and its mission.

8.Question

What happens in our lives if we ignore the Holy Spirit's work?

Answer:Ignoring the Holy Spirit's work leads to dishonor not only towards the Spirit but also to Christ, who sent Him. It suggests an ignorance of the spiritual life that the Holy Spirit facilitates, potentially resulting in spiritual stagnation and ineffectiveness in witness.

9.Question

Why is it problematic for Christians to be unaware of the Holy Spirit's role?

Answer:It is problematic because it indicates a lack of understanding about the very essence of Christian faith and living. The Holy Spirit is the one who empowers believers to comprehend and live out the gospel; without such awareness,



essential aspects of faith are marginalized.

10.Question

How does John's Gospel contribute to our understanding of the Trinity?

Answer: John's Gospel introduces the complexity of the Trinity by illustrating the distinct roles and relationships of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It emphasizes the importance of recognizing Jesus as God the Son and the Holy Spirit as the Comforter sent to guide and empower believers.

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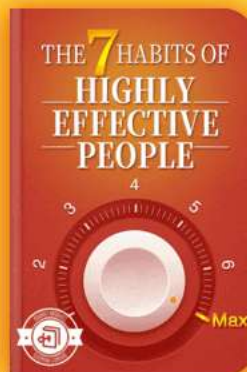
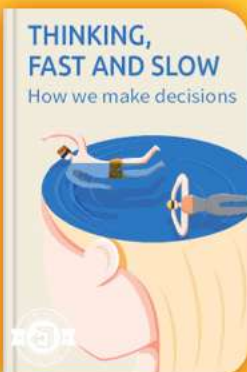


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Chapter 7 | God Unchanging| Q&A

1.Question

What is the main challenge faced by modern readers of the Bible according to J.I. Packer?

Answer:Modern readers often feel puzzled and disconnected from the Bible's stories, perceiving them as events in a distant and different world. They struggle to see how the teachings and experiences of biblical figures apply to their contemporary lives.

2.Question

How does Packer suggest that we overcome the feeling of remoteness from the biblical experiences of God?

Answer:Packer suggests that the feeling of remoteness is an illusion. The true link between the biblical characters and modern believers is God Himself—who is unchanging and immutable. Understanding that God does not change helps bridge the gap between their experiences and ours.

3.Question

What are the key aspects of God's immutability discussed by Packer?



Answer:Packer emphasizes six key aspects of God's immutability: God's life does not change, His character does not change, His truth does not change, His ways do not change, His purposes do not change, and His Son does not change.

4.Question

What comfort and challenge does the idea of an unchanging God provide to believers today?

Answer:The comfort lies in the assurance that amidst life's uncertainties, God and His promises remain steadfast and reliable. The challenge stems from the question of how believers justify settling for a lesser experience of communion and conduct with God, when He is the same God who interacted with biblical figures.

5.Question

How does the concept of God's unchanging nature impact the way believers should live their lives?

Answer:Believers are encouraged to trust and fellowship with God positively, just as biblical figures did. They are



challenged to strive for a more profound experience of communion with God and to reflect a higher standard of Christian conduct.

6.Question

Why does Packer reject the belief that God changes like humans do?

Answer:Packer states that unlike humans who can change in character and purpose, God's nature is constant and perfect. He is not influenced by time or circumstances, ensuring that His truth and promises are always valid and applicable.

7.Question

What does Packer mean when he says that God's promises and commands are eternally valid?

Answer:Packer explains that biblical promises and commands are not limited to the time they were given; they continue to apply to believers today, as God's intention and character do not change over time.

8.Question

What is a significant takeaway from Packer's discussion about God and His relationship with humanity?



Answer: A significant takeaway is the understanding that just as God remained the same in biblical times, He is ever-present and actively engaged with believers today, calling them to live in close communion with Him, despite the passage of time and cultural differences.

Chapter 8 | The Majesty of God| Q&A

1.Question

What does the term 'majesty' signify in relation to God according to the text?

Answer: The term 'majesty' signifies God's greatness and is an acknowledgment of His divine supremacy. It is an invitation to worship, as seen in scriptures such as Psalm 93:1-2, where God's rule is portrayed through His majestic presence.

2.Question

How does modern perception of God differ from that of historical evangelicals?

Answer: Modern people often have a diminished view of God, associating Him with weakness or inadequacy, whereas



historical evangelicals like Luther and Edwards recognized Him as mighty and majestic, leading to deeper reverence and understanding.

3.Question

Why is it important to understand God's personal nature alongside His majesty?

Answer:Understanding God's personal nature emphasizes His active engagement in our lives; however, recognizing His majesty situates us in awe of His infinite power and knowledge, reminding us of our proper relationship to Him.

4.Question

What two steps does the Bible suggest we take to form a correct idea of God's greatness?

Answer:First, we must remove from our thoughts any limits that would make God seem small. Second, we should compare God with the immense powers and forces we regard as significant, reinforcing His incomparability.

5.Question

How does the Psalmist in Psalm 139 illustrate God's omnipresence and omniscience?



Answer: The Psalmist reflects on how there is no escape from God's presence, stating that regardless of where he goes—be it in the heavens or depths—God's hand remains upon him, showing His constant knowledge and awareness of our actions and thoughts.

6.Question

What are the key implications of God's actions in Genesis regarding His majesty?

Answer: In Genesis, God's actions—creating order, punishing wickedness, and overseeing the events of history—illustrate His authority and control over creation, underscoring His majesty as the omnipotent creator who is involved in every aspect of life.

7.Question

What are God's responses to Israel's doubts about His care and power as depicted in Isaiah?

Answer: God rebukes wrong thoughts about Himself by asking how He could be compared to anything else, He assures Israel of His unwavering attention, and He challenges



their belief in His limitations, emphasizing His eternal strength and involvement.

8.Question

What does it mean for Christians today to think accurately about God's greatness?

Answer: Thinking accurately about God's greatness means recognizing His absolute power, wisdom, and presence, which should frame our trust and worship toward Him, cultivating a stronger faith than the often weak and flabby belief seen in modern Christianity.

9.Question

How does the depiction of God in Isaiah 40 provide comfort to the despondent?

Answer: Isaiah 40 comforts the despondent by reminding them of God's supreme power over nations and creation, assuring them that their fears are dwarfed by His might, and encouraging them to see God's greatness as a source of strength and hope.

10.Question

In what way is God's greatness meant to affect the



believer's response?

Answer: God's greatness should lead believers to a profound sense of awe and worship, inspire trust in His sovereign control over all circumstances, and renew their strength as they reflect on His majestic nature.

Chapter 9 | God Only Wise| Q&A

1.Question

What does it mean to say that God is wise in the biblical sense?

Answer: In the Bible, wisdom encompasses both moral and intellectual qualities, requiring the ability to see and choose the best goals and means to achieve them. God's wisdom reflects a complete and unchanging essence, as He is always wise in everything He does.

2.Question

How does God's wisdom differ from human wisdom?

Answer: Human wisdom can be thwarted by circumstances and others' actions, as illustrated in the story of Ahithophel.



In contrast, God's wisdom is inseparable from His omnipotence, ensuring that His plans and purposes are never frustrated.

3.Question

What is the ultimate purpose behind God's wisdom in our lives?

Answer:God's ultimate goal is for humanity to love and honor Him fully, leading to a deep relationship characterized by joy and mutual love, culminating in His glory and our fulfillment.

4.Question

How does God's wisdom shape His dealings with individuals, according to the biblical examples provided?

Answer:Through the lives of figures like Abraham and Jacob, we see that God uses His wisdom to shape their character, teaching them reliance on Him and transforming their weaknesses into strengths for His purposes.

5.Question

What lesson can we draw from Joseph's hardships regarding God's wisdom?



Answer: Joseph's experiences remind us that God uses trials for personal growth and to enable us to fulfill His plans, ultimately working for the good of His people, even if we don't immediately understand the process.

6.Question

How should we respond to trials and difficulties based on God's wise purposes?

Answer: We should approach trials with the perspective that they serve a good purpose for our growth and deeper reliance on God. Trusting in His wisdom allows us to find meaning even in our suffering.

7.Question

What attitude did Paul exemplify in the face of his troubles, and what can we learn from it?

Answer: Paul learned to embrace his weaknesses as a means for God's power to be displayed in his life. This model encourages us to accept our difficulties as opportunities for growth and glorification of God.

8.Question

What should we do when we cannot see God's purpose



during difficult times?

Answer: We should take our troubles as from God, reflect on how the gospel applies to our response, and seek His face specifically about the situation, trusting that He is working wisely even when we are in the dark.

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Chapter 10 | God's Wisdom and Ours| Q&A

1.Question

What are the two categories of God's attributes according to the Reformed theologians?

