



...and I heard a
loud voice, as of a trumpet,
saying, "I am the Alpha and
the Omega, the First and the Last,
and the Beginning and the End."
"Who are you, Lord?"
"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."
"Write in a book these words, for these words are true and reliable."

EXPERIENCE AMAZING!

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EXPERIENCE AMAZING

While I was getting the oil changed in my car recently, I was sitting in the customer waiting area and browsing through an automobile related magazine. One particular advertisement caught my eye as it had a photo of a very nice luxury car in the middle of the page, and underneath it, a tag line which read "Experience Amazing". As I looked at those two words, I thought "That's not amazing, it's just an automobile!" No automobile or any other manmade object can even compare to the One Who is really 'AMAZING' – Almighty God, and yet most people have never fully experienced how amazing He really is.

We can look at a photograph of a nice car and read all that is printed in a magazine or other source about that brand of automobile, but unless we actually get into one of those cars in real life, and drive it and see it for ourselves, we will not truly "experience" it. The same is true with Almighty God. We can read the truths about Him in the Bible and the life adventures of other people who have taken it upon themselves to fully get to know God, but unless we determine ourselves to fully come to know Him as well, we will never experience all that He is and can be in our lives each day. That is where many, if not most, Christians fail in experiencing our amazing God.

Jesus said in John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they know you the

only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." There is no greater experience that we can ever have than knowing Him! So, let us look more closely at the God we can experience, who is actually much more than amazing!

The Bible itself is a great testament to the greatness of God. We only need start in Genesis 1:3, which reads, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light.", to see how truly amazing God is. God said "let there be light" - and THERE WAS LIGHT! It took Thomas Edison over 1000 tries to invent the light bulb, a small source of light that burns out and fails, and eventually has to be replaced. It took God one second to say "Let there be light!", and that light is STILL shining today!!

The Bible tells us, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." (Psalm 19:1) All we have to do is look at the incredible planet on which we live and the sky above us, and we can see much of how amazing God is.

If we want to really get deeper into our experience, we can look at all the plants and animals in this world, and we can even look at human beings. We can see how intricately designed the human body is, and how we can see, smell, think, and function. It is all amazing, and God created it all! John 1:3 tells us, "All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made."

Psalm 104 gives us an excellent account of God's power and work in creation. I invite you to read the entire Psalm, but here are some statements from it:

“O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty...You set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved...You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man...You made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting...O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.”

We could spend days just talking about all of creation, how the earth functions and thrives, how there are countless galaxies and stars in the universes and how indescribable life is. And the truth is, NOTHING came into being without God! Yes, it is all completely amazing and wonderful, and that alone should point us to God, but there is much more!

Let's look closely at some of God's attributes. Truthfully, thousands of pages could be written about the attributes of God, but we'll just go over a few of them. Attributes are character traits, or what defines God. A. W. Tozer, a preacher and author, once said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

What are some of God's attributes?

Holiness: First, God is holy. Holy means to be, different, set apart. This attribute sets Him apart from ALL created beings. God never sins, and never even has an evil thought. Although we as humans, sin all too often – He on the other hand is absolutely perfect! He defines holiness, and all that He does is holy, because He is God! “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty...” (Revelation 4:8)

Eternal: This one can blow our minds if we try to think too much about it, but God has no beginning and no ending. He has always been and always will be. Hebrews 13:8 tells us, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” - He never changes, He never discovers anything new because He already knows everything that can ever be discovered or known.

Sovereign: God is completely sovereign, meaning He is the supreme authority over everything. There is nothing anywhere that is not under His power and authority. He can do whatever He pleases, whenever He pleases. Psalm 115:3 tells us, “Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.” As Job learned in the Old Testament, we have no right to question God in whatever He chooses to do. The good news is, He only does what is good for us, because He loves us.

Gracious: We can't talk about God without speaking of His amazing grace! Grace is giving of blessings that are completely unmerited and undeserved. None of us deserve the salvation He offers, yet He freely has offered it to all who will come to Him. “All have sinned and fall short of

the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:23-24)

Merciful: God is very merciful toward us who believe in Him. In God's love and mercy He saved us, and also continues to forgive our sins and our failures. We read in the Bible of some people who were struck dead the moment they disobeyed Him, and it is only His kindness and mercy that keeps Him from doing the same to us. When we disobey and displease Him, we are being rebellious against almighty God, and deserve whatever punishment He may choose to impart. Romans 9:15, “For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

We could continue discussing all the many other attributes of our great God for days and not even begin to run out of things to say about Him. Just the fact that a holy, perfect, and sovereign God and Creator would send His Son to die for us is far beyond our human understanding, but that is the truth of the Gospel, and the result of His great love.

I like the words to the song that Frederick Lehman wrote in 1917;

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;

The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.
Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
The saints' and angels' song.

