

**Russell Kelfer**

# **Just Because He Is**

**#965-B**

**Series: In Everything Give Thanks**

**dtm** DISCIPLESHIP TAPE MINISTRIES, INC.  
INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230 • (210) 226-0000 / 1-800-375-7778 • [www.dtm.org](http://www.dtm.org) • [dtm@dtm.org](mailto:dtm@dtm.org)

# He's the Best Ever!

(Someone love you like crazy.)

In this computer age in which we live, few things haunt the average businessman or secretary more than the possibility that precious data, stored either in the memory of some electronic desktop marvel or on a backup drive or system will, through an electrical failure, an equipment failure or a people failure, somehow disappear and be lost forever.

Giant corporations have been brought to their knees by blown fuses, failed microchips or, perish the thought, damaged disks, because if a backup has not been made and the information is erased, the entire operation skids to a halt, eyes become glazed with fear, and it is as if that data did not exist at all.

It would make an ideal title for a new Agatha Christie mystery: "The Case of the Damaged Disk." In an era characterized by a whole new category of crime—computer theft—the possibilities are unlimited.

But you know, I don't believe it's a new problem. The children of Israel suffered from the same malady. I know IBM wasn't even invented yet, but Apple has been around from the beginning. And the incredible problem of stolen memory has been around a long time, too. In fact, it was a piece of fruit that started it all.

The problem God has always had with man is that man seems to have a conveniently short memory. We read about the Jews during the Exodus, and we wonder if maybe they didn't have a failed microchip or a damaged disk. One day God was creating water fountains out of slabs of rock, making superhighways out of raging rivers, or building impenetrable walls to keep out plagues, and the children of Israel were praising and singing and giving thanks. Two days later, the water fountain and the parted sea and the plagues were hazy incidents in the distant past, certainly not recent enough to affect the way they lived today. We chide them for their forgetfulness, but we're no different.

Take your favorite football team, for instance, the one that won the championship three years in a row. A strange thing

## Just Because He Is

happened on their way to their fourth title. They became mere mortals, and actually, perish the thought, lost a few games. You were so accustomed to their winning that you now actually turn against them for letting you down. That's sad. Short memory.

But there's something sadder. It is the imprint of our Israeli ancestors on our spiritual memory banks that worries me. Sometimes I wonder if *we* don't suffer from damaged disks or mangled microchips.

I'll give you an example.

Try to unlock the computer of your mind and recapture the data marked "conversion". For some of you, it was only recently stored there. For still others, it is filed on the disk marked "ancient history". But just see if you can recall the freshness, the excitement, the drama of what took place in your heart.

One day you were lost in the abyss of sin and hopelessness. You may have been addicted to drugs or drink or immorality or gambling. Or you may have merely been adrift on the sea of life, rudderless, powerless, helpless, and hopeless. For some, it came in a setting of evangelistic fervor, and you walked down an aisle or held up your hand to indicate to someone that you were, in fact, at that moment surrendering your soul to the God of eternity.

For some it was a quiet, simple decision...no fanfare, no witnesses, nothing but the humble exchange of the keys of your life changing hands between you and God. But the issue isn't how it happened. The issue is it happened. And at some point in time, most of you at least, came to grips with your sinfulness and trusted the Savior.

Remember? Heaven came down and touched earth. The things that were so important before began to fade, and suddenly nothing mattered but Jesus. So what if you never made another dime? So what if you never got another promotion? So what if life's great dreams vanished into nothingness? You had Jesus. What else was there? Remember?

Let's say that was four years ago. For some, it was forty. For others it was four months. But for the sake of discussion, let's imagine it was four years ago. Did it ever enter your mind at that time that only four short years later you would get impatient if a worship service lasted five minutes too long? That you would overlook the impact of a message because the thermostat was set too low?

## Just Because He Is

Did it ever dawn on you that you would skip church for a football game? That you would miss a chance to hear the Word of God because you had the sniffles? That you would skip a chance to hear of Jesus walking on the water so you could go to the lake and rest on the water instead? What happened? Short memory.

It's not quite as clear as it once was that the God of eternity died for you, that the God of eternity lives in you, that the God of eternity ever lives to make intercession for you. If it were, how could a boat on a lake, a little ball on a golf course, or your favorite fullback running down the sidelines compare with that?

How could the memory of that moment ever fade when the eternal "I AM" looked down from Heaven and saw the incredible hopelessness of your lot and mine apart from His divine intervention in history and, because of *who He is*, found it impossible not to act?

His divine love could not stand idly by while we perished in our sins. So He paid the price once and for all and rescued us from an eternity in hell and a life of purposelessness and sinfulness on our way to hell. And now, say four years later, we have to stop and scratch our heads and wonder what's more important: staying to worship Him in all His Holiness or getting to McDonald's for lunch before the crowd? What has happened to us? You guessed it. A loss of memory.

### JUST BECAUSE HE IS LOVE

I think I know the problem. And I think I know the solution. And it may be so simple we've all missed it. We touched on it in the first lesson. The problem just may well be that we, as Christians, have stored the wrong data in our memory banks, and therefore, when we try to call up gratitude or thankfulness, we get an error code that says "no such information available; possible disk failure." I think there is a solution to the case of the damaged disk, and I don't think we need Agatha Christie to solve it. I think we programmed in the wrong information to start with. We've been attempting to be grateful for what God has done instead of learning to be thankful for who God is! What God has done, as miraculous as it is, is circumstantial. So later circumstances crowd out the glory of those past experiences or of that past knowledge, and we forget the miracles of the past. "What have you done for me lately, Lord?" That's what we're saying, in effect.