Answer:God's attributes are classified into incommunicable and communicable attributes.

Incommunicable attributes, such as independence, immutability, infinity, and simplicity, are unique to God and denote His transcendence. Communicable attributes, like wisdom, spiritual freedom, and moral characteristics (goodness, holiness), are qualities that God shares with humanity.

2.Question

Why are incommunicable attributes significant?

Answer:Incommunicable attributes highlight the vast differences between God and humans, emphasizing His self-sufficiency, unchanging nature, eternal existence, and purity—qualities that humans do not possess.

3.Question

What is the significance of communicable attributes in



understanding human identity?

Answer:Communicable attributes demonstrate how God has created humans in His image, allowing us to partake in qualities like morality and spirituality. This intrinsic link underlines our capacity for wisdom, goodness, and the ability to engage in divine communion.

4.Question

What role does wisdom play in a believer's life according to Scripture?

Answer:Wisdom is essential for living rightly and effectively as a Christian. Proverbs urges believers to seek wisdom as a life-giving gift. Wisdom equips us to make proper decisions and understand God's will, thus fulfilling our purpose.

5.Question

What prerequisites must one meet to obtain wisdom from God?

Answer:To receive wisdom from God, one must develop a healthy reverence for God (fear of the Lord) and engage deeply with His Word (Scripture). Humility and a willingness



to learn are crucial for gaining divine wisdom.

6.Question

How does the author convey the misconception of wisdom among Christians?

Answer:Many Christians mistakenly equate wisdom with the ability to understand God's providential plans. They believe that true wisdom involves knowing God's reasons for events in their lives, which often leads to confusion and despair. The author warns against this mindset.

7.Question

What is the essence of wisdom as suggested in Ecclesiastes?

Answer:Ecclesiastes teaches that wisdom is about recognizing life's realities, acknowledging our limitations in understanding God's ways, and living faithfully despite uncertainties. True wisdom embraces humility, fear of God, and obeying His commandments.

8.Question

How is wisdom connected to the believer's character transformation?



Answer: The gift of wisdom transforms believers by instilling humility, joy, and godliness. As believers become wise, they display Christ-like attributes—peace, love, and faithfulness—leading to a more profound relationship with God.

9.Question

What warning does the author give regarding the pursuit of knowledge versus wisdom?

Answer: The pursuit of knowledge for its own sake can lead to pride and despair, while true wisdom involves a humble reliance on God, focusing on faith and faithfulness rather than trying to grasp everything intellectually.

10.Question

How can Christians cultivate wisdom in their daily lives?

Answer: Christians can cultivate wisdom by engaging regularly with Scripture, seeking God earnestly in prayer, practicing humility, and actively applying God's Word to their lives, allowing their faith to guide their actions.

Chapter 11 | Thy Word Is Truth| Q&A



1.Question

What does the term 'God's sovereignty' mean in the context of the text?

Answer:God's sovereignty refers to God's absolute rule as the monarch of the universe, governing all events and circumstances according to His will.

2.Question

How are God's words characterized in the text?

Answer:God's words are characterized as having a dual purpose: they establish laws and regulations that shape our environment and also maintain a personal connection with His subjects, inviting them into fellowship.

3.Question

What important role does God's word play in creation according to Genesis 1?

Answer:God's word initiates creation, bringing order from chaos. Each creative command, 'Let there be...', results in the specific formation of elements in the universe, showcasing His authority.

4.Question

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In what manner does God speak to humanity according to the text?

Answer: God communicates to humanity through commandments, testimonies, and promises, aiming to govern, educate, and engage our hearts and minds in a loving relationship.

5.Question

What are the threefold characteristics of God's Torah mentioned in the text?

Answer: The Torah consists of law (commands and prohibitions), promise (assurances from God), and testimony (information about God and humanity).

6.Question

Why is it crucial for humans to know God according to this chapter?

Answer: Knowing God is essential for fostering a loving relationship with Him, which requires understanding His nature and intentions as revealed through His word.

7.Question

How does God's faithfulness manifest in His promises?



Answer:God's faithfulness is demonstrated through the consistent fulfillment of His promises, assuring those who trust Him of His unwavering support even in challenging circumstances.

8.Question

What is the essence of being a true Christian as described in the text?

Answer:A true Christian recognizes and lives under the authority of God's word, fully submitting to its teachings, trusting its promises, and adhering to its commands.

9.Question

What warning does the text provide about disregarding God's commandments?

Answer:Disregarding God's commandments can lead to moral self-destruction and a gradual loss of humanity, ultimately implying that such actions degrade one's character and spiritual well-being.

10.Question

How should Christians respond to God's word according to the teachings in this chapter?



Answer: Christians should submit without reserve to God's word, allowing it to guide their lives, shaping their understanding of sin, forgiveness, and daily conduct.

Chapter 12 | The Love of God| Q&A

1.Question

What does it mean to say 'God is love'?

Answer: Saying 'God is love' means that God's love is not just an aspect of His character; it is His very essence. This love is unconditional, selfless, and present regardless of human merit or worthiness. It reflects His inner being and His relationship with humanity.

2.Question

How does Paul describe the love of God in relation to the Holy Spirit?

Answer: Paul describes the love of God as being 'shed abroad' or poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. This means that it is not only available to believers but is meant to fill their hearts abundantly, providing them with an



overwhelming sense of God's love and presence.

3.Question

Why is it important to understand that God's love is connected to His holiness?

Answer:Understanding that God's love is connected to His holiness is crucial because it challenges the misconception that God's love is permissive or indulgent. Instead, God's love is an expression of His righteousness and moral standards, seeking holiness in those He loves.

4.Question

What does the phrase 'God's love to sinners is an outgoing of God in kindness' imply?

Answer:This implies that God's love is a sovereign choice that extends to individuals despite their sinful nature, demonstrating His grace and mercy. It is not based on human worthiness but is entirely gratuitous, showing the depth of His goodness.

5.Question

How does the concept of covenant illustrate God's love?

Answer:The concept of covenant illustrates God's love as it



represents a committed relationship where God pledges to be in a mutual helping bond with humanity. This love is not abstract but personalized, promising divine assistance, care, and the sharing of blessings in a dedicated relationship.

6.Question

How does the gift of His Son exemplify God's love?

Answer:The gift of His Son exemplifies God's love by highlighting the immense sacrifice He made for humanity's salvation. This ultimate act of love demonstrates God's willingness to endure great personal cost for the benefit of those He loves, emphasizing how much He values individuals.

7.Question

What should be the response of believers based on the love of God described in this chapter?

Answer:Believers should respond by mirroring God's love in their relationships with others, showing selfless, sacrificial love just as God has shown to them. This includes offering kindness, forgiveness, and support to others, reflecting God's



character in their daily lives.

8.Question

What challenges do Christians face in understanding and embodying God's love?

Answer: Christians may struggle with doubts about God's love during hardships, allowing fear and resentment to creep in. They might also face challenges in consistently demonstrating love to others, reflecting their understanding and appreciation of God's unwavering love.

9.Question

How does the context of God being 'light' help clarify the nature of His love?

Answer: The context of God being 'light' reinforces that His love is not just a warm feeling; it is intertwined with His holiness and moral perfection. This means God's love is pure, righteous, and seeks to lead humanity into a life that reflects His moral character.

10.Question

How can one meditate on and examine their understanding of God's love in their own life?



Answer: One can meditate on God's love by reflecting on personal experiences of His grace, considering Scripture's promises, and evaluating how one loves others—asking whether their actions align with the selfless love God demonstrates. Regular self-examination can help align one's heart and actions with the truth of God's love.

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Chapter 13 | The Grace of God| Q&A

1.Question

What is grace in Christianity according to J.I. Packer?

Answer:Grace is a personal activity from God operating in love toward people, rather than an impersonal force. It is the spontaneous, self-determined kindness of God towards guilty sinners, contrary to their merit.

2.Question

Why do many churchgoers struggle to believe in the concept of grace?

Answer:Many struggle due to a deep-rooted misbelief about their relationship with God, specifically four truths: the moral ill-desert of man, the retributive justice of God, the spiritual impotence of man, and the sovereign freedom of God.

3.Question

How do modern views of moral character conflict with the concept of grace?

Answer:Modern individuals often view themselves as



fundamentally good, ignoring significant moral failings.

They tend to minimize wrongdoing and dismiss guilt, which makes the concept of grace irrelevant to them.

4.Question

What role does retributive justice play in understanding grace?

Answer:A proper understanding of grace requires acknowledging that God, as a just judge, cannot overlook wrongdoing. Without recognizing the reality of sin and retribution, the need for grace remains unappreciated.

5.Question

How is spiritual impotence connected to the acceptance of grace?

Answer:To accept grace, one must recognize their inability to repair their relationship with God through personal effort or moral behavior. The realization of helplessness is essential to receive salvation.

