

FRANK FRIEDMANN

# What God is Like

Five refreshing  
reminders about the  
nature of our Father



OUR  
RESOLUTE  
HOPE

# “What God is Like”

## *5 Refreshing Reminders About the Nature of our Father*

By Frank Friedmann

As we move through this world, our need for Jesus becomes more and more apparent. Remember, we were designed to live in Eden - and this world is not Eden. Daily, we are bombarded with difficulty and sorrow and tribulations. Shellshocked or ignorant, we become prone to wander onto the futile path of self-sufficiency, and soon afterwards, hopelessness sets in. What can we do?

**Our need for Jesus is great.**

But when we may not be faithful to Him, He is faithful to us. He knows us and understands the pain and struggles we endure. Not only that, but He walks with us through it. When we live life out of our own strength, He has the gentleness to guide us back onto the path of grace. And when we finally see the state that we are in and cry out to Him, He commends us and carries us, like a Father and a son. He is always faithful.

Within the pages of this resource, may you encounter Hope, Jesus Christ Himself, our Resolute Hope. Meditate on these truths, and experience all that Father has for you in this moment.

## **1. Father Sees and Understands Your Struggle.**

We live in a world, my friends, that we were never designed to live in. I say that many times to the people that I minister to because I think sometimes we think that because of the redemption of the cross, things should go great in our lives. And they don't always do. The garden paradise has become a jungle or a desert.

Jesus himself said, we're going to have tribulation in this world.

And very often when that experience of devastation comes upon us and it causes great sorrow in our lives, we will often find ourselves crying out. “Is there anyone out there who sees what I'm going through? Is there anyone out there who gets it? Is there anyone out there who gets me?” And sadly, people are so wrapped up in their own life struggles and in their own busyness on a fallen planet, that they don't get it.

They don't get us. We're not going to judge them today. I understand that. There are times I myself don't get other people. The sadder thing is when people who do get it, offer nothing more than a rebuke or a correction in an attempt to fix it. And that wounds us in an even greater fashion. Leaving us more desperate, feeling more alone, and crying out louder than ever before.

“Is there anyone out there that gets it?” My friends today, I want to encourage you that there are those out there who get it.

There are those out there who get you when you're going through what you never wanted to go through. And your soul is being greatly vexed. Listen to *Romans 8*, it says *the whole creation groans*. That literally means “to sigh with grief.” Now, mark this, it's going to be very important. The Greek word is *stenazó*. Later it says, we groan. Guess what? Same word, “to sigh with grief,” *stenazó*.

In *Mark 7*, we journey over to one of the gospels. The deaf man was brought to Jesus and it says, “Jesus groaned,” guess what? Same Greek word, *stenazó*. Jesus gets it. He groans with the same groan that the Creation of God groans for. He groans with the same groan that we groan with as we experienced life in a fallen world. But you say, well, Jesus, isn't here now. Well, don't forget John 15, my friends. When He went away, it says *He sent another*, glorious Greek word, *allos*, “another of the same kind. Another, just like Him, the Holy Spirit.” And the glory for you and I is that in *Romans 8*, it says, guess what? *The Holy Spirit groans for us*, same Greek word “to sigh with grief,” *stenazó*.

**Ah, my friend, I trust you see the glory of this.**

You are never alone in your grief and sorrow. It may feel like you're alone. There may be people who don't get it, who don't get what you're going through, and reasonably don't get you. But there are people who do. Jesus gets you. The Holy Spirit gets you. I'd put it this way. As you're being mercilessly, pummeled by the enemy and the desperate state of this fallen world. And you curl up in your little foxhole as if you were at war.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit get in that foxhole with you.

And that's not at all. It says in *Romans 8*, that the Holy Spirit intercedes to the Father for you in prayer. So the Father gets you too. Because these prayers in *Romans 8* are described for you and I as “according to the will of God.” In other words, when the Father hears, but the Holy Spirit says, who gets you. He prays in exactly the way that you need to be ministered to. That then ushers in that great promise of *Romans 8*, that all things, even those terrible, horrible, sorrowful, things that leave your guts feeling like they've been run through a blender.

All of those things are going to be used by God and turned into great good in your life.

Oh, my dear friend. I hope if I'm talking to you right now and you feel very alone, that you will have realized how you are not alone. All three members of the triune, Godhead not only get what you're going through. They get you and They are offering themselves to you. And for you. To bring you through this valley of the shadow of death that you are experiencing into

the light of His glory and love. Hear those final words, you're walking through *the valley of the shadow of death*. Note, you do go through it.

