

Self-Destructive Sins

Neglect of our Father
 Unresponsiveness to our Father
 Unfaithfulness to our Father
 Double-mindedness
 Infidelity
 Spiritual Adultery

Biblical Christianity

A Person = Relationship
 A Revelation = Authority
 A Redemption = Power
 An Experience = Decisions

God is a Person

He thinks
 He feels
 He makes decisions
 He plans
 He has worth
 He has rights
 He has character

His Desire: Companionship
 Rev 3:20

Share My Peace - Jn 14:27
 Share My Love - Jn 15:9
 Share My Joy - John 15:11
 Share My Grace - 2 Cor 12:9
 Share My Power - 2 Cor 12:9

"I was Grieved/Angry"

Their hearts are always going astray.

Heb 3:10

Introduction

- A. God has not left us in our self-chosen ignorance. He has revealed Himself to us in His work of creation, His work through the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Scripture.
- B. It is important to recognize that revelation and authority stand or fall together. To accept divine revelation means we have a secure foundation for all facets of science, art, education, morality, spirituality, and every area of life.
- C. By "authority" I mean:
 - 1. We have the ability and sources to find out what we are to believe and do.
 - 2. That we have the right to believe and practice these beliefs.
 - 3. The confidence that what we believe and do is based in reality.
 - 4. The certainty that if we put revelation into practice we will be successful.

I. The Nature of Our Father's Disclosure.

- A. The disclosure in creation: general revelation.
 - 1. General revelation may be defined as: God's disclosure through nature (Psalm 19),

Psalm 19:1-14

 - 1 *For the director of music. A psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*
 - 2 *Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.*
 - 3 *There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.*
 - 4 *Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,*

Lesson #2 – The Disclosure of Our Father**Have you allowed yourself
to feel God's pain?**

His Grief
His Anguish of heart
His disappointment
His displeasure
His sorrow
His pain

(Isa 63:9, Jer 4:19, Luke 19:41-44
Acts 9:4, Eph 4:30, Phil 3:10)

The Lord Jesus & the Bible

He called the Bible
- The Commands/Word of God
He spoke of the Bible as authority
He made the Bible the object of faith
He held people responsible for the Bible

- 5 *which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.*
- 6 *It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is hidden from its heat.*
- 7 *The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.*
- 8 *The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.*
- 9 *The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.
The ordinances of the LORD are sure
and altogether righteous.*
- 10 *They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the comb.*
- 11 *By them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*
- 12 *Who can discern his errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.*
- 13 *Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.
Then will I be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.*
- 14 *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of
my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.
NIV.*

conscience (Rom 2:14-16),

- 14 *(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law,
do by nature things required by the law, they are a
law for themselves, even though they do not have
the law, 15 since they show that the requirements
of the law are written on their hearts, their
consciences also bearing witness, and their
thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)*
- 16 *This will take place on the day when God will
judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my
gospel declares.
NIV*

and the providential ordering of history (Jer
3:6-11; 2 Peter 2:5,6).

- 6 *During the reign of King Josiah, the LORD said to
me, "Have you seen what faithless Israel has*

The Power of Truth and Error

Error is powerful when
accepted and practiced –
Weak when rejected

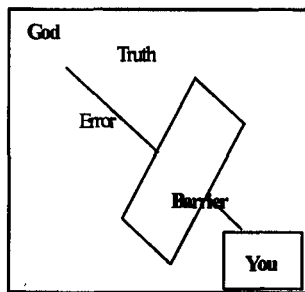
Truth is weak until
accepted and practiced –
Then powerful

(We carry the results of
accepting truth/error
into eternity)

God has character

He is holy
(Righteous in all His actions)
He is love
(Compassionate in all His actions)
He is truth
(Faithful in all His actions)

God is good and what He does is goodness



done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there. 7 I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. 8 I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery. 9 Because Israel's immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood. 10 In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretense," declares the LORD. 11 The LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel is more righteous than unfaithful Judah."
NIV

5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;
NIV

(General Revelation, Bruce Demarist, (Z), p.14)

2. The Biblical explanation of general revelation.

a. Psalm 19.

1 For the director of music. A psalm of David.
The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
2 Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.
3 There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.
4 Their voice
goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,
5 which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his
pavilion,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
6 It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is hidden from its heat.
7 The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
8 The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant,

Lesson #2 – The Disclosure of Our Father

giving light to the eyes.

- 9 *The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.
The ordinances of the LORD are sure
and altogether righteous.*
- 10 *They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the comb.*
- 11 *By them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*
- 12 *Who can discern his errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.*
- 13 *Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.
Then will I be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.*
- 14 *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

NIV

- 1). V1. The words "declare" and "proclaim" are participles = continuous action.
- 2). V1. The word "glory" indicates the sum total of God's revealed perfections and the word "work" speaks of His exquisite workmanship.
- 3). This disclosure of God is explained in three ways.
 - a). V2—The revelation of God is perpetual
 - b). V3—The revelation of God is wordless.
 - c). V4—The revelation of God is universal.
- 4). The recognition of general and special revelation.
 - a). Vs 1-6—the name "God" (Elohim) is used = God as all-powerful Creator.
 - b). Vs 7-14—the name LORD (Yahweh) is used = God as loving Redeemer.

b. Luke 12:47,48;

- 47 *"That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. 48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*
- NIV*

Acts 17:24-31;

- 24 *"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and*

perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'
29 *"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."*
NIV

Rom 1:18-20;

18 *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*
NIV

Rom 2:13-16

13 *For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. 14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, 15 since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) 16 This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.*
NIV

—presents general revelation as a basis for human responsibility. We are responsible for what we should know and not only for what we know. This principle also applies to special revelation.

