

# *The God of My Understanding*

*"My thoughts are completely different from yours," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55)*

As much as we try, we will never understand how wonderful God really is. The Twelve-Step program invites us to turn our wills and our lives over to the care of God *as we understand Him*. How can we bring these two together. How can we really live the life with God for which we were created?

The happy reality for all of us is that for many years we didn't know how good God really was and how close to us God is at all times. As we walk forward with a clear mind and an open heart, we have the opportunity to get to know God for the rest of our lives, to learn more and more about His character and His compassion, with the knowledge that with whatever we are able to learn, there will still be infinitely more wonderful aspects to God than what we know.

*Praise the Lord, and never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He ransoms me from death and surrounds me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord gives righteousness and justice to all who are treated unfairly. The Lord is merciful and gracious; he is slow to get angry and full of unfailing love. He will not constantly accuse us; nor remain angry forever. He has not punished us for all our sins, nor does he deal with us as we deserve. His unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our rebellious acts as far away from us as the east is from the west. The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. He understands how weak we are; he knows we are only dust. (Psalm 103)*

The more difficult our life or the more severe the temptations we face, the more important God becomes to us. When we are at our weakest, God's power takes on added significance. What makes the life of a Christian different from others is the way we face difficult and challenging circumstances. Instead of falling under the weight of the challenge, we look for the presence and help of God to make a difference in us. We trust that we have a loving and powerful friend who is with us and who is willing to act on our behalf. God will either make us strong enough to face our circumstances or make a way through them for us. If we fail, God will forgive us, when we acknowledge that failure, and walk forward with us. Our lives make sense when we "seek God" or look for God in both the difficult and the delightful in life. We begin to discover how precious his compassionate care toward us really is. He is worthy of all our praise, for only he can satisfy our deepest longings.

*O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. Your unfailing love is better to me than life itself; how I praise you! I will honor you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer. You satisfy me more than the richest of foods. I will praise you with songs of joy. (Psalm 63)*

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection. I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until this violent storm is past. I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me. He will send help from heaven to save me, rescuing me from those who are out to get me. (Psalm 57)*

## Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. What have I come to appreciate about God?
2. How have I come to know and experience God?
3. How many of the good promises of God do I rely on when I am faced with difficulty?
4. What's my first response to difficulty -- to seek for the good God has or to feel like God has abandoned me?
5. What do I do with God when I am faced with a difference between God's will and what I want or think I need?
6. What new ways of walking with God do I want to give myself to?