**What you're going through is not the end of the story.**

And by the way, there can only be a shadow if there's a light shining somewhere. And the light that is casting a shadow on what you're experiencing right now is the light of the love of the triune Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who indeed get you. May this be your comfort today in Jesus' name.

## 2. Father will Provide.

In my own faith journey, my greatest spiritual weakness is: my God is too small, and I am too big. When we see ourselves as too big and God as too small, we'll trust ourselves instead of Him. So this is what I try to put into my brain, "God will provide, God will provide, God will provide." And when something new comes into my life, I try to remember that God will provide, and He has provided so wonderfully.

Abraham had obviously concealed from Isaac what God had told him to do. You know, sometimes we need to do that as human beings. Sometimes to share things will wound another person and in this case that would have caused undue stress for the three-day journey Abraham and his son were embarking on. So finally, in verse nine, they come to the place. Abraham built the altar, laid down the wood, and bound Isaac.

What happened there? What was the conversation? I wish we knew!

Did Isaac ask, "Well, where's the lamb father?"

Did Abraham respond, "I don't have one, YOU ARE the lamb."

He had to have told him! I want you to see here that it is not just Abraham who was full of faith; look at Isaac!

Can you imagine how much faith it took to trust his father?

To say, "Go ahead and bind me and put me on the altar?" Where did that boy get that faith? You know, sometimes I think we've spent so much time on Abraham that we miss Isaac. I'll tell you where he got that faith from; he got it from watching his dad. Here's a whale of a challenge for us today,

it is not our lips that will teach our kids; it is our lives!

And we need to live so they see a living God in us.

Words surely reverberated in Isaac's mind; "God will provide. God will provide." Abraham's faith has been so tested over the years it could stretch beyond what we can imagine. Do you

realize that at thirty to thirty-five years of age with a one-hundred and twenty-year-old father, Isaac could have easily overpowered his dad and said no?

Which one had the greatest faith? I don't know that we can answer that. Is it the father who offers his son or the son who lays down his life at the wishes of his father? It was tested faith on both their parts.

### 3. Father Commends the Weak.

Did you know that in the book of Revelation, the church in Philadelphia was commended because it had "little strength"?

In our modern world that is a very strange basis for being commended. Modern society values strength. Our media-driven culture beckons us to be men of steel and women of iron. The city in which I live heralds, for example, that we are "Baton Rouge Strong" and "Baton Rouge Proud."

**God, however, says that it is the weak, those that have recognized their minimal strength who are to be commended.**

Why is that?

Let's ponder Moses for example; he was a man of great strength. Raised in the court of Pharaoh to be a leader in the nation, he was trained to be a warrior. When he thought the time had come for him to deliver his people, he mustered all the strength he could and killed an Egyptian, but failed to rally the people around him and ran like a scared rabbit into the desert.

There, he spent the next 40 years tending sheep and growing weak. How do we know that? Because when God appeared to Him, to call Him to lead Israel into freedom, he bemoaned that he was not the kind of man God was looking for. Early in his life, Moses thought he was that man because he was strong, but now that he was weak he could not dream of being a leader. He thought of himself as nothing and informed God that he could not speak very well. Ironically, the book of Acts tells us that Moses was the most eloquent man in all the earth!

So how are we to explain that? Some say that after spending 40 years with a bunch of sheep, any of us would speak b-a-a-a-d too! I don't buy that. I believe that after his failure, Moses no longer trusted in his natural resources.

Moses recognized that he was not up to the demand, which forced him to depend on God in a way he would never have without his failure.

His failure opened his eyes to his true state of weakness so that he could then see the greatness of God that would be exercised by God on his behalf; transforming him into a man who received the strength of God!

Though this is a hard lesson for most of us to learn, it is one that we desperately need to understand. The Holy Spirit told Paul that “when he was weak, then he would truly be strong because he would no longer be trusting in himself, but in God.” This is why God would offer that “not so strange” commendation for those who have little strength. I want to hear that commendation, and I hope you do too, for it is the true path to the strength we desperately need to secure to live victoriously in this fallen world.