B. The Disclosure in the Lord Jesus: special revelation.

1. Jesus Christ is the "Word" of God—as recorded and explained in the Scripture. Note these verses:

Matt 24:35;

35 *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*
NIV

Luke 6:47-49;

47 *I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."*
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Luke 9:26;

26 *If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.*
NIV

Luke 24:44;

44 *He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."*
NIV

John 1:1-18;

1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning.*
3 *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*
6 *There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.*
10 *He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*
14 *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
15 *John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" 16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.*
NIV

John 6:63;

63 *The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*
NIV

John 8:12;

12 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*
NIV

John 12:47,48;

47 *"As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. 48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.*
NIV

John 14:6;

6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*
NIV

John 15:7;

7 *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.*
NIV

Rev 19:13.

13 *He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.*
NIV

2. The Lord Jesus placed the OT Scripture on the same level of authority as Himself.

Luke 4:18-21;

18 *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to release the oppressed,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*
20 *Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the
synagogue were fastened on him, 21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in
your hearing."
*NIV**

John 5:36-39;

36 *"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish,
and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me. 37 And the Father who sent me has himself
testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, 38 nor does his word dwell in
you, for you do not believe the one he sent. 39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that
by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,
*NIV**

John 12:48-50;

48 *There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke
will condemn him at the last day. 49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me
commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So
whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."
*NIV**

Lesson #2 – The Disclosure of Our Father

John 14:10,11;

10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. NIV.

3. The characteristics of the written Word of God.

a. It is inscripturated:

2 Tim 3:16;

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, NIV

2 Peter 1:21

21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. NIV

"Biblical inspiration ... is that ... activity of the Holy Spirit through which He mysteriously filled the human spirit of the Biblical writers and guided and overruled them, so that there arose an infallible, Spirit-wrought writing, a sacred record, a Book of God, with which the Spirit of God evermore organically unites Himself." (Rene Pache, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, p. 45)

b. It is personal:

John 6:63;

63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. NIV

John 8:12;

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." NIV

John 12:48-50;

48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. 49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say." NIV

John 14:6;

- 6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
NIV*

Heb 1:1-3

- 1 *In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.
NIV*

God has revealed Himself as a Person to us as persons. We are personally related to Him through His Word.

c. It is propositional:

Matt 19:16-19;

- 16 *Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"
17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."
18 "Which ones?" the man inquired.
Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"
NIV*

John 10:35

- 35 *If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken—
NIV*

Scriptural statements are word formulas that are authoritative and reliable.

d. It is authoritative:

Matt 24:35;

- 35 *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
NIV*

John 12:48-50

- 48 *There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. 49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."
NIV*

Lesson #2 – The Disclosure of Our Father

Scripture has been given to us as a law/standard for belief and action.

e. It is living and powerful:

Matt 4:4;

4 *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*
NIV

John 6:63;

63 *The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*
NIV

John 15:3;

3 *You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.*
NIV

Heb 4:12;

12 *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*
NIV

James 1:22-25

22 *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.*
NIV

Scripture is one way God speaks His Word to us—bringing life and transformation

II. The Content of Our Father's Disclosure.

A. He has revealed His greatness regarding Himself.

Ex 3:12-14,

12 *And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."*
13 *Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"*
14 *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*
NIV

Ex 6:3;

- 3 *I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.*
NIV

Ex 33:18-23;

- 18 *Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."*
19 *And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."*
21 *Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. 22 When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."*
NIV

Ex 34:5,6

- 5 *Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. 6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,"*
NIV

He is infinitely great as personal (the trinity), spirit, the source of all life, self-existent, and immutable. He is the one God of truth, love and holiness.

B. He has revealed His greatness regarding His creation.

Isaiah 40:12-31

- 12 *Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?
Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales
and the hills in a balance?*
13 *Who has understood the mind of the LORD,
or instructed him as his counselor?*
14 *Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him,
and who taught him the right way?
Who was it that taught him knowledge
or showed him the path of understanding?*
15 *Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are regarded as dust on the scales;
he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.*
16 *Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires,
nor its animals enough for burnt offerings.*
17 *Before him all the nations are as nothing;
they are regarded by him as worthless
and less than nothing.*
18 *To whom, then, will you compare God?
What image will you compare him to?*

Lesson #2 – The Disclosure of Our Father

- 19 *As for an idol, a craftsman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and fashions silver chains for it.*
- 20 *A man too poor to present such an offering
selects wood that will not rot.
He looks for a skilled craftsman
to set up an idol that will not topple.*
- 21 *Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood since the earth was founded?*
- 22 *He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.*
- 23 *He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.*
- 24 *No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.*
- 25 *“To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.*
- 26 *Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one,
and calls them each by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.*
- 27 *Why do you say, O Jacob,
and complain, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?*
- 28 *Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.*
- 29 *He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.*
- 30 *Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;*
- 31 *but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.*
NIV

He is infinitely great regarding time in that He is eternal; regarding space in His immensity; regarding power in His omnipotence; regarding knowledge in His omniscience; regarding relationships in His omnipresence.

C. He has revealed His greatness regarding moral beings.

Ex 34:6;

*6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,
NIV*

Jer 10:10

*10 But the LORD is the true God;
he is the living God, the eternal King.
When he is angry, the earth trembles;
the nations cannot endure his wrath.
NIV*

He is infinitely great as the source and standard of all truth and faithfulness; as the source and standard of all holiness and justice; as the source and standard of all love and goodness.

Conclusion: Ask God to give you the Holy Spirit and open the "eyes of your heart."

See Eph 1:17,18.

*17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
NIV*

Depend upon Him each day to do so as you read His Word.

