



How Do We Cultivate Our Awe of God

Week 3

We noted how people are created with a need for Awe.

We've also noted that it is the absence of awe that gives rise to our sinful behavior.

Today I want to look into what brings us Awe in God. How do we cultivate our Awe of God.

Truths that Nurture Our Awe of God:

Evidence of God's Presence:

Creation: (God is "Awe"mazing)

Psalm 19:1-6

- [1] The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- [2] Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.
- [3] There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.
- [4] Their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In them he has set a tent for the sun,
- [5] which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- [6] Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat. (ESV)

Isaiah 40:26

- [26] Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?
He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name;
by the greatness of his might
and because he is strong in power,
not one is missing. (ESV)

Why is God Awesome?

He made the sky. Sunsets, thunderstorms, stars, moon, planets, weather.

How can we remember this truth?

Memorize scripture. Connect experiences to biblical truths.

Psalm 95:3–5

- [3] For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
[4] In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
[5] The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land. (ESV)

Psalm 104:24–25

- [24] O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
[25] Here is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with creatures innumerable,
living things both small and great. (ESV)

Why is God Awesome?

He made the earth. Every deep cavern and flowing bit of magma. He made every rolling hill and every intricate and deadly part of Mount Everest. The sea is one of the most unknown places on earth. Strange creatures that live miles below the water's surface.

How can we remember this truth?

Associate weird fish or beautiful mountains as demonstrations of God's greatness. Remind yourself when you see them that they belong to God for He made them. The next time you think saving the planet is futile this truth might change your viewpoint.

Psalm 139:14

- [14] I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well. (ESV)

Why is God Awesome?

He made man. Fearfully = Awesomely. Every new discovery about the human body that science makes is evidence that God is wonderful. This truth connects not to the mind or understanding, it is known by our soul (the seat of our emotions).

How can we remember this truth?

Never stop learning about the human body. Watch Netflix or online videos. Read books and articles. They may speak about evolution or some other thing you don't like but look past all that opinionation, find what they learned about the human eyeball or brain or whatever and in it see the wonderful work of God.

Justification, Sanctification:

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

[26] For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. [27] But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; [28] God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, [29] so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. [30] And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, [31] so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (ESV)

Why is God Awesome?

He uses the most unlikely of people. So that in the work we see Him. In Christ we know wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

How can we remember this truth?

Next time you are asked to serve and you can find a reason to say no, ask yourself if it is an opportunity to show God as great. Saying yes may not be wisest in every circumstance but a good question to start with is how will it enable others to better see God. This helps us out of our typically selfish pattern.

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

[16] From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. [17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

Why is God Awesome?

He reconciled us. Then entrusted us to that same ministry.

How can we remember this truth?

Every time you look at a receipt. Whenever you make a payment, think about the payment Christ made.

Miraculous Works:

Luke 5:24–26

[24] But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” [25] And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. [26] And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.” (ESV)

Acts 2:42–43

[42] And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (ESV)

Why is God Awesome?

In eight words he can alter the rest of a man's life. Healing. God is extraordinary.

How can we remember this truth?

Don't be afraid to ask. Don't assume God only does small things or easy things. When we hear about God healing, don't live in cynical doubt, assume He did. Your God is a God who heals, why should we be so surprised when someone says He did it.

Descriptions of God's Character:

1. God Is Infinite – He is Self-Existing, Without Origin

Colossians 1:17

[17] And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (ESV)

Psalms 147:5

[5] Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure. (ESV)

This does not fit in my brain. The fact that God had no beginning. I try to compute it but the processors overheat and I'm left without any capacity to understand how anything can simply exist, eternally.

2. God Is Immutable – He Never Changes

Malachi 3:6

[6] "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. (ESV)

3. God Is Self-Sufficient – He Has No Needs

Acts 17:24–25

[24] The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, [25] nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. (ESV)

John 5:26

[26] For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. (ESV)

4. God is Omnipotent – He Is All Powerful

Psalms 33:6

[6] By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host. (ESV)

Job 11:7–11

[7] "Can you find out the deep things of God?
Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?
[8] It is higher than heaven—what can you do?

