



**God Is a Provider**

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EXPERIENCING  
**GOD**

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Henry and Richard Blackaby

**LOVE AND  
GOD'S INVITATION**

**Session 4**

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## GOD CENTERED LIVING

Knowing God only come through **EXPEREINCE** as He **reveals** Himself to us.

The Bible says God has revealed Himself to humanity in four different ways. They include (1) **Nature** (2) **Our conscience** (3) **Jesus Christ** (4) **The Bible**.

- **NATURE** - Psl. 8:3, 4 -- 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."
- **CONSCIENCE** - Rom. 2:14-25 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things contained in the law, these although not having the law are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them



## GOD CENTERED LIVING

- **JESUS** - Heb. 1:1, 2 -- God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 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."
- **SCRIPTURE** - II Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

### EXACTLY WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REVEAL?

- The verb reveal comes from the Latin word *revelare* meaning "unveil,"
- To make known what was previously unknown

In Exodus 33:12-23 we read the account of when Moses asked God if he could see God's glory.



## GOD CENTERED LIVING

In Exd. 33:12-17, Moses discusses how he had done what God wanted him to do and God assures him that His presence shall go with Moses and give Him rest.

In Exd. 33:18, Moses says to God, "I beseech thee, show me thy glory (kābôd)." God responds with:

- **V 19-20** "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.
- Clearly man cannot look upon God's face
- God's "goodness" means His character and attributes.



## GOD CENTERED LIVING

This is not a contradiction in light of Exodus 33:11, where the Bible says: *"And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend..."*

- "face to face" do not mean Moses could see God's face
- Rather it is an idiom signifying an honest and open relationship

Greater clarity is afforded by what God goes on to say in Exd. 33:21-23:

- "And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.



## GOD CENTERED LIVING

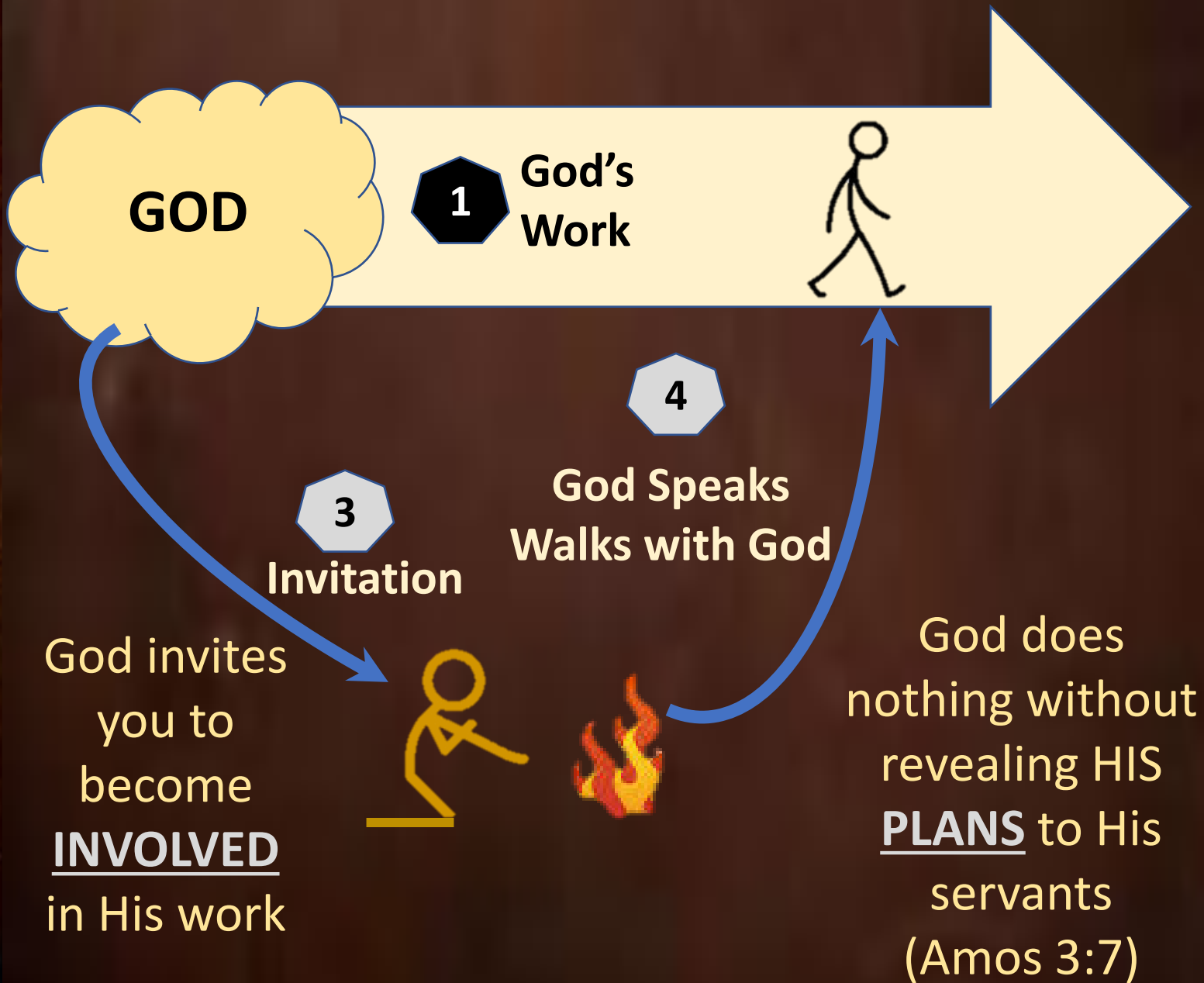
Remember God initiated the relationship (Exd. 3:1) and speaking to Moses in an unusual way ( V 2-3)

