

Beginnings – ORIGIN (*Where did we come from?*)

- Only Two Choices
- Realize the Significance
- Is it Faith or Science?
 - LAB - Lookable, Accessible, Breakable
- Guess at the Evidence
- Inspect the Evidence
 - Universe = "Decay"
 - Age of the Earth = "Can't Say"
 - Origin of Life by Chance = "No Way"
 - Evolution of Species and Man = "Lacks Genes and Tweens"
- No Compromise
DON'T - Death, Orders of Creation, Names in genealogies, Ten Commandments refer to seven-day week

Intent of Life – LIFE (*Why are we here?*)

- Love - GOD and MAN
- Increase - GROW
- Faithfulness - Time, Talent, Treasure
- Eternity – Past, Present, Future

Authority – POWER (*Who's in charge?*) A God Who is:

- Personal and Loving
- Omnipotent
- Wise and All-Knowing
- Everywhere and Eternal
- Righteous and Reliable

Standards – RULES (*What are the rules?*) God's rules are:

- Revealed supernaturally, not derived by reason
- Universal and apply to everyone, everywhere, all the time
- Loving
- Enforced
- Steadfast

We'll use the acrostic "GOD" to summarize the key aspects of loving God that we should continually strive to follow:

G - *Glory of God* (right perspective)

The perspective we need in order to love God is that ***we are to continually seek to give glory to God with our lives***. The Bible says that God is a jealous God and that He will not share His glory with anyone else. To love God means to do our best to see that He receives glory for who He is and what He has done. Men are always giving glory to something - the proper focus of all glory is God.

So how do we glorify God? Again, the best answer is always to do it the way God says to do it. Here are some guidelines from Scripture that specify ways we can bring glory to God:

- Grow in knowledge and depth of insight so that we may be able to discern what is best (Philippians 1:9-11)
- Encourage men to bow their knee at the name of Jesus and to confess that he is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11)
- Speak as one speaking the words of God and serve with the strength God provides (1 Peter 4:11)
- Live such good lives among the pagans that they may see our good deeds and glorify God when He comes (1 Peter 2:12)
- Shine before men that they may see our good deeds and praise God (Matthew 5:16)
- Ask Jesus for great things so that he may bring glory to the Father (John 14:13)
- Bear much fruit and show ourselves to be Christ's disciples (John 15:8)
- Promote unity among believers so that with one heart and mouth we may glorify God (Romans 15:5-6)
- Keep our bodies pure and holy since we are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- Develop a mindset that our eating, drinking, and all things we do are for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)

The first four of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-11) are directly related to God's glory:

- **Have no other gods** - *"You shall have no other gods before me."*
- **Don't make or worship idols** - *"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments."*
- **Don't treat God's name lightly** – *"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."*
- **Keep the Sabbath holy to the Lord** – *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."*

The real issue in glorifying God is recognizing that **life is all about Him, not about me**. When we truly realize this fact, giving glory to God is natural. I'll suggest three focuses we need to have in order to gain this perspective:

1. **Recognizing who God is** - The more we learn about who God is, the easier it is to give Him glory. In Isaiah 6, we see that Isaiah's response when he sees God on His throne is to glorify Him as the King, the Lord Almighty. This proper fear of God is needed because we sometimes become so "familiar" with the idea of God that we fail to glorify Him as He deserves. A lifetime of studying the attributes and characteristics of God will not only help us know Him better, but it will increase our ability to give Him glory for who He really is.
2. **Recognizing what God has done** - In Isaiah 43:7 God says He will gather His children *"everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."* As we discussed in the "R" portion of Origin, if God made us, He owns us. He not only made us, but he made the sun, moon, stars, earth, angels, gravity, souls, heaven, and even the ability to "think" about all these things. Reading history and biographies, taking a walk outdoors, looking through a scrapbook, keeping a journal of answered prayers, and many similar activities can help us meditate on the vastness of God's works. The more we recognize all that He has done, the more we can direct specific praise and glory to Him.
3. **Praising/Worshipping Him as He instructs** – Worship of God is a primary activity in Heaven and should be a primary activity during our lives on earth. We have a natural tendency to worship – people who don't worship God will worship something else instead. God's adopted children should worship Him properly.

The study of worship deserves a whole book in itself. But here are a few summary thoughts:

- I worship God with my entire life by offering myself to Him as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1).
- Worship is not as much something we do as it is who we are. God is to be worshipped in spirit and truth, and this is more a function of attitude and character than it is an event.
- Praise is something that is visible or audible. The words translated "praise" or similar words in our Bibles describe actions or sounds that would be noticeable to someone around us.
 - For example, the second most common word translated "praise" in the Old Testament is "Yadah" (used over 90 times). Yadah means "to worship with extended hands, to throw out the hands" (Yad means "hand"). Our praise is not an internal-only thing – it should be noticeable to others.