

God's Revelation

*"Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: **that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places." (Eph. 1:15-20)*

THERE are several ways in which God reveals Himself to us. First, God reveals Himself to us through creation. The Bible says: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech and night unto night reveals knowledge" (Psalm 19:1-2) and "for since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20). One can come to a conclusion that there must be a God and there must be a Creator just by simply gazing upwards into the heavens and seeing the splendor and the majesty of God's creation. David said: "O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens! When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?" (Psalm 8:1, 3-4).

Second, God reveals Himself to us through His Word. The Bible says that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:17). The Greek word for the phrase "given by inspiration of God" is "theopneustos" which means "divinely breathed" or "God-breathed" which means that the Word of God is of divine origin and did not come about by "the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). David said: "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue" (2 Sam. 23:2). Peter acknowledged the "wisdom" given to Paul and viewed his epistles on the same level "as the rest of the Scriptures" (2 Peter 3:15). Paul thanked God that when the church in Thessalonica received the word of God which they heard from him and the apostles, they "welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe" (1 Thess. 2:13). Jesus prayed to the Father saying: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:16).

Third, God reveals Himself to us through Christ, who is the "Word of God" (Rev. 19:13). We read in the Gospel of John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:1-3). The Greek word for "Word" here is "logos" which means the Divine "Expression." Christ was the Divine Expression. He is the One who revealed God to us. The Bible says that "no one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the

Father, He has declared Him” (John 1:18). He has “manifested” His name to the men whom He has given to Him out of the world (John 17:6). In times past, God spoke in “various ways” to the “fathers by the prophets” (Heb. 1:1). But He “has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds” (Heb. 1:2). You cannot know God apart from His Son. Jesus said: “All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him” (Luke 10:22). “Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also” (1 John 2:23). And “that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him” (John 5:23). Christ is “the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person” (Heb. 1:3). He who has seen Him has seen the Father (John 14:9) and no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). The written Word points to the Living Word who is the Lord Jesus. Jesus said: “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39). The law “was our tutor to bring us to Christ” (Gal. 3:24).

And Fourth, God reveals Himself to us through the Holy Spirit. “No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God” (1 Cor. 2:11) and we have not received the “spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God” (1 Cor. 2:12). The rulers of Paul’s age (1 Cor. 2:8) did not understand “the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory” (1 Cor. 2:7). “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God” (1 Cor. 2:10). The Holy Spirit convicts “the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8). He guides us “into all truth” (John 16:13). He glorifies Christ (John 16:14). He will take what is Christ and will declare it to us (John 16:14-15). He will teach us all things and brings Christ’s word to remembrance (John 14:26). He is the “anointing” which will guard us from deception (1 John 2:26-27). He is called “the Spirit of truth” (John 14:17), “the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might,” and “the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD” (Isaiah 11:2).

So these are four ways in which God reveals Himself to us. Ask God to reveal Himself to you. Pray that the Spirit would enlighten you that you “may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height” and “to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge” and “that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:18-19).

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