6.Question

Describe how the sovereign freedom of God affects grace. What does it mean for humanity?



Answer:God is not obligated to show mercy or grace. His decision to provide grace is entirely His own, which highlights the unearned nature of grace and assures that salvation cannot be claimed as a right.

7.Question

Why is understanding grace vital for experiencing the joy of salvation?

Answer:When individuals grasp their desperate need for grace and the astonishing love of God shown through Christ's sacrifice, it brings overwhelming joy and gratitude for the hope and pardon found in salvation.

8.Question

What does Packer mean when he states that grace leads to a response of gratitude in believers?

Answer:Grace should inspire believers to engage in good works and gratitude rather than moral laxity. Genuine appreciation of grace results in a desire to live a life that honors God.

9.Question

How should believers express their recognition of God's



grace in their daily lives?

Answer:Believers should actively commit to good works and prayer, reflecting their gratitude for grace by seeking to live in accordance with God's will and demonstrating love to others.

10.Question

What is the relationship between grace and justification in the Christian faith?

Answer:Justification, the act of being declared righteous by God, is made possible through grace. It is not something earned, but a free gift resulting from God's willingness to forgive sins through Christ.

Chapter 14 | God the Judge| Q&A

1.Question

What do you believe about God as a Judge?

Answer:Many people reject the idea of God as a Judge, finding it unworthy, yet the Bible strongly emphasizes His role as Judge throughout its history and teachings.



2.Question

What biblical examples illustrate God's judgment?

Answer:Examples include God's judgment on Adam and Eve, Noah's generation, Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Israelites for various acts of unfaithfulness all demonstrate God's active role as Judge.

3.Question

How is God's character reflected in His role as a Judge?

Answer:God's judgment reveals His moral perfection, righteousness, wisdom, omniscience, and omnipotence. It's imperative for a morally perfect being to judge between good and evil.

4.Question

What is the basis of divine judgment according to the Bible?

Answer:The basis of divine judgment is retribution—rewarding good behavior and punishing wrongdoing—an essential element of God's justice and moral law.

5.Question



In what ways are works significant in the final judgment?

Answer: Our works provide an index of our heart's true nature. While they do not earn salvation, they reflect character and will be assessed during judgment.

6.Question

Can you explain the relationship between faith and works in the context of judgment?

Answer: While justification by faith protects believers from condemnation, they will still be assessed for their actions as Christians. This assessment relates to rewards or losses in their relationship with God.

7.Question

How does the New Testament reinforce the theme of judgment found in the Old Testament?

Answer: The New Testament amplifies this theme, describing future judgment clearly and emphasizing that Jesus Himself will be the Judge of all.

8.Question

Why might people shy away from considering God as a Judge?



Answer: Many perceive the idea of God as a Judge as unworthy, but understanding His judgment as the basis for moral perfection and justice is essential.

9.Question

What ultimately should be our response to the coming judgment?

Answer: We are encouraged to seek Christ now as our Savior. Acknowledging Him as Savior today prepares us for His role as Judge in the future, assuring us of no condemnation.

10.Question

What does the assurance of no condemnation mean for believers?

Answer: For believers, it means that despite their shortcomings, they can confidently face the judgment because they are in Christ Jesus, who provides grace and salvation.

Chapter 15 | The Wrath of God| Q&A

1.Question

What is the definition of wrath as discussed in the chapter?



Answer: Wrath is defined as "deep, intense anger and indignation," characterized by a sense of injury or insult. It is presented as a significant attribute of God, contrasting with the modern church's tendency to downplay or avoid the topic.

2.Question

Why do many Christians avoid discussing the wrath of God?

Answer: Many Christians avoid discussing God's wrath because it has become a taboo subject in modern society, where discussions tend to emphasize God's kindness, leaving little room for conversations about judgment and wrath.

3.Question

How does the Bible present the concept of divine wrath?

Answer: The Bible presents divine wrath as a natural reaction to moral evil and injustice, emphasized through various references across both the Old and New Testaments, indicating a robust understanding of God's character that includes both goodness and wrath.



4.Question

What misunderstanding do people have about God's wrath?

Answer: People often misunderstand God's wrath as analogous to human anger, which can be rash or unworthy. In contrast, biblical wrath is depicted as a righteous and controlled response to sin, devoid of the irrationality found in human emotions.

5.Question

What is the theological significance of God's wrath according to the chapter?

Answer: God's wrath signifies His justice and moral perfection, representing His necessary reaction to sin. It reveals that He cannot tolerate evil and emphasizes the moral order established by His character.

6.Question

How is God's wrath linked to human choice?

Answer: God's wrath is intricately linked to human choice in that individuals ultimately choose to reject the light of God and thus opt for a path leading away from Him, leading to



consequences that align with their choices.

7.Question

What does the chapter indicate about the relationship between God's wrath and human understanding of justice?

Answer:The chapter indicates that God's wrath operates on the principle of justice, where individuals receive what they deserve based on their actions and choices, showcasing that God's judicial response is moral and appropriate.

8.Question

How does the author encourage believers to understand God's wrath?

Answer:The author encourages believers to confront the reality of God's wrath to fully understand the salvation offered through Christ, appreciate the seriousness of sin, and foster a deeper reverence for God's holiness.

9.Question

What is the ultimate message about deliverance from God's wrath?

Answer:The ultimate message is that believers can be saved



from God's wrath through faith in Jesus Christ, who serves as the propitiation for sin, allowing them to stand justified before God.

10.Question

How can reflecting on divine wrath enhance one's spiritual life, according to the chapter?

Answer: Reflecting on divine wrath can engender a deep sense of the seriousness of sin, foster a reverent fear of God, and inspire gratitude for the salvation received through Christ, all of which contribute to a more profound spiritual understanding and relationship with God.





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Chapter 16 | Goodness and Severity| Q&A

1.Question

What does Romans 11:22 reveal about the character of God?

Answer:Romans 11:22 highlights the dual aspects of God's nature—His goodness and severity. Paul emphasizes that God should not be seen as only kind or only judgmental, but rather both attributes are essential for understanding His character and His dealings with humanity.

2.Question

How have modern beliefs about God contributed to confusion regarding faith?

Answer:Many people form their beliefs about God based on personal feelings or misconceptions rather than Scripture. They tend to view all religions as equal and often detach ideas of God's goodness from His severity, leading to profound misunderstandings of His nature and the necessity of Christ's atonement.



3.Question

Why is it important to connect God's goodness with His severity?

Answer:Connecting God's goodness with His severity is crucial for a complete understanding of His holiness. It prevents complacency in believers and helps individuals recognize the seriousness of sin, leading to genuine repentance and a deeper appreciation of God's grace.

4.Question

What did Paul mean by referring to God's severity as 'cutting off'?

Answer:The term 'cutting off' refers to God withdrawing His goodness from those who reject it, exemplified in His rejection of Israel for their unbelief. It signifies that continual disregard for God's grace can result in spiritual separation and judgment.

5.Question

How does understanding God's patience influence our view of His discipline?

Answer:Recognizing God's patience allows us to see His



discipline as a loving act meant to bring us to repentance rather than as mere punishment. It encourages believers to respond to God's kindness by seeking a relationship with Him and striving to live according to His will.

6.Question

What role does appreciation of God's goodness play in our spiritual life?

Answer:Appreciating God's goodness involves actively recognizing and thanking Him for His mercies, which strengthens our faith and loyalty to Him, inspiring us to live obediently and share His love with others.

7.Question

How can we respond to the understanding of God's goodness and severity in our lives?

Answer:We can respond by appreciating and thanking God for His goodness daily, acknowledging His patience in our shortcomings, and willingly accepting His discipline as a pathway to holiness and deeper relationship with Him.

8.Question

Why is the concept of God as a 'celestial Santa Claus'



problematic?

Answer: This concept reduces God to an indulgent figure devoid of judgment or holiness, leading to a belief system where sin is minimized, and accountability is lost, ultimately eroding the foundation of true Christianity centered on repentance and redemption.

9.Question

How can reflecting on Psalm 107 inform our understanding of God's goodness?

Answer: Psalm 107 illustrates God's tangible acts of goodness in restoring and rescuing His people, encouraging believers to express gratitude for personal deliverance and to recognize the ongoing impact of God's grace in their lives.

10.Question

What is the significance of the discipline of God in the life of a believer?

Answer: The discipline of God is significant as it serves to redirect believers back to Him, ensuring they remain reliant on His grace and mercy, thus fostering spiritual growth and



preventing complacency in faith.

Chapter 17 | The Jealous God| Q&A

1.Question

What does it mean for God to be a 'jealous God'?

