Devotional Study 4

Lesson 103: Genesis 1, Ephesians 3:20

Psalm 145:8-9

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all and His mercy is over all that He has made.

We tend to formulate a view of God based on our own experiences or on what others may tell us about God. It is important that we are careful to base our view of God on what He has revealed about Himself in His word. God has been so kind in giving us His written word to keep us from formulating inaccurate views of Him. These verses tell us that, "God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love...He is good to all, and His mercy is over all." It is important to remind ourselves of these truths at those moments in life when everything is going wrong, and we question how a good God could allow such things to happen. It is at those moments when God's word must inform our thinking, rather than allowing our circumstances to inform our thinking.

Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Devotional Study 1

Lesson 103: Genesis 1, Ephesians 3:20

Psalm 33:6,8

"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!"

As we have read in Genesis 1, God created the universe through his spoken word. Psalm 33:6 tells us, "By the word of the LORD, the heavens were made" and then verse 8 encourages us to "stand in awe of Him." This truth runs contrary to what our school systems and scientific community have been teaching for the past several generations. It is a challenge to go against what the "experts" claim to be true and requires a step of faith to accept what God reveals in His word. Will you make that step of faith and trust the Creator of the Universe and what He tells you, or put your trust in the wisdom of man?

Dear LORD, I choose to believe what you have told us in your word. I choose to put my faith in you, the One who knows me and loves me.

Devotional Study 2

Lesson 103: Genesis 1, Ephesians 3:20

Turn in your Bible and read Psalm 139

Each beautiful sunset or sunrise, each star-filled night sky, or magnificent view of God's marvelous creation reminds us of how amazingly powerful and creative God is. It is good for us to stand in awe of Him and praise Him for His magnificence. And then in Psalm 139 we read that He knows us...He knows what we are thinking, He knows what we will say, there is no place we can go to flee from His presence. "Even the darkness is not dark to him." (verse 12) Verses 13-14 tell us that God "formed our inward parts; we are fearfully and wonderfully made." We may not like the way we were made, and we may question why God has made us a certain way and not another, yet we can take comfort in what God says about us. "Wonderful are your works."

Dear LORD, search me, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there is any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. (23-24)

Devotional Study 3

Lesson 103: Genesis 1, Ephesians 3:201

Turn in your Bible and read Matthew 6:25-34
Ephesians 3:20
Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.

Life is difficult and overwhelming at times. Facing the challenges of each day can leave us exhausted and in despair. Yet God, the one who knows us and loves us, tells us to, "not be anxious about our life" and that we have more value than the birds of the air. He also challenges us with the question of how much we add to our life by being anxious. (v. 27) It is a daily struggle to release our anxieties to God and rest in his completed work on the cross, securing our salvation. Yet he is the Creator of the universe, able to do "immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. (Eph. 3:20)

What things cause you to be anxious? Think about ways God could meet your needs and after listing a couple, pray that God meet your needs "far more abundantly than all we ask or think."