Deeper than Sheol—what can you know?
[9] Its measure is longer than the earth
and broader than the sea.
[10] If he passes through and imprisons
and summons the court, who can turn him back?
[11] For he knows worthless men;
when he sees iniquity, will he not consider it? (ESV)

5. God Is Omniscient – He Is All-Knowing

Isaiah 46:9–10

[9] remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,
[10] declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,' (ESV)

1 John 3:20

[20] for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

6. God Is Omnipresent – He Is Always Everywhere

Psalms 139:7–10

[7] Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
[8] If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
[9] If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
[10] even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me. (ESV)

Jeremiah 23:23–24

[23] "Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? [24] Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. (ESV)

7. God Is Wise – He Is Full of Perfect, Unchanging Wisdom

Romans 11:33

[33] Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! (ESV)

8. God Is Faithful – He Is Infinitely, Unchangingly True

Deuteronomy 7:9

[9] Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, (ESV)

9. God Is Good – He Is Infinitely, Unchangingly Kind and Full of Good Will

Psalms 34:8

[8] Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! (ESV)

10. God Is Just – He Is Infinitely, Unchangeably Right and Perfect in All He Does

Deuteronomy 32:4

[4] "The Rock, his work is perfect,
for all his ways are justice.

A God of faithfulness and without iniquity,
just and upright is he. (ESV)

11. God Is Merciful – He is Infinitely, Unchangeably Compassionate and Kind

Romans 9:15–16

[15] For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." [16] So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (ESV)

12. God Is Gracious – God Is Infinitely Inclined to Spare the Guilty

Psalms 145:8

[8] The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (ESV)

13. God Is Loving – God Infinitely, Unchangingly Loves Us

1 John 4:7–8

[7] Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. [8] Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (ESV)

14. God Is Holy – He is Infinitely, Unchangingly Perfect

Revelation 4:8

[8] And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!" (ESV)

15. God Is Glorious – He is Infinitely Beautiful and Great

Habakkuk 3:4

[4] His brightness was like the light;
rays flashed from his hand;
and there he veiled his power. (ESV)

Source: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/15-amazing-attributes-of-god-what-they-mean-and-why-they-matter.html>

Other Resources:

Most of the Psalms

Communicable and Incommunicable Attributes in Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology.

Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ by John Piper

Practices that Nurture Our Awe of God:

Psalm 27

v1-3 – The right understanding of fear. Don't fear men trust God. Actually, the word for awe is also translatable to fear as in reverent fear.

v4 – Seek to gaze. On God's beauty. Inquire wisdom.

v5-6 – Hold to the promises God has made.

v7-12 – Ask, Ask, Ask

v13 – Trust in God

v14 – Wait

Read the Bible (Trust):

The Bible is God's revelation of himself to mankind. The Bible reveals God's character, his plan, it records His past deeds and instructs us in all truth.

Read for awe. Look for God in the story. Look for what He does, who he is. Ponder Him in comparison to all others.

Look for God's Presence:

Why do we love to watch baptisms? Because it displays everything we love. God changing hearts. God saving. God working.

Testimonies given by others are reminders that our God is at work. He is able. He can and does what no one else could.

We are all surrounded by birds. They are at your house and mine. But some people have identification books and binoculars, they belong to clubs. They appreciate every feather and color and shape and distinction. We should be like them as Christians. We should be looking for God's hand everywhere we go. Identifying His character manifest in others. We should celebrate it. Some of us have no idea what birds are surrounding us because we just aren't looking.

Fear and Trembling:

In the various uses of the word Awe in the Old and New Testament the original word have attached to their meaning the idea of fear and trembling. Awe involves fear. Fear

of man is wrong and fear of God is wildly unpopular in our culture but not as unpopular in the Bible. Fear or reverent fear if you like is important to cultivating awe. If God is casual and comfortable and approachable and more of your peer than your all powerful creator who holds the universe together by His word than you might struggle to be in awe of Him.

I don't mean to diminish the power of grace to make us acceptable. What God has said is clean, the faith filled believe is clean. We are recipients of the righteousness of Christ no doubt but that does not make us peers of God. More like it doesn't make us kindling.

Jesus says we are His friend, but I think we might be outweigh this one statement of Jesus with a whole lot of establishment of God Awesomeness. When I get around a strong man I always am a little weary. I know what He can do. He might be a gentle giant or the nicest guy but it doesn't change the fact that if He wanted to He could snap me in two. We can enjoy the pleasures of intimacy provide to us by God himself but not lose track of the graciousness of that extension.

Give Gratitude (Remember):

A major problem of ours is our lake

Slow Down (Reflect):

Ask (Pray):