Answer:God's jealousy reflects His deep desire for exclusive love and loyalty from His people, akin to a husband's protective zeal over his wife. It is not a human flaw but a divine quality, embodying His commitment to ensuring His creation honors and values the covenant relationship with Him.

2.Question

How does Scripture depict God's jealousy compared to human jealousy?

Answer:Scriptural references to God's jealousy are anthropomorphic, using human feelings to describe divine attributes. Unlike human jealousy, which often stems from insecurity and spite, God's jealousy is rooted in His holiness and zeal to protect the purity of His relationship with His people.



3.Question

Why is God's jealousy considered a virtue?

Answer:God's jealousy is a virtuous aspect of His covenant love that seeks to preserve and protect the bond He establishes with His people. It acts as a safeguard against idolatry and unfaithfulness, demonstrating His commitment to a pure and exclusive relationship.

4.Question

What are the implications of God's jealousy for believers?

Answer:Believers are called to respond with zeal towards God, reflecting a passionate commitment to serving Him and promoting His glory. This includes actively rejecting idolatry in all its forms and living out a devotion that aligns with God's desires for His people.

5.Question

How should churches respond to the concept of God's jealousy?

Answer:Churches must foster zeal and passion for God to avoid becoming complacent or lukewarm, as exemplified in Revelation 3:15-16. They are urged to keep their devotion



genuine and fervent, reflecting the seriousness of God's call to loyalty.

6.Question

What does the second commandment teach us about jealousy?

Answer:The second commandment highlights God's expectation of undivided loyalty and love, portraying idolatry as spiritual adultery that provokes His jealousy. This emphasizes the importance of fidelity to God in both worship and daily living.

7.Question

In what ways does God's jealousy lead to action concerning His people?

Answer:God's jealousy motivates Him to discipline His people when they stray into idolatry or sin, but it also leads Him to restore and redeem them after repentance. His actions demonstrate both His righteous judgment against unfaithfulness and His unwavering love for those who return to Him.



8.Question

How can believers articulate their zeal for God in practical terms?

Answer:Believers can express their zeal for God through active service, prayer, evangelism, and living out their Christian values amidst challenges. This includes seeking opportunities to glorify God in every aspect of life, prioritizing His will, and inspiring fellow believers to do the same.

9.Question

What historical examples of zeal for God are provided in the text?

Answer:Examples include Phinehas, who acted decisively against idolatry in Numbers 25, and the prophet Elijah, noted for his passionate commitment to God. These figures illustrate that true zeal is characterized by active defense of God's honor and righteousness.

Chapter 18 | The Heart of the Gospel| Q&A

1.Question

What does the act of Agamemnon sacrificing his daughter



symbolize in the context of pagan religious beliefs?

Answer:It symbolizes the lengths to which humans go to appease the gods in paganism, showcasing a belief system based on bribery and manipulation rather than genuine relationship or righteousness.

2.Question

How does the biblical view of God differ from the pagan understanding of gods?

Answer:The Bible presents God as the one almighty Creator without bad temper or capriciousness, whereas pagan gods are seen as jealous and unpredictable beings similar to flawed human characters.

3.Question

In what significant ways does the idea of propitiation manifest in the Bible?

Answer:The concept of propitiation is central to both the Old Testament rituals of sacrifices and the New Testament teachings about Jesus Christ's sacrificial death, indicating that averting God's wrath is integral to the message of



salvation.

4.Question

What is the primary significance of the term 'propitiation' in Christian theology?

Answer:In Christian theology, propitiation refers to the act of appeasing God's wrath, specifically through the sacrificial death of Christ, which allows for reconciliation and forgiveness between humanity and God.

5.Question

Why do some biblical versions replace 'propitiation' with 'expiation,' and what does this signify?

Answer:Some biblical versions use 'expiation' to denote the removal of sin's barrier to fellowship with God, but this term does not encompass the aspect of appeasing God's anger as 'propitiation' does.

6.Question

What does Romans 3:25 convey about Jesus' role in propitiation?

Answer:Romans 3:25 asserts that Jesus was set forth by God as a propitiation through His blood, indicating that His



sacrificial death was crucial in showing God's righteousness and providing justification for sinners.

7.Question

How is God's wrath characterized in the context of propitiation?

Answer:God's wrath is characterized as a righteous reaction against moral perversity that is integral to His holiness, rather than as arbitrary or unjust anger.

8.Question

How does the death of Christ relate to the concept of propitiation?

Answer:The death of Christ is the ultimate act of propitiation, demonstrating the reconciliation of God's righteousness and love, by bearing the punishment for human sins through His sacrificial death.

9.Question

What evidence does the New Testament provide for the necessity of understanding propitiation in relation to salvation?

Answer:The New Testament consistently ties the concept of



propitiation to themes of atonement, reconciliation, and God's justice, indicating that any gospel excluding propitiation is incomplete.

10.Question

In what manner does the doctrine of propitiation influence the understanding of God's love?

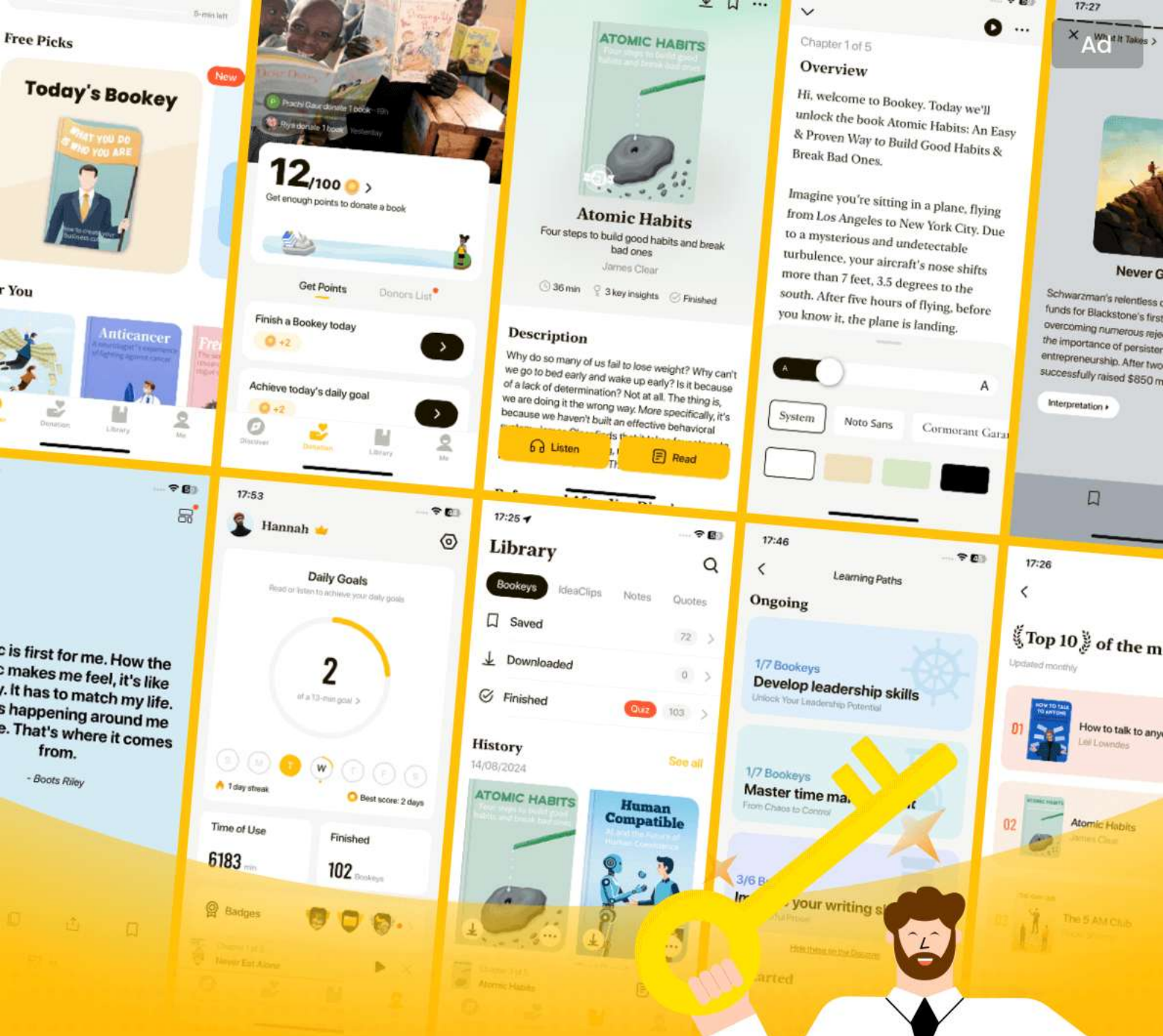
Answer:The doctrine of propitiation shows that God's love is both sacrificial and just, as it necessitated the atonement for sin, reinforcing that God's grace operates within the framework of divine justice and righteousness.

