Understanding God’s Character

*“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe” Ephesians 1:18-19a.*

*“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.” Jeremiah 17:7.*

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight” Proverbs 3:5-6.*

Many verses tell us of God’s character, including Isaiah 11:1-5 and Ps 145. Depending on your past, you may find it hard to receive these truths deep into your heart and soul.

If it’s hard for you to trust God, connect with Him, or in other ways experience the reality of His character as revealed in Scripture, bring your struggle to God and follow Wholeness Prayer principles to seek His perspective. (See the resource “Facilitating a Time of Wholeness Prayer.”) The root is often generational.

To help you identify ways you struggle to understand God’s character, think of 3-5 adjectives that describe your relationship with each of your significant caretakers (i.e. father, mother) when you were a young child, then 3-5 adjectives that describe your relationship with God now. Then look for connections. Thank God for the ways His attributes were displayed, and lift before Him any ways in which your view of Him became skewed.

To bring heart-level truth to any misunderstanding of God’s character, it may help to ask God to remind you of someone in your life who displays some of the attribute of God you struggle to believe from the heart. (If there is no one, ask God to bring someone like this into your life.) Ask God to show you if He’s more like this person, or more like the person who originally shaped your perspective of Him. Then ask Him to show you how much more.

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