## 4. Father’s Heart Changes Our Lives.

When you're a little kid, and you're living in a very dangerous world and your heart gets filled with fear, what do you do? I had four kids, and I can tell you what they do; they put a death grip around your neck! And what does a parent do when a child puts a death grip around their neck because they're afraid? Oh, we throw them down and say, “Grow up!” Right? Is that what we do? That's not what I did. I'll tell you what I did,

I put a death grip right back on them, and I'd say, "It's ok baby, your daddy's got you.

Your daddy's got you and because your daddy's got you, it's okay, and that's the only reason it's okay.”

The book of *Psalms* tells us that *He will rescue us*. It says *I will protect you because you know my name* (Psalm 91:14). I think that's a reference to all the names He's given us for Himself: Yahweh, El Shaddai, Elyon, all references to His character. I'll be the strong one. I'll be the exalted one. I'll be your protector. I'll be your provider. I think it's supremely the name that Jesus revealed to us in *John 17* - Father.

And *Psalms* doesn't say, “When we call on Him,” that's the wrong word! When you're in trouble as a little kid, do you call for your mom or dad? “Excuse me, Mother? Father?” That's not what a little kid does! They cry, and they say, “Will you help me? I'm hurting!” And what does God say? “I will hear him?” No! He says, “I will answer him!”

**You see, loved one, He doesn't just hear us, He answers us.**

And even more than that, He tells us that He will be with us in the trouble. This is so important for us to know—God does not always deliver us from trouble. In fact, I have found that in my own experience, rarely does He deliver us from trouble. Being delivered from the trouble, that's Plan A, that's what we all want, but it's not what we get. We usually get Plan B,

He'll walk with us in the trouble until we're out of the trouble.

## 5. Father Is Faithful, Even When We Wander.

I want to share another one of my favorite verses with you. It's found in *1 Thessalonians 5:24*. It says, *faithful is He who calls you*. Stop right there. A lot of times we'll read this as "Faithful is He who has called you. That's not what it says! That would imply that God reached out and He called you to Himself, and now He's not doing anything else. The Greek word is not in the past tense, it's in the present tense. Let's translate it correctly and let's read the Bible carefully. *Faithful is He who calls you*. The present tense means there is an element of continuity in the action.

So God is calling you and calling you and calling you and calling you.

Why is that so important? Because like the old hymn writer said, "I'm prone to wander."

There's this thing in me called the flesh that is not me. There's this thing in me called the power of sin that is not me. It's like having a splinter. I have a piece of wood in my body, but it's not me. And the flesh and the power of sin that are in me are attracted to the things of the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life (1 John 2:16). As Psalm 23 puts it there's a lot of different paths out there, and sometimes I can be called to those paths. But God is so faithful. He calls me again and again and again and again. "Don't go down that path. Don't go down that path." And sometimes I do it anyway and He continues to call me to Himself. Remember what God said?

*I will never leave you or forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6).*

We serve a God who calls us to Himself perpetually. That's how faithful He is. Isn't that glorious?

*And for that, we praise you, Father, in Jesus' name!*

*You are loved!  
Pastor Jacob*

## About Our Resolute Hope



The Teaching Ministry of Frank Friedmann

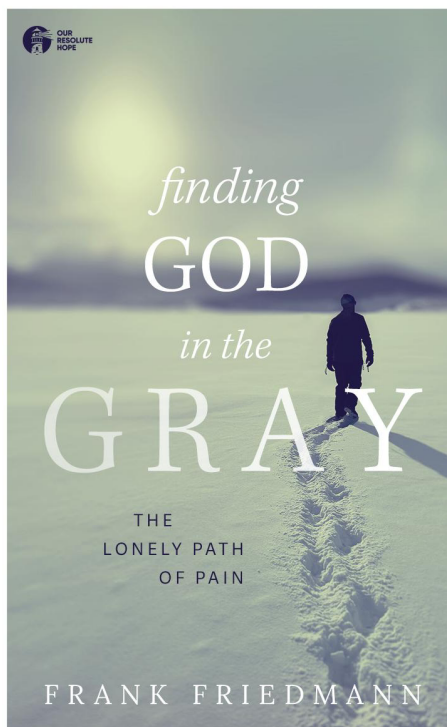
## OUR MISSION

Our Resolute Hope will produce and distribute practical materials to help people both grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and to find the freedom that only He can provide.

## OUR VISION

Our Resolute Hope will be a clear, comforting expression of God's love, grace, life, and encouragement to hurting, confused, weary, and questioning people everywhere.

**- Coming Soon -**



*Finding God in the Gray* is scheduled for release in the Fall of 2021.

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