11.Question

What implications does understanding propitiation have for the believer's relationship with God?

Answer:Understanding propitiation assures believers of their acceptance before God, as it indicates that His wrath has been satisfied, allowing them to experience peace and ongoing fellowship with Him.





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Chapter 19 | Sons of God| Q&A

1.Question

What distinguishes a Christian from being just a child of God?

Answer:A Christian is distinctively one who has God as Father through faith in Jesus Christ, unlike all people presumed to be children of God by natural birth.

2.Question

What does the New Testament imply about the nature of God's Fatherhood?

Answer:The New Testament reveals a shift to a more intimate relationship, depicting God as a loving Father rather than just a sovereign deity. This fatherhood signifies love, authority, fellowship, and honor.

3.Question

How does adoption in Christianity differ from secular adoption?

Answer:In Christianity, adoption is not merely a legal change of status but signifies a deep, loving relationship with God,



transforming believers into His children and heirs, reflecting grace rather than obligation.

4.Question

What are some characteristics of the relationship between God and His adopted children?

Answer: This relationship includes God's authority over them, His affectionate love, a deep sense of fellowship, and the glory He grants them as His heirs.

5.Question

How does understanding our adoption impact a believer's life?

Answer: Understanding our adoption influences every aspect of a Christian's life, fostering a sense of family in faith, the motivation for holy living, assurance of salvation, and the relationship with God as Father.

6.Question

In what way is adoption described as the highest privilege of the gospel?

Answer: Adoption is seen as the highest privilege because it conveys a richer relationship with God as a loving Father,



contrasting with justification, which, while essential, is more about legal standing.

7.Question

Why is understanding the concept of sonship important in Christianity?

Answer:Understanding sonship helps Christians grasp their identity and destiny, framing their relationship with God, their conduct, prayer life, and the overall purpose of their faith.

8.Question

What does Packer mean by saying the Spirit is 'the Spirit of adoption'?

Answer:He means that the Holy Spirit emphasizes our status as children of God, prompting us to perceive God as a Father and facilitating our connection to Him and our identity in Christ.

9.Question

How should Christians view their interactions with God according to this chapter?

Answer:Christians should interact with God as loving



children, confidently approaching Him in prayer and trusting in His provisions, just as children rely on their parents.

10.Question

What role does the concept of inheritance play in the believer's understanding of adoption?

Answer:Inheritance assures Christians of their future share in God's glory, being co-heirs with Christ, highlighting the hope and certainty of eternal life with God.

11.Question

What practical steps can Christians take to affirm their understanding of adoption?

Answer:Christians can reflect regularly on their identity as children of God, engage in prayer that acknowledges God's Fatherhood, and live in obedience that reflects family values.

12.Question

In times of doubt, what assurance should Christians cling to regarding their adoption?

Answer:Christians should remember that their relationship with God as their Father is eternal and unchanging, providing both a sense of security and an invitation to grow closer to



Him.

13.Question

How does the concept of adoption transform a believer's approach to holiness?

Answer:Adoption motivates holiness as a family resemblance; beloved children seek to live in a way that pleases their Father, supporting a heartfelt rather than a legalistic pursuit of righteousness.

14.Question

Why is community among believers significant in the context of adoption?

Answer:Community reflects the family of God; mutual love and support among believers are seen as vital to living out the implications of being God's children and heirs.

15.Question

What hope does adoption provide for Christians facing struggles in life?

Answer:Adoption provides the hope of a secure future and assurance of God's everlasting love, helping believers navigate hardships with the certainty of their place in God's



family.

16.Question

How does understanding adoption affect a believer's view on prayer?

Answer: Prayer becomes a relational dialogue characterized by intimacy and trust, grounded in the belief that God is accessible and always inclined to listen to His children.

17.Question

How is the family analogy used to explain the relationship between believers and God?

Answer: The family analogy highlights love, care, authority, and mutual affection, demonstrating how God desires a close, nurturing, and guiding relationship with His adopted children.

18.Question

How does Packer perceive the historical neglect of the concept of adoption in Christian teaching?

Answer: Packer emphasizes that adoption has often been underappreciated compared to justification, leading to misconceptions about the nature of the believer's relationship



with God.

19.Question

What transformative impact does the experience of being adopted by God have on a believer's identity?

Answer:Being adopted reshapes one's identity, instilling a profound sense of belonging, purpose, and the responsibility to reflect God's nature in daily life.

Chapter 20 | Thou Our Guide| Q&A

1.Question

Why do many Christians struggle with guidance?

Answer:Many Christians struggle with guidance not due to doubt about God's capability to guide, but out of fear that they might miss God's intended direction due to their own shortcomings, prompting a sense of anxiety about their own receptiveness to divine guidance.

2.Question

What are the two foundational beliefs that support the reality of divine guidance?

Answer:The two foundational beliefs are: 1) God's plan for



each individual exists; and 2) God has the ability to communicate this plan to us.

3.Question

How does scripture illustrate God's ability to guide individuals?

Answer:Scripture provides numerous instances, such as God guiding the Israelites through the wilderness with a cloud and fire, directing the apostles through personal encounters and visions, and affirming that God will instruct and counsel those who seek Him as seen in Psalm 32:8 and Isaiah 58:11.

4.Question

What common mistake do earnest Christians make while seeking guidance?

Answer:Earnest Christians often mistakenly believe that divine guidance should always come through inward promptings disconnected from the written Word, rather than recognizing the importance of biblical teachings as the foundation of guidance.

5.Question

What are some examples of common pitfalls when



seeking divine guidance?

Answer: 1) Unwillingness to think critically about decisions; 2) Lack of foresight regarding long-term consequences; 3) Disregarding the value of advice from others; 4) Not examining one's motives and feelings honestly; 5) Falling prey to the influence of charismatic individuals instead of evaluating their guidance against scripture; 6) Difficulty in waiting for God's timing.

6.Question

How does the experience of trouble relate to following God's guidance?

Answer: Experiencing trouble does not necessarily indicate that one has deviated from God's path; rather, experiencing difficulties is often part of following God's guidance, as shown in scriptural examples like the lives of Jesus and Paul, who faced opposition and hardships despite being guided by God.

7.Question

What comfort do Christians have when they realize they



have missed God's guidance?

Answer: Christians can find comfort in knowing that God sovereignly integrates their mistakes into His overarching plan for their lives, restoring them and bringing good from misadventures, as evidenced by the promises in scripture and examples like Peter's restoration after denial.

8.Question

What overarching theme underpins God's guidance according to J.I. Packer?

Answer: The overarching theme is that God's guidance is grounded in His faithful commitment to lead His people safely home, regardless of the mistakes they may make along the way, embodying grace and reassurance in their journey.

9.Question

How does divine guidance reflect on God's character according to Packer?

Answer: God's willingness to guide reflects His nature as a caring Father who desires to instruct, teach, and counsel His children, emphasizing His character of love and provision in



leading them towards righteousness and growth.

10.Question

What is the essence of confidence in seeking divine guidance?

Answer:The essence of confidence in seeking divine guidance lies in trusting God's sovereignty and His promise that, despite human failings, He will ensure believers find their way back to Him, highlighting His faithfulness.

Chapter 21 | These Inward Trials| Q&A

1.Question

What is the primary criticism of the evangelical ministry discussed in Chapter 21?

Answer:It tends to scale down the problem of sin, presenting an inadequate gospel that leads to false hopes about the Christian life.

2.Question

How does the author illustrate the consequences of a ministry that misapplies grace?

Answer:The imagery of short beds and narrow blankets exemplifies the discomfort and discontent that arises when



people rely on a gospel insufficient to address their needs.

3.Question

What is the danger of emphasizing the positive aspects of becoming a Christian while downplaying struggles?

Answer:It can create unrealistic expectations, leading new believers to feel disillusioned when they encounter the actual challenges of the Christian life.

4.Question

What does the author suggest about the nature of Christian growth?

Answer:Christian growth involves facing challenges and tests, which are intended to build character, strengthen faith, and lead believers to deeper dependence on God.

5.Question

What is the proposed remedy to the frustrations expressed by struggling Christians, according to the criticized ministry?

Answer:The remedy involves finding and confessing failures in their consecration to God, with the belief that returning to a state of spiritual fervor will resolve their struggles.



6.Question

How does the author view the idea that spiritual struggles signify a lack of true Christianity?

Answer: This notion is considered cruel, as it creates unnecessary bondage and discouragement among believers trying to navigate their spiritual journeys.

7.Question

What is the purpose of God's grace, according to the author?

Answer: The primary purpose of grace is to restore our relationship with God and deepen our fellowship with Him, which often involves exposing us to trials.

