

# Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: GOD is here.

Week 2: Our Biggest Problem

**We don't think that much of GOD.** That is our biggest problem. The crippling fear of your life only exists because we don't think much of GOD.

**Quantity & Quality: We don't think that much of GOD because we don't think about Him often enough (quantity). And we don't think that much of GOD because our thoughts about Him are pretty lame (quality).**

There is only one solution that will satisfy your soul--to think much of GOD. Which is why we need to fully grasp what the name of GOD actually means.

Jesus' disciples approached Him with a request. **LUKE 11:1**

Jesus encourage them to pray for "daily bread" **Luke 11:3**, the stuff we need to make it through the day—food, drink, clothing, housing, safety, etc.

Jesus also urged them to pray for forgiveness, both received and given. **Luke 11:4.**

But before verse 3's daily bread and verse 4's forgiveness comes verse 2, the start of this teaching on prayer by Jesus. Apparently, Jesus believed something mattered even more than starvation and salvation. GOD's name. **LUKE 11:2.**

The whole prayer hangs on that first request—GOD, let me think much of You today.

Which is what the 10 Commandments remind us to do too. **EXODUS 20:7.** When GOD gave Moses the 10 Commandments, GOD didn't wait to talk about His name. In other words, **get GOD's name right, and you'll do the right thing.** But misuse His name, and wrongdoing is right around the corner. But what exactly does that mean?

What happens when you misuse GOD's name? You water down His name. And, in the end, you don't think much of GOD. Which is the biggest problem of all.

But there is more subtle danger contained in the commandment. Many Christians, committed to GOD's top ten list, learn to clean up their language, and save His name for prayers and songs of praise. Yet they still end up thinking too little of GOD. Why? **Because the greatest misuse of GOD's name is the missed use of GOD's name.** When a day goes by without much thought of GOD, we have missed a chance to use His name. .

Which takes us back to our original problem: **We don't think much of GOD.** Either through our misuse (quality) or missed use (quantity) of His name, our GOD becomes someone less, a miniature version of the glorious One who wants to make us the most satisfied people on earth.

This is why GOD tells us a thousand times, in a dozen ways to think more of His name.

1. **Worship GOD**—To worship means to believe something is of the highest worth. When we claim to worship GOD, we are saying that GOD is worth more than everything and everyone else in our lives. **PSALM 100:2.**
2. **Honor GOD**—To honor means to hold great admiration and respect for someone. When we honor GOD, we are telling the world how much we respect His love, power, and character. **PSALM 22:23.** David wants to pump up our view of GOD, so he stacks one verb after another—fear, praise, honor, revere!
3. **Glorify GOD**—To glorify, in the original Hebrew sense of the word, is to say that someone has weight, significance. When we glorify GOD, we express that GOD is the most significant thing in our lives. **PSALM 86:12.**
4. **Praise GOD**—To give praise, in the Greek, literally means "to say something good." The Greek noun is "eulogy," a compound word that puts together "good" and "word." When we praise GOD, we say good things about His character and actions. **Psalm 9:2.** Notice the connection between praising GOD's name and joy.
5. **Remember GOD**—To remember something is to recall it and keep it at the forefront of our minds. Since GOD is not visible, letting Him be "out of sight, out of mind" is a real tendency for us. **PSALM 63:6.**
6. **Fear GOD**—In Scripture, fear is often connected to a sense of awe, thinking someone is so awesome that we feel nervous in their presence. You would be emotionally moved. **PSALM 34:9.**

Why do the Scriptures stack the synonyms in song after song? Answer: So that we will think more of GOD. So we tap into every blessing from the past, every gift of the present, and every promise for the future in order to hallow GOD's name.

That is **the essential goal of every day of life, to leverage every good moment to make His name great.**

The Bible describes thinking much of GOD as a 3-step process. It's all about getting such a clear view of GOD that the very sight of Him is enough to satisfy our souls

- 1. SEEK—Seeking is the mental journey our minds take from thinking little of god to thinking much of GOD.** It's the patient process of guiding our thoughts closer to the glory of GOD. **1 Chronicles 22:19a; 1 Chronicles 16:10-11**  
If your mind is like mine, there will be a billion squirrels to chase that scurry in every direction except toward GOD. This takes practice, devotion, and earnest effort. We don't stumble into GOD's presence. We enter His presence by seeking Him.
- 2. SEE—Once we have sought and found GOD, we can see Him as He actually is—exalted, glorious, beautiful, captivating, satisfying. PSALM 27:4.** Why does David want to "seek" only the Lord? So he can see GOD. **The glorious reward of seeking is seeing.**
- 3. SATISFIED—The very sight of GOD is the most satisfying thing for our souls. PSALM 63:1-5.** David is mentally going after GOD like a parched man going after a pool of cool water. Why is David so desperate? Because he has already seen GOD, beheld His glory, and understood what a big deal He is. David was fully satisfied in the presence of the GOD who is here. Full satisfaction comes from seeing GOD, when we pour mental energy into directing our thoughts to GOD.

The Bible puts it this way, "Fix your thoughts Jesus (**HEBREWS 3:1**). Fasten your eyes on Jesus. Think about the love that led GOD to send His Son for you, then think about it again, then again.