

Part 4 – The Fountain of Life

In part 3 we learned that the Lord's (YHWH's) mercy and faithfulness are so great that David likened them to being as far above the earth as the sky and clouds are is. In other words, they are infinite... as is His righteousness and His judgments (which are always just). Which is why David likened God's righteousness to the 'mountain of God' and His judgments to the deep ocean waters. And this is why we can search God's Word our entire lives and still keep learning. For one thing, it's impossible to retain all that we read from God's Word; so, it's always good to 'go back to the basics' to remember what we have forgotten. And also, as we grow and mature, spiritually, we'll better understand what's written when we study the same Scriptures again - months, or even years later. So, while God's Word (His knowledge) may be 'unsearchable', in the aspect that we cannot absorb (nor understand) it all while in a flesh body, the Holy Spirit does help us in our 'searching' God's Word so that we can understand it. After all, our Heavenly Father sent us His Word to because it contains things He *wants* us to know.

And we also saw David speak of the excellence (valuableness) of God's lovingkindness for indeed the kindness He shows to us is precious. If it were not for that, we'd all be doomed to die, spiritually, because of our sins. But, by the grace of God, the blood of Jesus Christ atones for our sins and His Holy Spirit helps us understand truth (His Word) so we don't have to die spiritually. And that's why David spoke of the 'children of men' (people in a flesh body) putting their trust under the 'shadow' of His 'wings'. This simply means we trust in His Word, and Jesus Christ, for our salvation; as well as to protect us from all evil (spiritually and physically). For, just as the shadow of His cloud (which He dwelt in) covered the children of Israel when they were in the wilderness, so too does His Holy Spirit cover us; protecting and warming us (spiritually) while we 'wander' in this wilderness (the world) as we serve God in a flesh body. We also learned that the blood sacrifices they had to perform in the days *before* Jesus came (Heb 10:10) were a 'shadow' of Jesus Christ; because - as a shadow leads to the 'thing' that casts a shadow - so too did those blood sacrifices (even the Aaronic priesthood) lead us to Jesus Christ (who was the 'true' Passover Lamb and is also the true 'High Priest'). In other words, the blood sacrifices were a 'type' (an example) for what Jesus Christ would do for us. As such, they still teach us today (Gal 3:24-25) even though we are not to perform them anymore (Heb 10:10). Yet, David is not done speaking about those who trust in the 'shadow' of God's 'wings' (the Word of God and His Holy Spirit) ...

Psalms 36

8 They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

Those who put their trust under the 'shadow' of God's 'wings' trust in God's Word, Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit. As such, they will be *abundantly* satisfied with the 'fatness' of His 'house'... what's this mean? Well, the words '**abundantly satisfied**' are one Hebrew prime root that means *to slake* [satisfy or quench] *the thirst* (occasionally of other appetites) (#7301). And the word '**fatness**' means *the fat*, the *fatness*, i.e. (figuratively) *abundance*, or even the (fatty)

ashes of sacrifices (#1880). And the word ‘house’ does mean *house* but it can also mean a *family* (#1001) and comes from a word that means *to build* (#1129). Further, the word ‘drink’ means *to quaff* [which means to drink (usually an alcoholic beverage) heartily or copiously] i.e. (causatively) *to irrigate* or *furnish a potion* [a mixture of liquids (such as liquor or medicine)] *to* (#8248). And the word ‘river’ means *a stream*, especially *a winter torrent*; (by implication) a (narrow) *valley* (in which a brook runs); also a shaft (of a mine) (# 5158). It’s been translated as brook, flood, river, stream, valley. And the word ‘pleasures’ means (unaspriously) *pleasure* (#5730) but comes from a prime root that means *to be soft* or *pleasant*; figuratively and reflexively, *to live voluptuously* (#5730).

So, if we trust in our Heavenly Father, He’ll make sure we are abundantly satisfied insomuch that we’ll have more than enough to eat and drink both physically and (more importantly) spiritually. Essentially, this verse points out that the blessings of God are *wonderful*. If you read through the blessings in Lev 26 and Deut 28, you’ll see that, even this flesh life can be very good *when you obey* our Heavenly Father. As it is written...

