

# How Do You See God?

How you perceive God shapes everything about your faith, worship, and daily walk. Some see Him as distant, harsh, or demanding. Others see Him only as gentle, never holy. But Scripture paints a picture far richer and more balanced. God reveals Himself with the closest human relationships—Friend, Father, Bridegroom, Helper. And yet He is also the consuming fire before whom all creation trembles.

To see Him rightly means to embrace both His nearness and His majesty. To know His love and His awe. To enjoy His friendship and His holiness. This is not a contradiction—it is the fullness of God.

## Jesus: The Friend Who Calls You Close

When we think of friendship, we think of someone who shares life with us, who listens, and who walks beside us. Jesus takes this to the highest level. He laid down His life for His friends. He did not just rescue us; He invited us into His confidence.

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant doesn’t know what his lord does. But I have called you friends, for everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you.” (John 15:13–15 WEB)

Imagine the Son of God saying, “I call you friend.” This is not casual; it is covenant friendship. Jesus shares the secrets of heaven with us, speaks openly, and walks beside us even in our failures.

## God the Father: Adoption and Belonging

Beyond friendship, God goes further. He claims us as His children. The Bible says we are not only forgiven but adopted. We belong to His household.

“See how great a love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God! For this cause the world doesn’t know us, because it didn’t know him.” (1 John 3:1 WEB)

“For you didn’t receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Romans 8:15 WEB)

“Abba” was the intimate word a child in the first century would use for “Dad.” God is not a cold ruler in the sky—He is the perfect Father who loves, protects, and delights in His children.

When you pray, you are not trying to convince a reluctant deity. You are coming to a Father who already loves you.

## **God as Bridegroom: Covenant Love and Union**

The Bible stretches human language even further. Not just a friend. Not just father. But Bridegroom. He is the Lover of our souls.

“For your Maker is your husband; Yahweh of Armies is his name. The Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer. He will be called the God of the whole earth.” (Isaiah 54:5 WEB)

“Let us rejoice and be exceedingly glad, and let us give the glory to him. For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready.” (Revelation 19:7 WEB)

The love of a bridegroom is passionate, faithful, jealous, and enduring. God does not settle for distant worshipers; He pursues union. One day, the marriage supper of the Lamb will celebrate the eternal joining of Christ and His people.

## **The Holy Spirit: Our Helper and Counselor**

God does not merely promise future intimacy. He gives us the Holy Spirit right now. Jesus called Him “another Counselor”—someone who would be with us forever.

“I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, that he may be with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world can’t receive; for it doesn’t see him, neither knows him. You know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you.” (John 14:16–17 WEB)

“Likewise, the Spirit also helps our weaknesses, for we don’t know how to pray as we ought. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which can’t be uttered.” (Romans 8:26 WEB)

He comforts, teaches, empowers, and intercedes. He is not an impersonal force but the very presence of God within us. To walk in the Spirit is to live daily with God’s counsel, wisdom, and power.

## **The Fear of the Lord: Beautiful Awe**

But friendship, adoption, and intimacy never cancel out awe. If we only emphasize closeness, we risk treating God casually. Scripture declares again and again that the fear of the Lord is pure, holy, and good.

“The fear of Yahweh is clean, enduring forever. Yahweh’s ordinances are true, and righteous altogether.” (Psalm 19:9 WEB)

“Behold, Yahweh’s eye is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his loving kindness.” (Psalm 33:18 WEB)

“The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom. All those who do his work have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!” (Psalm 111:10 WEB)

“The fear of Yahweh is a fountain of life, turning people from the snares of death.” (Proverbs 14:27 WEB)

The fear of the Lord is not dread that drives us away but awe that draws us near. It is reverence that leads to wisdom, humility, and life. It is the recognition that the One who is Friend and Father is also King and Judge.

When we look closely at all the promises God gives to those who fear Him, we see that it is never something negative. The fear of God opens the door to wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. It brings health and long life. It secures blessing for our families and our children after us. It surrounds us with God’s protection and provision. It fills us with His mercy, lovingkindness, and joy. It leads to life, contentment, and peace. It ensures that our prayers are heard and our desires fulfilled. Far from being something dark or oppressive, the fear of God is a fountain of blessing that overflows into every part of our lives.

- a) The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. (Psalm 111:10)
- b) The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge. (Proverbs 1:7)
- c) He will instruct the man who fears Him in the way he should choose. (Psalm 25:12)
- d) The secret of God is with those who fear Him; He will show them His covenant. (Psalm 25:14)
- e) The fear of God prolongs days. (Proverbs 10:27)
- f) It will be health to your body and nourishment to your bones. (Proverbs 3:7–8)
- g) Blessed is everyone who fears God, who walks in His ways. (Psalm 128:1)
- h) You will eat the labor of your hands, you will be happy, and it will be well with you. (Psalm 128:2)
- i) Your wife will be as a fruitful vine, your children like olive plants around your table. (Psalm 128:3)
- j) Thus the man who fears God is blessed. (Psalm 128:4)
- k) God’s loving kindness is from everlasting to everlasting with those who fear Him, His righteousness to children’s children. (Psalm 103:17)
- l) There is no lack with those who fear Him. (Psalm 34:9)

- m) Those who seek God shall not lack any good thing. (Psalm 34:10)
- n) Humility and the fear of God bring wealth, honor, and life. (Proverbs 22:4)
- o) God's angel encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them. (Psalm 34:7)
- p) In the fear of God is a secure fortress; He will be a refuge for His children. (Proverbs 14:26)
- q) As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His loving kindness toward those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:11)
- r) God takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His loving kindness. (Psalm 147:11)
- s) The fear of God leads to life, then contentment; he rests and will not be touched by trouble. (Proverbs 19:23)
- t) The fear of God is a fountain of life, turning people from the snares of death. (Proverbs 14:27)
- u) He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will hear their cry and save them. (Psalm 145:19)
- v) Behold, God's eye is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His loving kindness. (Psalm 33:18)
- w) Before honor is humility; the fear of God is the instruction of wisdom. (Proverbs 15:33)

## **Holding Both Together**

So how do you see God? Scripture says to see Him in both ways. As close as your dearest friend, as tender as a perfect father, as faithful as a bridegroom, as present as a counselor—and as holy, majestic, and fearsome as the Almighty King.

The Apostle John shows us this balance. At the Last Supper, he leaned on Jesus' chest. On the island of Patmos, he fell at His feet as though dead. Both are true. Both are the right response.

The closer we draw, the more our intimacy deepens and our awe increases. The fear of the Lord does not diminish His friendship—it perfects it.

## **Conclusion: See God as He Truly Is**

Friend. Father. Bridegroom. Counselor. King. Consuming Fire. If we only see one side, our vision is incomplete. But when we embrace the fullness of who God reveals Himself to be, our hearts come alive. Intimacy with awe. Love with reverence. Nearness with majesty. This is how we should see God.