

How Great Is Your God?

Isaiah 59:1-2

“Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”

Unfortunately we are living in a time when God has dwindled in the minds of many modern men. He has become dwarfed in the minds of too many Churchmen. We need to hear the words of men like Job who had these thoughts concerning the greatness of God, as seen in Job 22:12, "Is not God in the height of heaven? And behold the height of the stars, how high they are." We need to understand the message of Isaiah as given in our text, "Listen! The LORD’s arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call."

It will not be easy, but somehow our generation must rediscover the greatness of God! And I am totally convinced it must begin in our **churches!** For the next few minutes I want you to think with me concerning the question, **“How Great is Your God?”**

The first thing that the Bible teaches us is that God is greater than time. Today we are living in a society where everything is being run on a **time schedule.** And most of us are finding that we simply do not have enough time to do what we feel that needs to be done. (In fact, I have my Saturday bath scheduled for next Tuesday.)

God is greater than time! You see, **time** is the invention of man. There are no hours, or days, or years with God, and this is what Peter was trying to say in 2 Peter 3:8, "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."

When God sent Moses to set the children of Israel free from the bondage of Egypt, God told Moses that "I AM" sent you. With that thought in mind, Jesus taught the Scribes and Pharisees saying, "Before Abraham was I AM." And to make the picture a little clearer, we are told in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

When there was nothing but a vast "nothing," God was there. When the earth was void, God was there. When man lived in the Garden of Eden, God was there. When Moses crossed the Red Sea, God was there. When Jesus was born, God was there. When Christ performed His first miracle, God was there. When Christ was crucified to pay the price for sin, God was there. That is why David could write in the 23 Psalm, "The Lord *is* my Shepherd..." He didn't have to wait until the Kingdom had been ushered in! He did not have to wait until the resurrection! He did not have to wait until the Second Coming! But David said, "The Lord is my Shepherd..." right now. That is the very same thing John tell us when he says, "Beloved, now we are the children of God..."

The second thing the Bible teaches is that God is greater than humanity. We are told in Genesis 1:26, "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." The person who has no faith in the living and eternal God, is simply living a meaningless journey from birth to the grave! For the atheist; life has no spiritual significance, and at the end of life there is simply a ditch. Their body is thrown in like some kind of dead animal, and everything is over, snuffed out with the stroke of death!

God never intended for man to live in this world alone and carry the burdens and the weight of the troubles of this life alone, for we have been made in the image of Almighty God! We have been given the right to rule, but God is greater than His creation. God is greater than the lies Adam and Eve told about their sin. God is greater than the mob that crucified Christ. God is greater than the petty

disagreements that we might have. God is greater than our misunderstandings, because God is greater than humanity.

The power and might of God can take a ruthless Peter and make him speak out for Christ. God can instill the desire in an Andrew man to serve and to be happy. God can take a tax collector like Matthew and make him a preacher. God can take a persecutor like Saul of Tarsus and make him a missionary. God can take a church that is cold and lukewarm and set it afire with the Holy Ghost. Why? Because God is greater than humanity.

Third, the Bible teaches us that God is greater than our restlessness. Isaiah 59:8 tells us about the unrighteous seeking rest, "They don't know where to find peace or what it means to be just and good. They have mapped out crooked roads, and no one who follows them knows a moment's peace."

Today people are more restless than ever before in the history of mankind. We are told that the average family moves more today in ten years, than they did in a lifetime of the generation past. People seem to be looking for something that they can hang on to for security, but it always seems to be just out of reach!

As the world grows more restless and more worried and depressed, we have been told in Philippians 4:6-7, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Ladies and gentlemen, this world will never be at peace until we embrace the Prince of Peace!

Fourth, the Bible teaches us that God is greater than eternity. We have been told in Romans 10, "...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the

dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (And) whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” **And then, in Romans 8:35-39,** “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

After we have been **saved by the grace of God**, the Bible teaches us in Ephesians 1:12-14 that God is **great enough to keep us from falling**, "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ; in whom you also trusted after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." **1 Peter 1:5** says, "We who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." **Thank God, I don't have to worry about ever being lost again!** **Why?** Because when I was **saved**, I was **sealed with the Holy Spirit**, and **kept by the power of the God!**

If God is so great, then why has He become so small for some?
James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

I remember when I was just a little fellow; I would hear the sound of an airplane passing overhead, and it seemed so very small. I shall never forget the first time I ever rode on an airplane - **it looked huge!** I must confess to you, I was amazed that something that big could actually fly! **What made the difference in my thinking?** The answer is simple - **The plane was no longer somewhere up in the sky, it was setting right beside me!**

The reason that God seems so *small* to some people is that He is so far away in their *commitments*! God wants to have an *intimate relationship* with us, in order to do that we must get *close* to Him!

Let me ask you this question, "How great is *your* God today?"

Is God any *greater* today in your *prayer life* than He was when you were first saved? We used to pray this little prayer, "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray O Lord my soul to keep. And if I should die before I wake, I pray O God my soul to take." **Is that as far as we have gotten?**

The Bible says that we are to "Pray without ceasing..." And again it tells us, "The prayer of a righteous man avails much." And then we have been told in the book of James, "You have not because you ask not." Jesus said in Mark 11:24, "Therefore, I say unto you, Whatever things you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them." **Has your *faith* changed the way you *pray*?** Do you honestly trust God for the answer enough to **confess that you already have it, and, by faith, thank Him for it?**

Is God any *greater* in your *Christian walk* today than He was when you were first saved? 1 Peter 2:2 tells us that "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow by it." And then in 2 Peter 3:18 he says to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." There is a little song that goes something like this: "Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before..."

Is God any *greater* in your *Christian walk* today, or have you been overtaken with some *fault*? Have you fallen into some *trap* that Satan has set for you? The Bible tells us that we are to "walk circumspectly." In other words, we need to look at what we are *doing* and where we are *going*, lest we be overcome by temptation!

Is God any greater in meeting your soul's hunger today than when you were first saved? Jesus said, "Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled." Again Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." The writer of the book of Hebrews said, "Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together..." Can you say with David, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord"?

To the Christian, a Worship Service is a place of fellowship, a place for spiritual renewal, and a place for the child of God to find security. How great is your God when it comes to church attendance?

One of the great truths of the Word of God is that there is more to Christianity than just being saved! Now please do not misunderstand what I am saying, for salvation is the greatest thing that can happen to the person that is unsaved! But salvation is just the beginning of the Christian's walk with God! There is Christian growth, Christian love and forgiveness, Holy Spirit anointing, and the walk of faith! All of these are a part of the normal part of the Christian life.

How great is your God? He will only be as great as you allow Him to be in your life!

If you are not saved, why not today?

Please stand for prayer.

Father,

Your Word is true. Help me to experience your greatness in my every day living. In Jesus' name. Amen.