



connect to reflect

INTRODUCTION

re-formation for eternity **05** we will increasingly reflect the character of Jesus



the challenge to believe

Our primary goal is not simply about getting to Heaven. Rather, it concerns an eternal journey in reflecting the character of God. Because God is infinite, you will never exhaust all there is to know about God, which means you will never cease to grow in his likeness. What do you think about this being your primary focus throughout eternity?



deepening dependence

Spend some time to pray for a life devoted to revealing Jesus through your own life.



steps to re-connecting our hearts to God

1. Ask the Holy Spirit what he wants you to learn from this lesson. What do you sense the Holy Spirit teaching you?
2. This week, what practical steps do you need to take to apply what the Holy Spirit is teaching you?
3. What evidence will you see that indicates that you are successfully applying what the Holy Spirit is teaching you?



passing it on

INTERCESSION Who can you pray for, that they join you on this eternal journey to reflect the character of Christ?

WORDS Who can you tell about this eternal journey of reflecting Jesus?

CHARACTER How will the eternal pursuit of reflecting Jesus be revealed in your life?



Let me ask you a question.

Do you think the angels in Heaven—the angels that cry “holy, holy, holy” around God's throne—repeat themselves? Do they sing like machines, unchanged through millennia, with the same old song?

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.
Isaiah 6:3*

In college I remember wading through thick and heavy texts books attempting to describe God. Usually, one of the first things mentioned was that God is infinite. Not really knowing what to do with a thought like that, particularly as it is not even a word mentioned in the Bible, I'd quickly move on to the next chapter.

But let's not do that now.

Let's contemplate the thought of an infinite God by thinking about our infinite universe. From what I have read, it is possible to put one million earths in the sun. But there is a star called VV Cephei that is about 1000 million miles in diameter. This means that it is 1220 times the size of the sun, and has been estimated to be up to 575,000 times brighter than the sun.

Now imagine the thickness of this page is the distance from earth to the sun -- 93 million miles. Using this scale, the distance to the nearest star which is 4½ light years away would be a stack of paper over 21 and a half meters high. Again, using the same scale, the diameter of our own galaxy being 100,000 light years would be require a stack of paper 310 miles high.

And to the edge of the universe? Our stack of paper, each sheet's thickness being the distance from the earth to the sun, would need to be 31 million miles high.

And what is contained within these spaces? Gerald Colvin brought a few interesting facts together to try and explain. The Milky Way is our home galaxy. A nearby galaxy, the Magellanic Clouds, is at just 170,000 light years away and has 15 billion stars. Around 2.2 million light years away from us is the Andromeda galaxy, twice our size, with 250 billion stars. Further away still is galaxy M87 with 750-1000 billion stars. We have mentioned just four galaxies, but Colvin says that if Adam had begun counting galaxies at 100 a minute and was still alive today, he wouldn't be finished counting.

And this in only what humans with telescopes like the Hubble have managed to find.

The universe is infinite. It's boggles our minds with its size and “never-endingness”. And this helps us to understand God a little better.

God is also infinite. There is a “never-endingness” to the beauty and virtue of his character and glory.

And if this small insight into the size of the universe is anything to go by, we can certainly never know all of God – the One who “determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.” (Psalm 147:4)

As our amazing universe hints to us, we will never understand all there is about God.

But, we can begin to know him.

And then we can continue to know him.

This means that the longer I spend on this journey to know God, the more I can learn. Because God is infinite, my knowledge of him and his greatness, love, kindness joy, grace, etc. can always increase.

Always.

For the whole of eternity. That is, for billions and billions of years. And more.

So the song the angels sing is always new. Always fresh. Always deepening and broadening with adoration and praise.

Because God is infinite, I will never be able to reach the point where I can say, “Now I know everything about God.” I won't be able to say that about even a part of him.

But you see, only knowing about God in an intellectual sense is not the point. It never is.

Knowing God is always intended to be experiential. Because knowing God is always about becoming.

Becoming – like him.

And this knowing God – that is actually becoming like God – is at the centre of God's eternal, cosmic, purposes for our lives.

In fact, reflecting the character of God in increasing measure is at the centre of the cosmic purpose for every being God has ever made.

And will be for billions and billions of years.

Forever and ever.



Because God is infinite, my knowledge and experience of his love, kindness, joy, and greatness can always increase