

Daily
Reflections
on the
Names
of
God



A Devotional

Ava Pennington



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To the glory of God,
whose name is worthy of all praise

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To God be the glory as His name is lifted up!

INTRODUCTION

Shakespeare once asked, “What’s in a name?”

When it comes to our wonderful God, the answer is, “Everything!”

Many strange ideas are floating around our world today as to who or what God is. Some have been passed down from generation to generation, even within the church.

People often speak of “my God” or “your God.” *My God would never allow pain and suffering. Your God is archaic. My God is . . .* and so it goes.

What is your understanding of who God is and how He works? Is it a biblical perspective, or have you been molding your understanding of God to fit your desires and expectations? If your perspective is not biblical, then it’s time to look at who *God* says He is and how *God* says He works.

Every name of God revealed in the Bible shows us something about His character and His ways. As the multiple facets of a cut diamond combine to reflect its brilliance, the names and attributes of God combine to reveal the transcendence of His nature and the glory of His ways.

With each new revelation, it’s as if God whispers to us, “Come closer, My child. I have something new I want to tell you about Me.” The more we learn, the easier it is to trust Him and rely on Him.

In *Daily Reflections on the Names of God*, we will explore 122 names and attributes of God in three ways. In the first devotional for each name or attribute, we will “look up” to see how and why God describes Himself the way He does.

Even then, it is possible to have an intellectual understanding of who God is without changing who *we* are in relation to Him. The apostle Paul exhorts us to “be imitators of God” (Eph. 5:1). In the second devotional, we will “look in,” as we focus on how the particular name or characteristic applies to our lives, and how it changes or strengthens our relationship with God.

Look for the arrow symbols by each name or attribute of God to indicate whether the devotional is focusing on looking ▲ up ▲, ► in ◀, or ◀ out ►.

Finally, in the third devotional focused on the same name or attribute, we will “look out,” as we apply what we are learning about God and ourselves to our relationships with others.

Use the next 366 days to learn who God is according to how He revealed Himself in His Word. As you do, it is my prayer that your relationship with Him will deepen more intimately than you ever imagined.

ARE YOU READY?

Exodus 33:12–23

Give to the LORD the glory his name deserves.

1 Chronicles 16:29 GW

How intimately do you know God? How intimately do you *want* to know Him?

Moses knew God in a way few other people knew Him. It's possible for us to know God in a similar way, simply by making the same request Moses did. "Let me know Your ways that I may know You" (Exod. 33:13).

After God said He would go with Moses and the people, Moses still was not satisfied. He made a bolder request of the Lord: "Show me Your glory!" (Exod. 33:18). Instead of becoming angry with Moses, God granted his request, causing His glory to pass by him.

What is the glory of the Lord? It is the combination of all His attributes. When He passed Moses in the cleft of the rock, God proclaimed His goodness, graciousness, and compassion. God's glory is who He is. It is impossible to separate His glory from His character and His ways.

As we read God's Word and spend time with Him in prayer, He opens our spiritual eyes to see His glory in ways we had not previously recognized. Are you ready to see His glory?

Lord God, I want to know Your ways more intimately than I have, that I may know You.

Have I become complacent in my relationship with the Lord?
How will I look for Him to show me His ways today?

MISSING THE POINT

John 5:39–47

Whatever you do, do everything to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 GW

We like to be praised. Even if we are embarrassed by public praise, something inside of us still responds to the approval and admiration of others.

The religious leaders in Jesus's time praised themselves and each other for having gotten it right. They believed God's Word saved them, and since they followed His Word to the tiniest letter, they presumed they needed nothing else.

However, Jesus rebuked them for being so busy patting themselves on the back that they missed what the Scriptures said. Everything in the Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament pointed to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Yet even with all their study, they missed the message.

How often today do we miss the Scriptures' message because we are too busy chasing the glory of being thought of as "good" Christians? We praise ourselves for obeying parts of the Bible, while ignoring portions that expose the lie of our careful image. When our motive for good works is to garner the praise of others, we trade the glory of God for the glory of men.

Glorious Lord, forgive me for the times I have exchanged Your glory for the praise of others. Help me keep my focus on You and You alone, rather than on the admiration of others.

What can I do today to seek God's glory instead of my own?

IT'S NOT ABOUT ME

Romans 15:5–12

Accept one another, just as Christ also
accepted us to the glory of God.

Romans 15:7

It's not about me. You'd think I would get that by now, but I need to be reminded of it on a daily basis, if not more so. Some early Christians apparently had the same problem.

The ancient city of Rome was the capital of the empire, and the believers there formed an assorted group. Jews and Gentiles, yes, but diversity existed among the Gentiles too. Now, as Christians, they came together to worship Yahweh's Son, Jesus. Disagreements regarding how to worship Him flowed naturally from their cultural differences.

When the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he encouraged them to “be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus” (Rom. 15:5), but not so they would have less stress, raise money more easily, or have a simpler time witnessing to others. Paul told them to be of the same mind to “glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 15:6).

We need to remember this in the body of Christ today. It was not about them, and it is not about us. It is always about the glory of God.

*Glorious Lord, may everything I say and do today
bring glory to only You.*

Whom do I need to contact today to “clear the air” so that our unity will glorify God?

WHAT MAKES GOD, GOD?

Deuteronomy 32:1–4

Your Father in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:48 GW

What makes our God, God above all gods? Are there particular characteristics He must have to be God? If He is missing one or two of those attributes, can He still be God?

The gods of ancient Greece and Rome were fickle and unpredictable. The goddess of love was an adulteress, the god of light flayed his enemy alive, and the god of wine hosted an ongoing party resulting in debauchery and death. Their failings mimicked and magnified the flaws of their human worshippers.

Not so with the God of the Bible. The Lord is perfect in all His ways. Although the Bible uses human terms to describe Him, He is not human. Because He is not impulsive or capricious, His worshippers never have to guess at what pleases Him. He is complete and consistent in all His ways, lacking in nothing. Instead of reflecting our failings, He offers the solution for them.

God is perfect. *That* is what makes Him God.

*Lord, I praise You, for You are complete perfection,
without any flaw to compromise who You are.*

How do the human characteristics used to describe God's perfection affect my view of Him?

ONLY HUMAN

James 1:1–4

Let endurance have its perfect result, so that
you may be perfect and complete.

James 1:4

I’m only human!” How regularly we use this plaintive cry to excuse our failings. Since we’re only human, no one—not even God—should expect us to be perfect.

Yet the Bible tells us God *does* expect us to be perfect, as He is perfect. This does not mean we can be the same as God. It means we are to grow until we reach the maturity God intended for us to have. Not only does the Lord rightly expect this of us, He tells us how to do it.

James began his letter to Jewish believers in the early church by encouraging them to view their persecution and suffering as something that would achieve positive results in their lives. These trials tested their faith and cultivated endurance or perseverance. As the believers endured, God used those opportunities to cause them to grow spiritually, producing mature Christians with a faith so dependent on the Lord that they would be complete, lacking nothing.

Our trials can achieve the same results today. We’re only human, but we *can* grow into maturity!

Lord God, forgive me for the times I excuse my failings instead of growing to maturity and completion through faith in You.

When have I used “I’m only human” as an excuse for my failings? How can God use that situation to grow me to spiritual maturity?