8.Question

What does the author mean when he talks about God using our sins and mistakes?

Answer: He suggests that God can transform failures into opportunities for learning and growth, enabling believers to experience deeper grace and restoration.

9.Question

What emotional response do Christians often have when



their experiences of joy fade after initial conversion?

Answer: They may mistakenly believe they have lapsed into substandard Christianity and question how to regain that initial feeling of joy.

10.Question

How does the author relate the concept of grace to real-life experiences of believers?

Answer: He emphasizes that God's grace is demonstrated through real struggles and that believers are called to lean on God during tough times instead of seeking a carefree existence.



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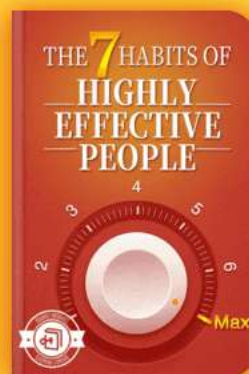
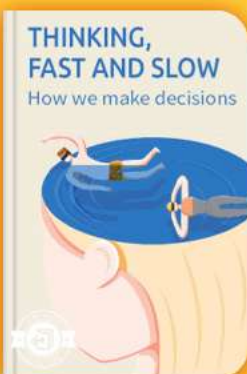


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Chapter 22 | The Adequacy of God| Q&A

1.Question

Why is Romans considered the high peak of Scripture?

Answer:Romans is called the high peak of Scripture because it encapsulates the entire message of the gospel and provides a comprehensive understanding of key Christian doctrines such as justification, grace, faith, and the nature of God. Both Martin Luther and John Calvin highlighted its significance, indicating that understanding Romans opens up the understanding of the rest of the Bible.

2.Question

What does Paul emphasize about reading Romans as a book of life?

Answer:When reading Romans as a book of life, Paul emphasizes that it serves as a deep analysis of both sin and grace, illustrating the struggles and triumphs of the Christian experience. It provides insight into what it means to serve God, exposing the reality of human sin and the



transformative power of God's grace.

3.Question

How does Romans define the identity of the church?

Answer:Romans defines the church as the community of believers, the true descendants of Abraham, both Jew and Gentile, who are justified by faith and filled with the Holy Spirit. It presents the church as a unified body living out God's purpose of mutual ministry and righteousness.

4.Question

What personal reflection does reading Romans inspire in believers?

Answer:Reading Romans invites believers to deeply reflect on their sinful habits, moral shortcomings, and the grace of God that offers forgiveness and hope. It encourages self-examination and the pursuit of genuine repentance, leading to renewed joy and assurance in God's love.

5.Question

What is the central theme of Romans chapter 8?

Answer:Romans chapter 8 is centered around the themes of Christian assurance and the inexhaustible love of God. It



proclaims that there is no condemnation for those in Christ, emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit, and asserts that nothing can separate believers from the love of God.

6.Question

How does Paul address the fear of opposition among Christians?

Answer:Paul addresses the fear of opposition by affirming that if God is for us, no one can be against us. He encourages believers to focus on the sovereign protection of God, reminding them of His covenant commitment to uphold them amidst challenges and adversities.

7.Question

What assurance does Paul provide regarding the gifts of God to believers?

Answer:Paul reassures believers that since God did not spare His own Son, He will graciously give them all things. This highlights the idea that God's provision for believers is comprehensive and encompasses all their spiritual needs, reinforcing His generosity and commitment.



8.Question

What does Paul declare about accusations against believers?

Answer:Paul declares that no accusation can disinherit those whom God has chosen because it is God who justifies. He emphasizes that the divine verdict of justification is final and unchangeable, meaning that no one, including the devil, can overturn God's justifying grace.

9.Question

What can never separate believers from the love of God, according to Paul?

Answer:According to Paul, nothing in all creation—including death, life, spiritual powers, or any other circumstances—can separate believers from the love of God in Christ Jesus. This conveys the unbreakable bond between God and those who believe.

10.Question

How does knowing God transform a believer's life?

Answer:Knowing God transforms a believer's life by fostering a deep relationship and encouraging them to rely



completely on God's promises. This knowledge leads to confidence, hope, and the ability to navigate life's challenges with joy, as God's sovereignty and power become evident in their experiences.

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Knowing God Quiz and Test

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Chapter 1 | The Study of God| Quiz and Test

- 1.The study of humanity is deemed more important than the study of God according to the book.
- 2.Understanding God's nature is not necessary for meaningful living in modern times.
- 3.Meditation on God's truths is vital for spiritual growth according to J.I. Packer.

Chapter 2 | The People Who Know Their God| Quiz and Test

- 1.Individuals can possess immense theological knowledge without having genuine familiarity with God's presence.
- 2.Knowing God does not significantly impact a believer's energy, thoughts, boldness, or contentment.
- 3.True followers of God will prioritize loyalty to Him, regardless of the risks involved.

Chapter 3 | Knowing and Being Known| Quiz and

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Test

- 1.The ultimate aim and source of joy in life is the knowledge of God.
- 2.Knowledge of God is considered inferior to wisdom, strength, or wealth.
- 3.Knowing God is merely an acquaintance and does not require a personal relationship.



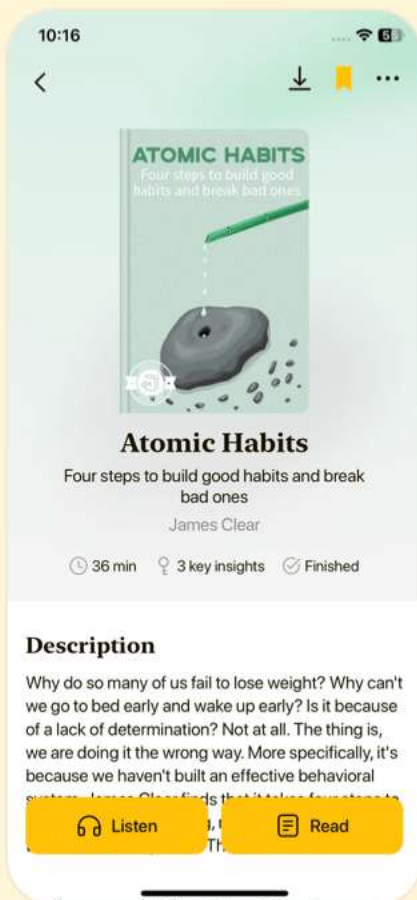


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Chapter 4 | The Only True God| Quiz and Test

1. Idolatry is only associated with visible forms of worship like pagan statues.
2. According to the second commandment, making physical images of God is completely prohibited.
3. Mental representations of God based on personal interpretations are encouraged according to the second commandment.

Chapter 5 | God Incarnate| Quiz and Test

1. The Baby Born at Bethlehem Was God, according to the New Testament.
2. The Incarnation signifies that Jesus was fully human and relinquished his divinity.
3. The purpose of the Incarnation was only to highlight Jesus' humble birth without any connection to his mission of salvation.

Chapter 6 | He Shall Testify| Quiz and Test

1. Christians believe in one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, which is



known as the Trinity.

2.The Holy Spirit is often misunderstood as an abstract idea rather than an active presence in the lives of Christians.

3.The work of the Holy Spirit is not essential for the existence of Christianity as stated in the book.

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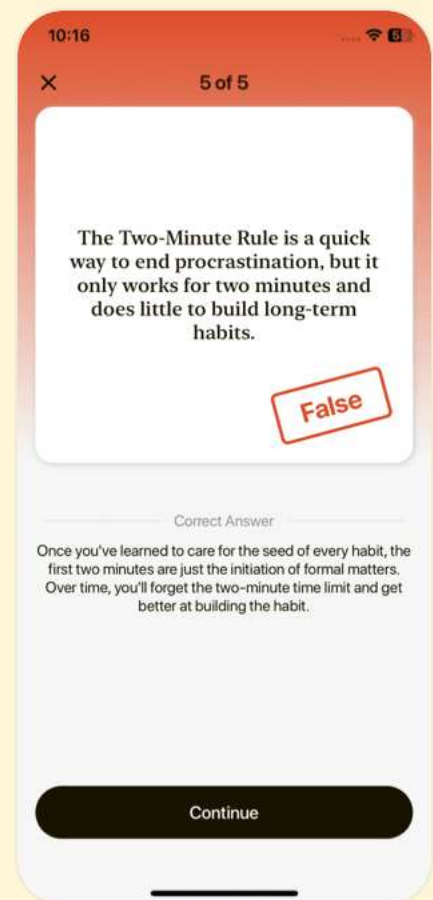
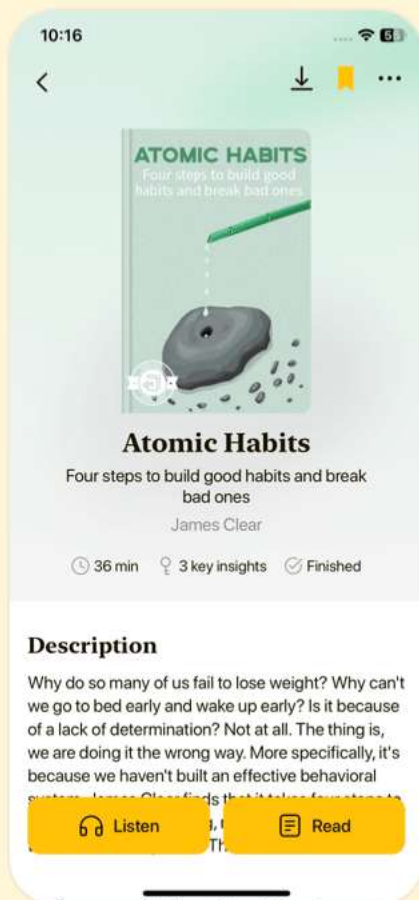


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Chapter 7 | God Unchanging| Quiz and Test

- 1.The Bible is fundamentally the Word of God,
intended to guide believers in understanding Him
and His will.
- 2.The God of the Bible changes over time to meet the needs
of each generation.
- 3.Believers today can experience the same nature of
fellowship with God as those in biblical times.