2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

6 Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

7 The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

8 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

9 The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

10 And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

11 And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

Deut 28:2-13

So, every aspect of life of life can be *very* good to the nation that obeys God. However, these blessings can also be obtained by the individual (and their family) if they obey God's Word, even when their nation does not. And while you're likely not going to be a millionaire (unless the Lord has a purpose for you to use that money for) you will indeed be very wealthy with (first and foremost) peace of mind, good health, plenty to eat (and even some to share), a home to live in and the necessities you really need in life. And likely, you'll have much more than you need too. Being 'rich' doesn't have to mean that we have 'oodles' of money. After all, our monetary system IS debt. So, most people who are 'rich' can also be made poor very quickly if the stock market crashed, as has happened in the past (all around the world). Therefore, if you don't have any debt (your house, car, land and all other things are paid for) you truly are much 'richer' than those who have 'bigger and better things' than you do because: *they don't own anything, but you do*. Further, if you have enough money to pay taxes so you can keep your property, you're also very well off. And we should be grateful for it because it's the Lord (YHVH) who gives us the wisdom (through His Word) to manage our affairs well.

But, as always, when we have **a lot** of 'good things', people have a tendency to forget God (who blessed them) and fall away to idols and false gods – as Lev 26 and Deut 28 warn, as well as Deut 32:13-18 (among other places). And that's why Prov 23:4 warns us: *labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom*. And Paul also issues a strong warning in 1 Tim 6:6-12 where he tells us to be happy with what we have and not to live life in this world with the goal of getting rich. After all, godliness with contentment is great gain (vs 6) but *the love of money is the root of all evil* (vs 10) and those that desires to be rich *fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition* (vs 9). In other words, money often corrupts our heart and mind... which in turn causes many other problems in life because that brings on cursings from God. So, while it's nice to have 'money' (and it's certainly not a sin to have money **if** it's **not** 'ill-gotten gains') - if we do have a surplus of it - we must make sure to use it wisely (according to God's Will) ***and make sure it does not change who we are inside***. Because many times, ***people end up trusting in money instead of our Heavenly Father and they end up worshipping it***. And, as Jesus said in Matt 6:24: *no man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon*.

So, we should rather, keep our heart and mind focused on striving to be able to enter the Kingdom of God (doing what's right according to God's Laws) and the Lord (YHVH) will make sure we have all we need in life (Matt 6:33); and usually, He'll give us much more than we actually need – so long as we keep our heart 'right' with Him. We are, after all, His servants; and He knows how to make sure we have what we need to serve Him. But we should remember that life in the flesh is very temporal. We can't take *anything* we've got in the flesh with us when we die (1 Tim 6:7); so serving Him should be our priority in life. Truly, the only thing we can 'take' to 'heaven' is our 'track record', or our 'works' (be it good or bad), and you certainly want to have good works and not evil. As Peter warned in 1 Peter 4:2, we shouldn't live life in the flesh to fulfill our lusts, but to obey the will of God. And, if we do that, indeed the Lord will 'abundantly' satisfy us with the best of His 'house', meaning the best He's got to offer... which

is everything! And truly, the best ‘thing’ we can have in life is peace of mind; which can be gotten no other way than being at peace with our Heavenly Father (our Creator). And that only comes when we keep studying His Word daily, trust in it and obey it the best we can. That’s when He gives us His Holy Spirit which truly fills our soul with such a sweet peace, and joy, that there’s nothing on earth to compare it with (Phil 4:7). As David so beautifully said back in Ps 16:11: *Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

Now, in the latter part of verse 8 of this Psalm 36, David says: *thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.* In John 4, Jesus Christ explained to the Samaritan woman ‘at the well’ that the ‘water’ He had to give her would satisfy her so much she wouldn’t need to drink out of the physical well anymore. What He was promising was His Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39). And that’s because, the Holy Spirit ‘satisfies’ our spiritual thirst for truth - *because* the Holy Spirit helps us to understand truth *when* we diligently (and earnestly) study His Word. Thus, the only way we can live forever is to have the Holy Spirit within us (Rom 8:11). Why? Because, His Holy Spirit help us to understand truth as we study His written Word (John 6:63). And understanding truth is how we get to know God (and Jesus Christ) which is what we need to live forever (John 17:3). Thus, what this verse also looks forward to is being spiritually satisfied with the truth as the Holy Spirit dwells within us. As Jer 2:13 says, the Lord is the ‘fountain of living waters’. Which is why Isa 58:11 promises that *the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.* He also gives similar promises in Isa 12:2-3, Isa 55:1-3 and Isa 66:10-14, among other places.