There is no greater love story in all of history than God's love for us as told in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." That Almighty God would have such amazing love for us is most amazing! If that doesn't cause us to want to do nothing but please, honor, and glorify Him, we have a problem with our faith in Him!

Not only can we look at God's attributes that define Who He is, we can also read account after account in the Bible that talks about what He has done and His amazing power.

We can look at many stories about the nation of Israel in the Bible, and they all prove how powerful and almighty God is. Let's take for example the story about God parting the Red Sea for the nation of Israel to cross over, and then closing the sea up and drowning all the Egyptian army who were chasing them!

Look with me at Exodus 14:28-30, “The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.”

Moses said in Deuteronomy 3:24, “O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Yours?”

We can also look many years later, when the nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan river into the land God had promised them, and they come to the city of Jericho. Jericho was a heavily fortified city, and yet God brought the walls crashing down in a great victory for them, again proving His power and control over everything.

The nation of Israel didn't use battering rams, tanks, or even stones to bring down the walls of that city – it was ALL God! The Israelites only had to march around it! In Joshua 6:16 we read, “The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, ‘Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!’” GOD gave them the victory, He did all the work, all they did was march and blow trumpets!

The entire Bible is a testament to God and His glory, His power, His strength, and His sovereignty! We read how He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sin. He had a whale swallow the prophet Jonah and spit him out on the shore. He saved Daniel from a den of lions. He sent an angel to get Peter out of prison. And we could go on and on about all the great and magnificent things He has done that all prove how awesome and amazing He is! And – He is still the same God today! God never changes!

“For I the Lord do not change...” (Malachi 3:6)

“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?” (Numbers 23:39)

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.” (Isaiah 40:28)

We sometimes forget that God is still the same today, and He can and will do amazing things in our lives as well! All we have to do is get to know Him more! “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” (James 4:8)

What an awesome promise this is. God doesn't force us to draw close to

Him, but He does promise that if we take the first step and start seeking Him, He will draw near to us. In the second part of that verse, the Bible tells us what we need to do in order to take that first step, “Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” In other words, stop trying to please both God and our flesh, and – get rid of the darkness that is in our life. God doesn’t abide where there is darkness, if we want to know Him personally and have daily fellowship with Him, we’ve GOT to get rid of what is not pleasing to Him in our lives. Darkness means anything that is against His Word or commandments or perfect will.

There is NO excuse that is good enough to keep us from drawing near to God. His promises are always true, His love for us is amazingly abundant, and His mercy and grace are beyond our ability to even understand.

Just think of this – Almighty God, the Creator, the King of Kings, the Author of Eternal Salvation, the Everlasting Father, the Holy One WANTS to have fellowship with us! He wants us to know such great peace and joy in our lives that every day with Him will be more and more amazing. All He asks is that we lay aside the cares of this world, and seek Him. When we do that, He will meet us, guide us, protect us, provide for us, and supply EVERY need we have!

You see, true Christianity isn’t just another “religion”, it is a

COMPLETE way of life. God wants our lives to reflect Him towards others and once we have found Him to be ever faithful and true, He wants us to be lights in this world of darkness to shine for Him and point others to the AWESOME relationship they too can know by placing their faith in Jesus Christ, and taking that first step in drawing near to God so that He will draw near to them.

There is a critical step in beginning the experience that is amazing, and that is we have to give Him everything. Jesus said, “And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23) And He also commanded, “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30) We can’t just go about this half-way, it takes all we have, but it’s worth it.

If you haven’t already begun this exciting journey of experiencing God, why not now? Start today in seeking God with all of your heart. Ask Him to point out the things in your life that you need to lay aside in order to meet Him on the path to true joy, true peace, true happiness, and a life filled with God’s love, care and guidance.

You’ll never regret taking that step towards God – He is Awesome and Amazing beyond our ability to comprehend or understand. And the most mind boggling thing is – HE LOVES YOU and ME!!! That love will NEVER fade, will never change, and will never go away. Everything else

in this life is just material and will one day be gone. A life-changing relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, will last for all of eternity!

When Daniel prayed to the Lord, we read in Daniel 9:4, “I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, ‘O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments...’”

Find out today just how awesome and amazing God is!

Call out to Him and He will answer!

Then, be prepared to -

EXPERIENCE AMAZING!

“we are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it.”

J I Packer - Knowing God

ABOUT JOSHUA

Joshua Goodling is a terminal cancer survivor, speaker, and author. At the age of four, He was diagnosed with cancer, and given just one week to live. The doctors said his chances were zero! That was almost 50 years ago, so it's been a LONG week! Joshua's life is a testimony of how truly amazing and powerful God is, and how He has a perfect plan for each of our lives. All we must do is have faith in Him, and learn to love Him, trust Him, and obey Him!

If you have any comments or questions about truly knowing and experiencing God, visit Joshua's website or contact him.

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