Chapter 8 | The Majesty of God| Quiz and Test

- 1.The term 'majesty' means 'greatness' in Latin.
- 2.The book 'Knowing God' presents the idea that seeing God
as overly personal enhances our understanding of His
greatness.
- 3.Isaiah 40 encourages believers to meditate on God's
unmatched strength compared to human limitations.

Chapter 9 | God Only Wise| Quiz and Test

- 1.God's wisdom is portrayed as a moral and
intellectual quality that combines intelligence with
the right intentions.



2. Human wisdom can never be obstructed, always leading to successful outcomes regardless of circumstances.
3. Believers are encouraged to view their trials as divinely appointed opportunities for growth and deeper reliance on God.



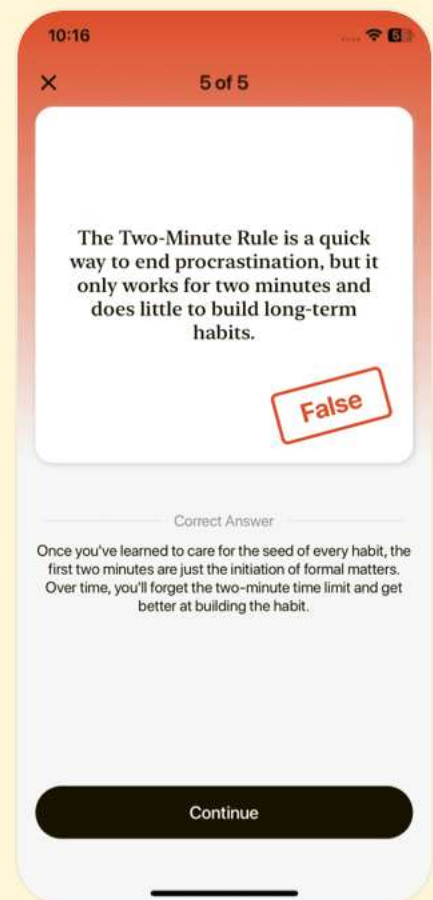
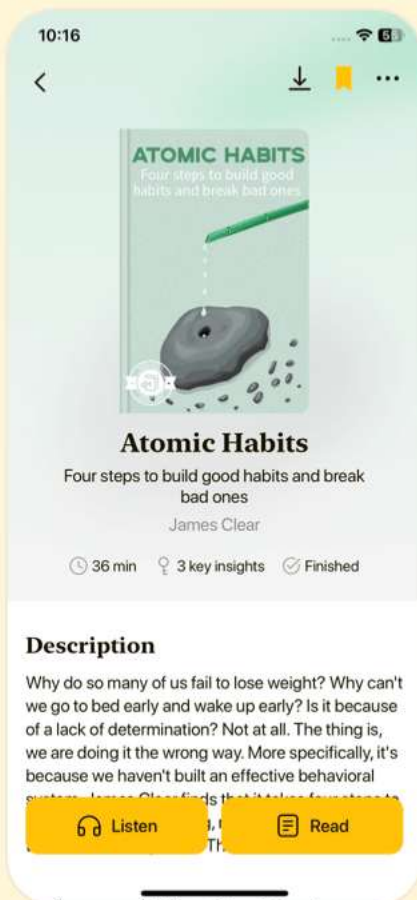


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Chapter 10 | God's Wisdom and Ours| Quiz and Test

1. God's image in man has been completely obliterated since the Fall.
2. Wisdom, according to the Bible, primarily means understanding every divine purpose in life.
3. Reverence for God is a prerequisite for gaining wisdom.

Chapter 11 | Thy Word Is Truth| Quiz and Test

1. God is described in the chapter as the absolute monarch of the universe who governs all aspects of life.
2. God's word serves solely as a set of regulations and laws without personal communication.
3. Obedience to God's word leads to true humanity and flourishing according to the chapter.

Chapter 12 | The Love of God| Quiz and Test

1. God's love is described as an exercise of goodness aimed at sinners.
2. God's love is separate from God's holiness and justice.



3. Understanding God's love can lead to a covenant relationship with believers.

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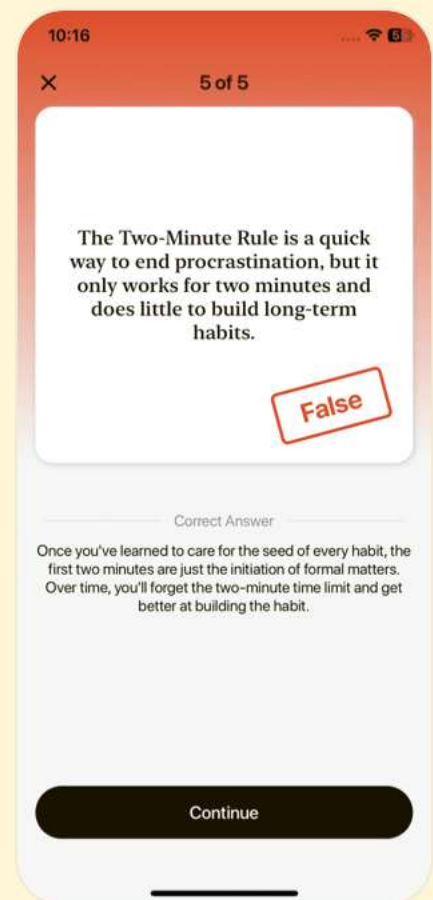
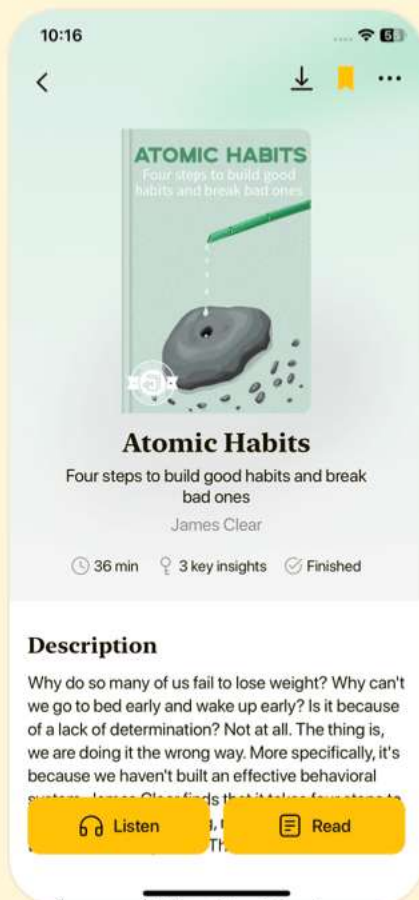


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Chapter 13 | The Grace of God| Quiz and Test

- 1.Christianity is often described as a religion of grace, which is recognized as an impersonal force.
- 2.Many professing Christians understand the four core truths underlying the doctrine of grace.
- 3.Grace is the unconditional love shown by God to guilty sinners and is the foundation of salvation.

Chapter 14 | God the Judge| Quiz and Test

- 1.The Bible emphasizes God's role as a judge throughout its narratives and teachings.
- 2.In the New Testament, Jesus does not play a role in delivering judgment according to the Bible.
- 3.Divine judgment assesses individuals only on their faith, not on their actions or works.

Chapter 15 | The Wrath of God| Quiz and Test

- 1.God's wrath is considered an attribute of God and is often discussed in modern Christianity.
- 2.The Bible emphasizes both God's judgment and His kindness equally throughout the scriptures.