So, our Heavenly Father *does* promise He’ll take care of us. Both now, in our flesh life, and in the Millennium and in the eternity. But, He only does so for those who love, trust and serve Him wholeheartedly (and faithfully). That’s what His ‘covenant’ is all about. So, remember: in this Psalm David is pointing out what the wicked are like verse what our Heavenly father is like. And while it may seem like the wicked are ‘getting ahead’ if life now, they truly are digging their own grave. Serving our Heavenly Father (righteousness) truly ‘pays’ so much more than serving Satan (sin) because truth (the Word of God) is everlasting while lies (Satan’s doctrine) only leads to death. As Rom 6:23 so succinctly says: *for the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Psalms 36

9 For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

Truly, the Lord (YHVH) is the only ‘fountain of life’. To quote Jer 2:13 again, our Heavenly Father said: *For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken **me** the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.* What this means is that many people have foolishly chosen to follow (and worship) Satan and his wicked ‘worldly’ system, which God likens to a cistern that only holds water but does not produce it. It’s a system that’s designed to lure our carnal lust, because it promises us we can ‘get rich quick’

and don't have to do much to get it. But, selling your soul to the Devil (Satan) is a horribly huge price to pay for mere riches of the world. As Jesus said...

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Matt 16:24-27

Jesus reminds us that, while there will come persecutions for serving Him (because we're in a spiritual war, Eph 6) we must remember that our spiritual life is much more important than our life on earth. And, when He says that those who 'lose' their life for His sake, shall find it (eternal life), He's not *only* saying that we might have to give our flesh life. That's always a possibility; and we should love Him (and be faithful) enough to do so. But, Jesus pointed out what else He was talking about in Lk 9:23 when He was saying the same thing here; only Luke adds a key point... *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me.* So, 'taking up' your 'cross' was done so you could go be crucified – that means killed - losing your flesh life. So, how on earth can we 'die *daily*'? We do so by spiritually 'killing' our 'carnal mind' every day by denying our carnal desires. And the Holy Spirit helps us with this as He gives us the strength, and understanding, to put off (daily) the 'old man' *which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts* (Eph 2:22), so we don't serve sin any longer (Rom 6:6). And this is done by *renewing the spirit of our mind* (Eph 4:23) when we sincerely study His Word (daily) (Col 3:10) so we can put on the 'new man', which is created after His image of *righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24)

Look, we're all going to die in the flesh; but our soul and spirit *don't have to die* if we simply love, and have faith in, our Heavenly Father *and* the only means of salvation He's given us - which is, of course, through faith in Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Is gaining earthly riches really worth losing your soul? Certainly not. But those who are carnally minded don't think that far in advance. Or, because of the hardness of their heart (denying truth) they really don't think they'll ever have to pay for their sins. But all those who deny Jesus Christ will find out the hard way – either when they die or when Jesus Christ returns – that Jesus Christ really is King of kings and that there is no other salvation than through Him; *for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved* (Acts 4:12). And that's why, even the Proverbs tells us that *the fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death* (Prov 14:27). So, learning to 'depart from evil and do good' (as David advised back in Ps 34:14) is how we partake of the 'fountain of life' and avoid the 'snares' of death – at the same time. As Jesus promises His faithful followers...

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. **I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.**

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Rev 21:6-7

1 And he shewed me **a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there **the tree of life**, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; **for the Lord God giveth them light:** and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Rev 22:1-5

So, we must strive (Lk 13:24) to seek out, and stick with, our true ‘fountain of life’, who is the God Almighty (YHVH) who has manifested Himself to us as Jesus Christ (John 1:1,14). It is He who gives us the ‘light’ of life (truth), even *now* – as we faithfully study His Word each day. For, without God’s Word (and Holy Spirit) in our soul and spirit, we literally will ‘dry up’ and be consumed away (Jer 17:5-6, Ps 1:4). As it is written in the next Psalm...

