

Study D: Walking With God On His Terms

*"The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.
The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."
Ps. 145:17,18*

Why: Reasons for the study

- Many Christians are living spiritually impoverished lives because they have not developed a biblical system of beliefs based on God's character and the expression of His loving, divine purpose in all His ways to govern their lives.
- Many refuse to trust God when He doesn't respond to them on their terms and provide what they believe they need to be fulfilled.

What: Principles to grasp

- We may be unaware that we have constructed a view of God that is formed by past and present experiences, our emotions, our logic and our belief in lies.
- Our erroneous beliefs and demands become a barrier to our ability to delight in God and His ways of relating to us.
- We may believe lies, which we try to validate by our experience, feelings and logic, convincing ourselves that we are right and God is wrong.
- In so doing, we become a "judge" over God, evaluating His character and performance.
- Because of this, we may be living either a performance-oriented life or living a rebellious, sinful life, without repentance.
- God's consequence for rebellion is often misery, which should drive us to repent.

How: Path to a changed life

- To recognize they may be doing battle with God
- To renew their minds about the character of God and how to relate to Him
- To confess the ways they have "judged" God and repent of "blaming" Him
- To begin to see suffering as part of God's provision to accomplish His goals
- To accept that God is loving and good even when He doesn't meet their expectations and goals

Helpful ideas:

- This is a key study for those who may be angry at God.
- Your disciples may appear to be doing spiritual looking things while still in rebellion.
- Your disciples may view their miserable or unhappy state to be God's fault for not providing their perceived needs or not loving them the way they want to be loved.
- Address with your disciples that they are fighting God in a futile battle. (For a great summary, see the paragraph under VI. E.)
- It may be appropriate to ask them, "How well is your approach working?"
- Refer them to the choices they must make as outlined under Section D.
- Have them list ways they are judging God and excusing their sins. Use as a confession.

Tools and additional resources:

- This study is also included in *God's Call to Brokenness (CTO)*.
- Read *Man's Mind vs. God's Mind* (Study 7 of *Who's In Charge?*)
- *Crazy Love*, by Francis Chan