



soulmind

Connecting you with God's heart

God Almighty

Acts 17:24-28

Welcome to **Soulmind**.

For years, I much preferred reading the New Testament over the Old Testament. The stories of God's actions and interactions with the people in the stories seemed, well - harsh and didn't fit with the loving God of the New Testament.

But slowly I have begun to understand more of the overall big story of God and how He has been slowly and patiently revealed Himself to humankind. One of the first lessons - and I think the hardest one - is getting through to us that He is God, and we are not.



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Be sure to check out the **SOUL PRACTICE** suggestion for this week (*see below*).

Topic Overview

Did you ever wonder why God made the people of Israel go through the plagues, right after He had promised He was going to deliver them? What kind of loving God would allow this, much less actually even cause it? In their misery, and of course not knowing how the story was going to end, they couldn't even begin to picture the good ending that God promised through Moses.

As I was reading through this story in Exodus, I was struck by how very clear God was about His purpose for this whole adventure. Over and over, different variations of the same reasons are spelled out: "...so that you may know that I am the Lord" and "the Egyptians will know that there is no one like me in all the earth."

I noticed an interesting turn halfway through the story. God allowed the Israelites to experience the first few plagues along with all of Egypt. Imagine how confused and angry they were toward God at that point. But then, God started exempting them from the increasingly horrific plagues that kept on coming, but now only on the Egyptians. The story doesn't tell how the Israelites responded, but I'm guessing their view of God was shifting. Maybe they were just a little bit more

ready to trust that He really was working on their behalf, a bit closer to recognizing Him as sovereign and powerful Lord God Almighty—more so than if they had just been allowed to walk away on the first try.

God was working on a much bigger plan than the people of Israel could see. He did, in fact, keep His promise to them, and in such a big way that the story is still being told today. He did, in fact, bring relief and hope in the middle of the plagues, growing their ability to trust that He really was God Almighty and was working toward their rescue.

When things are going smoothly and life seems easy, our natural response seems to be that we forget God. But, we call out for Him when we are in pain, and often it is in the darkest moments of our need and powerlessness that we begin to get glimpses of the ways that He is working for good – and not just for us. He is weaving our stories together with seemingly random and often painful circumstances and people for His good purposes.

Is it possible that God allows hard times to come to us so that we might turn to Him and be more able to recognize Him as our loving, good, and all-powerful Lord God Almighty? He is God, and we are not.

Daily Scriptures

MONDAY

Exodus 10:2 (NLT)

I've also done it so you can tell your children and grandchildren about how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and about the signs I displayed among them—and so you will know that I am the Lord.”

TUESDAY

John 1:16-18 (NIV)

From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

WEDNESDAY

Acts 17: 24-25, 28 (NLT)

He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven

THURSDAY

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)

But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

FRIDAY

Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV)

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need... For in him we live and move and exist.

Doing Your Part

SOUL PRACTICE

Worship

God isn't an activity that we add on to our "real" life. He is the center of our existence. Life, with all its ups and downs, makes sense only in light of acknowledging God's rule over all of creation, and trusting that almighty God is working toward an ending that He has promised will be spectacular.

Develop a daily habit of beginning and ending your day with a moment of worship. This could be something as simple as taking a deep breath, becoming attentive to God's presence, and saying out loud, "You are God, and I am not."

Wise Words

"The nature of sin is not immorality and wrongdoing, but the nature of self-realization which leads us to say, "I am my own god."

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost For His Highest*

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