3. God's wrath is a righteous response to moral evil and is free from human imperfections.

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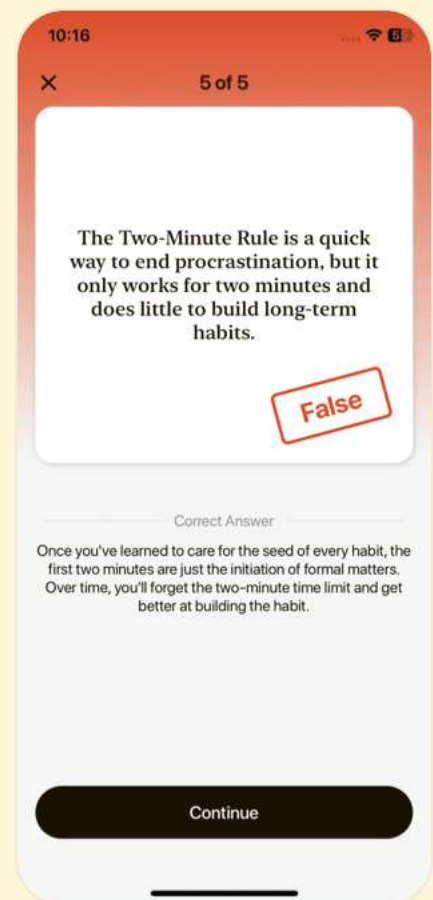
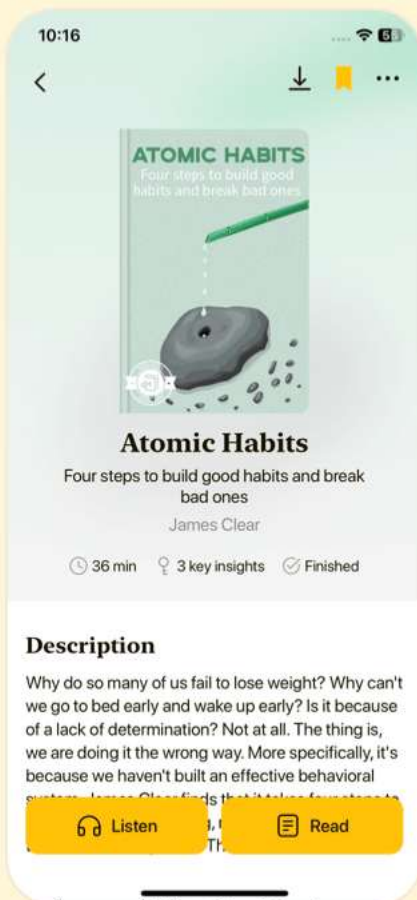


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Chapter 16 | Goodness and Severity| Quiz and Test

1. God's character is defined solely by His goodness, and His severity is not a crucial aspect to understand.
2. The belief that God is always benevolent and does not have wrath or judgment is a distortion of true Christianity.
3. God's severity refers only to His punitive actions towards those who believe and not towards those who reject Him.

Chapter 17 | The Jealous God| Quiz and Test

1. God's jealousy is comparable to human envy and spite, reflecting limitations of human emotions.
2. The type of jealousy God possesses is aligned with protective and righteous jealousy, aimed at preserving relationships.
3. Believers are discouraged from being zealous for God and should maintain a complacent attitude in their faith.

Chapter 18 | The Heart of the Gospel| Quiz and Test

1. Pagan beliefs about propitiation emphasize a



commercial transaction where gods are manipulated through offerings to avoid their wrath.

- 2.The Bible teaches that God is capricious and requires human effort to appease His anger, similar to pagan views.
- 3.In Christianity, God's wrath against sin is averted through the sacrificial death of Jesus, which fulfills divine justice.



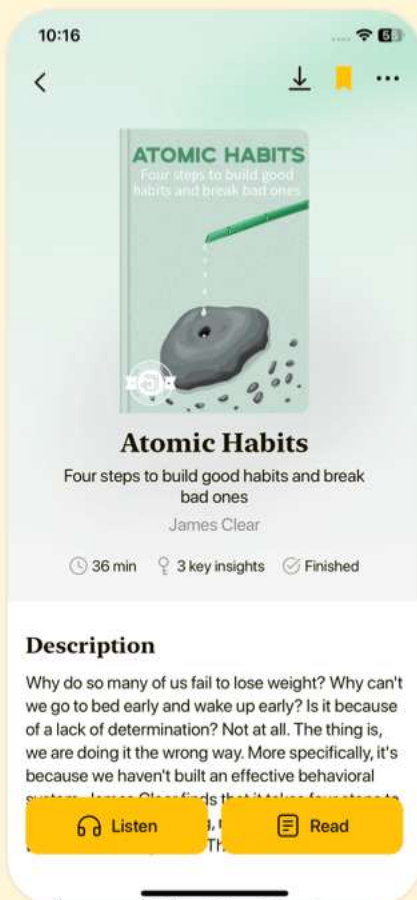


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Chapter 19 | Sons of God| Quiz and Test

- 1.A Christian is defined as someone who has God as their Father, a relationship not granted to all by birth but obtained through faith in Jesus Christ.
- 2.The Old Testament portrays God as the Father solely of all nations, while the New Testament extends this through Christ.
- 3.Adoption is highlighted as a greater privilege than justification, as it evokes an intimate relationship as children of God.

Chapter 20 | Thou Our Guide| Quiz and Test

- 1.Many Christians do not fear missing God's guidance due to their own shortcomings.
- 2.Divine guidance depends on God's ability to communicate His unique purpose for every believer.
- 3.Seeking counsel from others is considered unnecessary when pursuing divine guidance.

Chapter 21 | These Inward Trials| Quiz and Test

- 1.The cruel ministry of the gospel minimizes the



seriousness of sin and neglects God's purpose.

2.This type of ministry promises an easy Christian life without any struggles.

3.Spiritual growth involves avoiding hardships and striving only for positive experiences.

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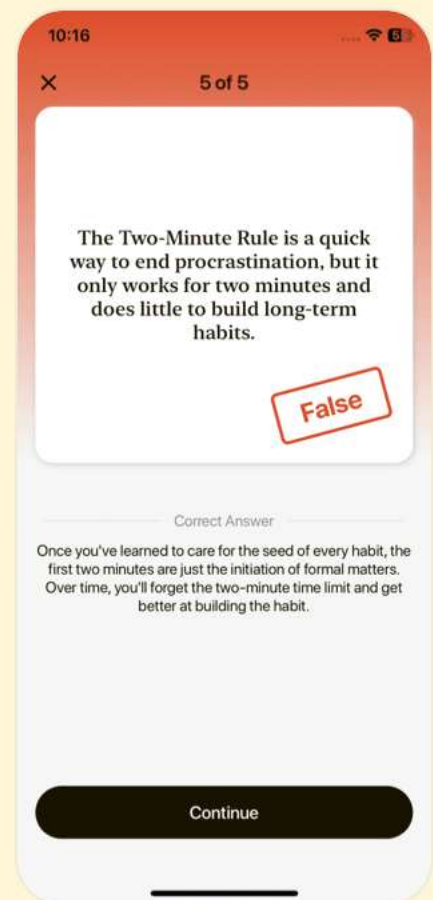
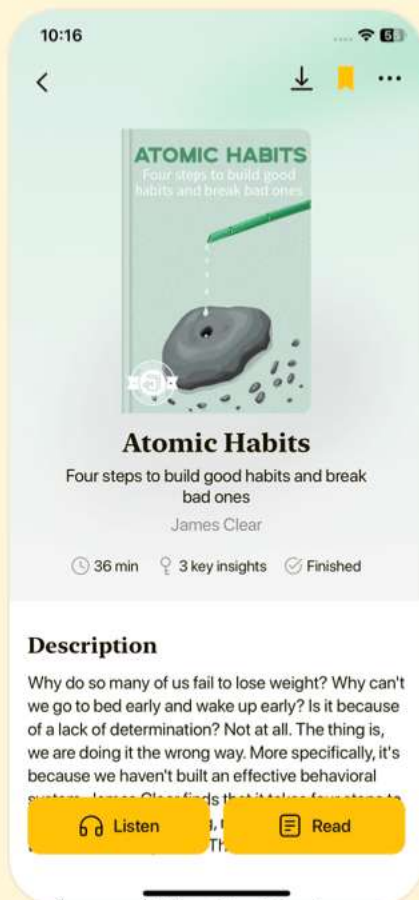


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Chapter 22 | The Adequacy of God| Quiz and Test

1. Romans is considered the highest peak of scripture, providing a clear expression of the Gospel and understanding human nature.
2. Romans emphasizes that God's blessings are contingent upon works and performance.
3. Understanding the doctrines in Romans leads to life-changing spiritual applications for the believer.





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