

THE MOST IMPORTANT TRUTH

Dr. Bill Bright* was being interviewed on a radio program and was asked this question. What is the most important truth to teach any follower of Christ? The unexpected question caught him by surprise, but after a brief pause he uttered these words: **'The attributes of God'**. Later after years of pondering that answer, he wrote these words.

"Today I am more convinced than ever that there is nothing more important to teach another believer than who God is, what He is like, and why or how He does what He does. These attributes of God can be referred to as His character, nature, qualities or personality. Everything about our lives - our attitudes, motives, desires and actions and even our words - are influenced by our view of God. We can trace all human problems to our view of God.

* [In my opinion, Bill Bright would be in the top ten list of most influential Christians in all of history. His mission group of Campus Crusade for Christ (now CRU) is one of the largest in the world, but it was his Jesus film project (gospel of Luke) that has been phenomenal. Since 1979 over 1 billion people have seen it and 230 million have given their life to Christ because of it. Their goal now is to show it to 5 billion people in the next 10 years.]

Our emphasis in this brief series on the early chapters of Genesis, is intended for us to know the key foundations of life and history and how the devil has sought to corrupt each one. God is a loving and wise creator. The devil is filled with hate and only seeks to destroy, distort and diminish God and any part of his creation. He even uses nice people to promote his distortions.

Oprah Winfrey had the most popular talk show in history and has been an inspiring example to millions around the world for her generosity, gracious demeanor and emphasis on spirituality. Unfortunately, she has become a leading proponent of New Age ideas (Eastern, Occult and Gnostic beliefs) through guests such as Marianne Williamson and Eckhart Tolle, who has a mix of Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age and Christian ideas. Time magazine dismissed Tolle's books as 'awash in spiritual mumbo jumbo.'

In March 2008, Oprah and Eckhart began an online course with 2 million people re: his book: A New Earth, Awakening to Your Life's Purpose. In April that year, Oprah shared testimonials of those who said that the book had changed their lives. She also shared that she is a Christian, but long ago she understood that Jesus did not come to die on the cross; instead, he came to show us how to achieve 'Christ consciousness'. She got these beliefs from the book: Discover the Power Within You by Eric Butterworth, a Unity minister. Unity was influenced by the New Thought Movement which believed such things as:

1. Jesus was a highly evolved man who realized his inner divinity - the Christ consciousness
2. Everyone comes from God and returns to God. There is no heaven or hell.
3. Sin is the belief that you are separate from God, liberation is to realize that you are not separate from God.
4. You must discard historic Christian beliefs for New Thought ones.

How did Oprah descend into spiritual error? While in her late twenties, she heard a Baptist pastor preach that God was a jealous God. Most likely she equated jealousy to the vindictive kind that we see in humans that is petty or insecure. **God's jealousy over his people is not because He is insecure, but because he wants us to be secure** and protected in Him. He knows that when we follow false gods it will only lead us into misery and harm.

'Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a Jealous God.' - Exodus 34:19

Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with world is hatred towards God?The Spirit who lives in us yearns jealously. - James 4:4,5

The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. - Psalm 16:4

We now continue with other attributes of God.

He is Infinite - Without limits and separate from his creation, unlike pantheism which sees all things as God. Another popular belief today is panentheism which portrays God as IN all things.

He is Eternal - He has no beginning and no end and is self-existent. As a young boy I used to wonder how God could always be. Our finite minds cannot fully comprehend the grandeur and awesomeness of God. God is beyond time. A few times in my life I have been in meetings that lasted for hours and yet it seemed that time had stood still. It was because the presence of God had filled the place. In a future message we delve into a subject rarely talked about.....eternity. The devil wants us to only live and think about the pursuit of pleasure, power and possessions in this temporal world, whereas God wants us to think on the eternal unseen realm.
- 2 Corinthians 4:18

'God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also **set eternity in the hearts of men**; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.' Ecclesiastes 3:11

God is Omnipotent - He is all powerful. Whatever is needed in a situation, He can do it! The prophet Jeremiah prayed:

'Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. **Nothing is too hard for you**' -Jeremiah 32:17

God then spoke to Jeremiah:
'I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. **Is anything too hard for me?**'

God wants the world to know that and believe it.