16 **A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.**

17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

18 The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

20 But **the wicked shall perish**, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.

Ps 37:16-20

Psalms 36

10 O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

David now makes a request in his prayer and asks that the Lord (YHVH) *continue* to give His lovingkindness to those who know Him. The word ‘**continue**’ here means *to draw* but is used in a great variety of applications; including to sow, to sound, to **prolong**, to develop, to march, to remove, to delay, to be tall, etc. (#4900). So, in the context of this verse, it’s better rendered as **prolong**, as the *Companion Bible* points out. And the word ‘lovingkindness’ is the same as was used in verse 7, and in vs 5 (rendered as ‘mercy’), which means *kindness* (#2617). But, again, there’s a stipulation here. God’s kindness will only be given (and prolonged) to those who ‘know’ Him. But, how do we get to know the Lord (YHVH)? Well, we know how we do *not*

know Him because, in Jer 9:6, the Lord (YHVH) directly tells us that *through deceit they refuse to know me*. So, anyone who does not know the truth (God's Word) doesn't know Him - no matter if they call themselves 'Christian' or not (Mth 7:21-23). That's why, in John 8:19, Jesus told the hard hearted "Jews" (who refused to believe He was the Messiah) that: *Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also*. After all, God promised to send a 'prophet'. In Deut 18:15, Moses said: *The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken*. A few verses later, Moses reiterated (and further explained) what God had said...

18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Deut 18:18-19

So, clearly, Jesus taught people who God really is; and that's simply because He taught them the truth (John 6:63). In other words, He explained what the Old Testament *really* says and condemned the 'traditions of man' that make void the Word of God (Mth 15, Mk 7). Which is why Jesus also said... *When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him* (John 8:28-29). Jesus did indeed speak the truth because He spoke (and did) what His Father told Him too. After all, the Holy Spirit was not given to Him 'in part' but rather 'in full', as it is written: *For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him* (John 3:34). And again, in Col 1:19: *For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell*. And again, in Col 2:9: *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily*. Therefore, **knowing God is understanding truth, which is His Word**. As it is also written: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God* (John 1:1). Which is why Jesus Christ *is* the Living Word (God's Word in action in a flesh body), for it is written: *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth* (John 1:14). **So, if we want to know God, we must** (absolutely must) **know His Word** (the Bible), **with understanding** – not 'traditions of man', because they 'make void' God's Word (Mth 15, Mk7). Further, **it is God's will that we know Him**, as it is also written...

31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jer 31:31-34

Paul quotes these Scriptures in his letter to the Hebrews, in chapters 8 and 10, when He is explaining the ‘new Covenant’ God made with Israel (and all people of any race) who believe in Jesus Christ. Again, the purpose of Jesus Christ (God incarnate) coming to earth was to teach people who He was *and* pay for their sins (with His own blood) so they could repent and turn back to God wholeheartedly... so that they could know the Lord (YHVH) – and His Son, Jesus Christ - and live forever with Him. So, ***if we reject God’s Word, we don’t know God.*** And, ***if we reject Jesus Christ we don’t know God.*** And subsequently, if we reject Jesus Christ then we won’t receive the Holy Spirit, which gives us understanding of God’s Word. So, if we truly want to ‘know God’, we must pray as Moses humbly did in Ex 33:13 when he asked the Lord (YHVH): *Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, **shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight:** and consider that this nation is thy people.* Moses asked for the Lord to help him understand His ‘way’ (the truth) so that he could know him – because knowing Him is what causes us to find ‘grace’ in His sight. After all, Jesus Christ Himself told us that eternal life is knowing the only true God (YHVH) and His Son, Jesus Christ – who He sent to save us from our sins (John 17:3).