Now Moses later asked for God's grace to bless the people and God's presence to go with the people, and the Lord granted his request (Exd. 33:1-17)

- Wanting a new vision of God's glory, he received
  - PRONOUNCEMENT** – I know you by name (v 17)
  - PROXIMITY & PRESENCE** -- there is a place by me
  - PROMINENCE** – station yourself upon a rock
  - PROTECTION** -- while my glory passeth by,
    - ✓ I will put thee in a clift of the rock,
    - ✓ I will cover thee with my hand
    - ✓ I will take away mine hand

The word "back" (33:23) carries the idea of "what remains," that is, the afterglow of the glory of God

# GOD'S INVITATION





## OBSERVATION FROM THE VIDEO

- We see the people God has chosen as superstars, but God really chooses ordinary people
  - I.e., until God invites them to become a part of what He is doing.
- When we say - Oh I can never be like him/her, we are really saying is what we think about God more than about ourselves.
  - Mark 1:17 "And I will make you to become....."
  - Is your life right now what He made you to become?
- Living out every word that God says is life and failure to live them out is death (Deut. 30:19-20)
  - The motivation to choose life is love (John 14:15)
  - So it is important how we respond when God speaks
  - It is not a minor matter when God speaks for according to Deut. 30:20 God is life



## OBSERVATION FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ Failure to obey God is not a matter of obedience, it is a matter of love (Jn. 14:24)
    - It is clear sign they don't love the Son enough to obey the Father
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There are numerous metaphors used in the Bible to depict God's relationship with mankind.

- ❑ Shepherd and **SHEEP**
- ❑ **FATHER** and child
- ❑ Potter and **CLAY**
- ❑ **HUSBAND** and wife
- ❑ Master and **SERVANT**

But there is none that speaks to the idea of advancement after association more than that of the **VINE**.



## UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

Jesus said, "For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14).

But in the context of this scripture, a calling by God is His offer, His invitation is to **REPENT** and enter into a **RELATIONSHIP** with Himself.

**DISTINCTION** between being called and being chosen The Greek word *kletos*, translated "called," can also be translated "**INVITED.**"

Further we read in Romans 8:28-30:  
"We know that in everything **God works for the good of those who love him.**"



## UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

They are the people he [kletos, invited], because that was His INTENTION.

God planned for all who enters into a relationship with Him to be like His Son; and those He planned to be like His Son, He also CALLED OUT (to or from).

It is significant that a believer's love for God FOLLOWS God's calling of him and is undoubtedly the product of the HOLY SPIRIT (Rom. 5:5; I John 4:19).

The word for "purpose" is *prothesin*, God's plan (Paul used the same word in Rom. 9:11; Eph. 1:11; 3:11).



## UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

Peter helps us in this relationship in II Peter Chapter One. II Pet. 1:5: "And beside this" (v. 5) indicates that there is something beyond the new birth; there is **GROWTH**.

It is not enough to be born into God's family; we must also grow spiritually

This demands diligence and earnestness; a lazy, careless **CHRISTIAN** does not grow.

Peter then lists the spiritual characteristics that ought to be seen in the believer's life. He is not suggesting that we "**ADD**" these virtues the way we add beads to a string



## UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

We add to virtue **KNOWLEDGE**, or moral discernment.

We add to faith (saving faith) virtue, or **PRAISE**. We have been saved to advertise God's virtues (I Peter 2:9).

Christians must be able to discern right from wrong. After knowledge comes **TEMPERANCE**, or self-control.

Self-control leads to patience, or **ENDURANCE**. This is the "staying power" of the Christian in times of trial.

Brotherly kindness is the next virtue, meaning a love for the people of God. The final virtue Peter names is **CHARITY**, or love, which "**WRAPS**" all the virtues together into one



## UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

Brotherly kindness is the next virtue, meaning a love for the people of God. The final virtue Peter names is **CHARITY**, or love, which **"WRAPS"** all the virtues together into one.

Peter helps us understand that we can tell when Christians are not **GROWING**, for they have these three characteristics:

1. They are **BARREN**, or idle; that is, they will not work for Christ.
2. They are **UNFRUITFUL**; that is, their meager knowledge of Christ does not produce fruit in their lives.
3. They are **BLIND**, lacking spiritual insight, spiritually "near-sighted."



## UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

Behind this lack of spiritual development is a poor **MEMORY**, forgetting what God has done for them through Christ.

The Christian does not save himself or keep himself saved; but it is his responsibility to be sure he has the **MARKS** of a true believer (I Thes. 1:4–5).

## UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

1. Read Genesis 22:1-8.

- a) What did God ask Abraham to do?
- b) What does V 8 indicate about Abraham

2. Read John 14:21

- a) Who is the one who loves Jesus and what does he do?
- b) How does the Father respond to the one who loves Jesus?



## UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

3. Read John 5:17-20

- a) List 7 things in these verses which indicate how God invited Jesus to work with Him?
- b) How did Jesus respond to the invitation?

4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement - WHAT GOD INITIATES HE ALWAYS COMPLETE. AGREE - DISAGREE

- a) What is the reason for your response?

