

The Nature of God ~ Spirit

Intro: In Psalm 50:21, God rebukes man by saying 'you thought I was like you'. God is not like us! But if not, what is He like? The following lessons deal with the Nature of God.

John 4:24

"God is spirit,
and those who worship Him
must worship in spirit and truth."

1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King
eternal,
immortal,
invisible,
the only God,
be honor and glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What God is described as. John 4:24
- How one must worship Him as a result. John 4:24
- How God is described. 1 Timothy 1:17

Interpretation:

John 4:24 What does Jesus mean when He says, 'God is spirit'? _____

What is significant about how God is described? _____

What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth? _____

In light of these verses, why must we worship God in this way? _____

1 Timothy 1:17 What is significant about how this verse describes God? _____

Note:

The word 'spirit' (pneuma - grk) means the breath of our nostrils or mouth, or wind. It is used to describe the Holy Spirit, man's immaterial soul as well as angels or demons.

The references to God having physical attributes are anthropomorphism's, which use the visible to explain the invisible.

Note:

Eternal = for ever, perpetual, without end
Immortal = imperishable, indestructible, not subject to decay.
Invisible = that which cannot be seen.

Much of our worship occurs through our physical being (ie. what we do or say). But according to Jesus, God looks for worship that occurs in our inner being. We may fool the people around us with our actions or words, but God looks at the truth of our hearts.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about *God's Nature*?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

From what you learned, how is *God* different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

We began in the intro with a quote from Psalm 50:21 in which *God* chides us by saying, 'You thought I was like you'. A proper understanding of *God* begins with the assumption that *God* is not like us! The cliché referring to *God* as 'the man upstairs' is unscriptural at best and blasphemous at worst. '*God* is not a man!' His ways are not our ways. *God* is an eternal spirit, and as such, transcends infinitely the limitations that mark us as physical and mortal beings.

God is Spirit

He is the Eternal, Immortal & Invisible God !