And so, to those who continue to study His Word daily (sincerely) – and believe it, insomuch as they strive to obey it (wholeheartedly) – He will send His Holy Spirit to them and help them to ‘know’ Him. Which means to know what He’s like and who He is. We must understand that He is the one and only true God; the Supreme and Highest authority in the Universe. He is the Creator of all things, even us. And if we want to live forever, we must acknowledge this and submit to His Laws because we cannot live without Him for He is our life source. And what gives us life everlasting? ***His truth gives us eternal life***, as Jesus so succinctly said in John 6:63: *It is the spirit that quickeneth [makes us alive, live eternally]; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. The truth gives life to our spirit (our intellect, our heart and mind) and that’s the only thing that can cause our soul (spiritual body; the essence of who we are) and spirit (intellect; our heart and mind) to live forever.* And this is why, in the latter part of this 10th verse in Psalms 36, David asks the Lord (YHVH) to continue (prolong) - not only His lovingkindness (to those who know Him) - but also His righteousness to those who are upright in heart. In other words, He asked the Lord to give us His righteousness. Why? Because *that’s the only thing that makes our heart ‘upright’*, which means *to be straight* (#3477), instead of having a crooked (wicked) heart that lusts to sin. And this is why, a few chapters back, David asked the Lord a very similar request as Moses did...

4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

6 Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

8 Good and upright is the LORD: therefore **will he teach sinners in the way.**

9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and **the meek will he teach his way.**

10 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Ps 25:4-10

David (like Moses) asked the Lord to show him His ways and teach him His paths... and how does He do this? By leading us in 'the truth' and teaching us 'truth', as David pointed out in vs 5. Further, *that's* (learning truth) what brings salvation to our soul, as David also points out in vs 5. So, in order for us to learn how to live with God (obtain eternal life) *we must learn truth* because *that's* what teaches us *how to be righteous and upright* (not wicked) in heart, like our Heavenly Father is. ***That's why we must study God's Word; because that's the only way to learn what truth is.*** And why wouldn't someone want to study God's Word? Many claim it's just 'too hard' to understand, but those people show *they are not serious* about understanding God's Word *when they give up.* Anyone who sincerely studies (and believes) God's Word, will be given the Holy Spirit to help them understand it. That's a promise Jesus Himself gave us...

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the **Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: **but ye know him**; for **he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

John 14:15-17

At the very least, people can read the Gospels to find out what Jesus' commandments are. And in doing so, they will realize that Jesus taught us what the Old Testament teaches to. And, as they sincerely seek to get to know God (by studying His Word) then the Holy Spirit (which is the Spirit of truth) will help you to understand His Word. And over time, He'll clarify Scriptures that are hard to understand. But you have to work at it. **You have to actually try to understand.** You must be serious. As Moses said in Deut 4:29, *But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.* And in Jer 29:13, our Heavenly Father also tells us: *ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.* So, those who claim they don't study God's Word because it's 'hard to understand' are truly not seeking Him very hard, because He *promises* we'll find Him when we seek Him (through His Word) with *all* our heart, mind and soul. And when God gives us a promise, it is a fact – it's truth – it cannot be changed because God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

But, why don't people seek Him with all their heart? Because they've got other things in their heart that are more important to them than seeking the Lord. That's what idolatry is. If you would

rather entertain yourself in the ways of the world than study God's Word, you're not going to find Him, nor receive His blessings. The Lord explains this very clearly in Ezek 14:1-8 and Ezek 20:1-8. When we are not sincerely seeking our Heavenly Father, we won't find Him because, in truth, *we really don't want to find Him*. We want Him to be a 'genie in a bottle' that we can just 'rub' the 'right way' and 'poof' we'll get all our carnal lusts fulfilled. That's not how our Heavenly Father operates, which is why so many filthy hearted people would rather serve Satan, to the destruction of their own soul. Satan promises you don't have to change your wicked heart nor wicked ways and you'll still 'live forever' – but that's a lie and people will find this out. Either when they die or when Jesus Christ returns. But to those who do diligently, and sincerely, seek Him, they will continue to receive His lovingkindness as He helps them to put off their 'old man' *which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts* (Eph 2:22), and not serve sin any longer (Rom 6:6) by *renewing the spirit of their mind* (Eph 4:23) through studying God's Word (Col 3:10) which is what puts on the 'new man', *which is created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24). You can learn more about this with the special study on: **How We know – or don't know – God:** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1716>]. Let's close this study with a timely reminder...

*For without faith (in God's Word and Jesus Christ) it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God **must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.***

Heb 11:6

23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

*24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that **he understandeth and knoweth me**, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.*

Jer 9:23-24

We'll pick this up in part 5...

AMEN.