## Just Because He Is

But, Beloved, *if we learn to build a life of thanksgiving, based not on what God has done, but rather on who God is*, there ought never to be a moment in time where that memory fades. What He has done might be eclipsed momentarily by later events, but who God is never changes. And nothing and no one can ever enter our lives that can even compare to *Him*.

More than that, the longer we know Him, the better we know Him. And the better we know Him, the more in awe we ought to be of who He is. So instead of fading, the image of that for which we are thankful ought to intensify with each passing day. What I am saying is, that the key to a life of continuous thanksgiving is in learning to spend more and more of our life simply being thankful *just because He is*.

I'll give you a very simple illustration. How do you praise God for your salvation? John 3:16 is the key verse. It says,

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish but hath everlasting life.

If you look at that verse, the most familiar verse in all of Scripture, you will see a pattern. It is this:

First, the mind of man gravitates to the result. The result is *everlasting life*. (What's in it for me?)

Secondly, it gravitates to the reprieve. The reprieve is that the man who benefits from this passage, *shall not perish*. (Look what He saved me from.)

Thirdly, we think of the requirement. The requirement is *whosoever believeth*. (You say, "Wow, that includes me!")

But you see, the flow of the verse is the opposite of that. Yes, God so loved...He gave. The result of the gift was everlasting life. The recipient of the gift is whosoever will. The reprieve the gift offers is that the recipient shall never perish. All of that deals with what man receives, and the results of receiving it. But in reality, all of that is simply an explanation of what happens when the love of God is set free to demonstrate the character of God to the children of God. God so loved *because He is*.

Our salvation is the result of the issuing forth of that part of the nature of God known as His love. But even if you come to understand the depth of that love, and even if you come to experience the freedom that love purchased for you, still you

## Just Because He Is

have only touched the hem of his garment. You still have only taken a casual glance at the majesty of His Glory. Like Moses, you have allowed Him to pass by, but you have observed only a fraction of His awesomeness. Even Calvary does not express the sum total of God's love. It is a dramatic expression of that love, but Beloved, now we see through a glass darkly.<sup>1</sup> We are allowed fleeting glimpses of that love, but even as you can enter into the experience of outer space by watching the astronauts in orbit, until you are there, the reality of it is not yours.

Well the songwriter penned

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the sky of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,  
And ev'ry man a scribe by trade;  
  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Tho' stretched from sky to sky.<sup>2</sup>*

*Frederick M. Lehman*

The love of God is fathomless, endless, bottomless. Your ability to articulate its effect on your life, though important, is no more all encompassing than were you to sit down right now with pen in hand and try to reproduce the dictionary from memory.

And yet it is that love that God was expressing at Calvary. Calvary was not simply a random act of a loving God designed to demonstrate His love; Calvary was, in effect, simply the natural response of the nature of God to sinful man. Even reflecting on Calvary is not in and of itself adequate to generate long-term thankfulness. As we were reminded a few moments ago, even the greatest moment of our lives can be forgotten. Continuous thanksgiving will come only as a result of beholding that facet of the nature of God that made Calvary the natural result of His being—His perfect love.

When last did you spend an entire day simply beholding the love of God, simply offering praise and thanksgiving for the overwhelming magnitude of that love, recognizing in the process that you and I have caught only a passing glimpse of it all? One day you and I will behold that love in all its glory, but until then,

<sup>1</sup> I Corinthians 13:12

<sup>2</sup> "The Love of God" by Frederick M. Lehman © 1917, renewed 1945

## Just Because He Is

we are—in ever increasing splendor, from one degree of glory to another<sup>3</sup> —commissioned as men and women to study that love. To honor that love. To receive that love. To reflect that love, and thus to grow more and more and more into that love, as the one who *is* that love gains greater control of our lives.

Do you want to develop a life of praise? It is not enough just to thank Him for what His love has done for you. That still allows you to share the spotlight with Him. What we are to praise God for is that in essence, He *is* love. Therefore, it is not possible for any act or activity of God, regardless of how it is viewed from a human perspective, to ever be less than motivated by love.

Learn to praise God just because He is! And be careful that you do not ever measure who He is simply by how He has affected your life. That theology, so prevalent in today’s “gimme mine, God” philosophy, is too subjective to be eternally fruitful. For if you measure, for example, the depth of His love, using the plumb line of your experience, you will miss the mark at least four ways:

1- You will put the Creator God on a performance basis. That is, you will measure who He is by what He does, and you will thus determine the value of what He does by how you feel about it.

2- You will make the nature of God subjective. Like making an analysis of the content of the ocean by how it feels to jump in the water, you will limit your understanding of God’s nature to your senses.

3- You will make God’s nature inconsistent. Your experience has no stability; it varies from minute to minute. It certainly varies from day to day. God’s character never changes, therefore your basis for judgment will be infinitely inadequate. No wonder the world is confused about the consistency of Christianity; Christians are confused about the consistency of God’s love.

4- You will settle for a fraction of the truth. The lens of human experience is a closeup lens. It sees and photographs a tiny speck on the desert floor of life. It does not have the capacity to step back and view the grander landscape of character through the eyes of God’s wide-angle lens. Therefore, it becomes woefully inadequate.

No, there is only one way to appropriate the character of God in such a way that we can enter into a life of constant praise for who He is. That way is by seeing the nature of God only through

<sup>3</sup> II Corinthians 3:18 (Amplified Bible)

the Word of God.

So if you would desire to intensify your understanding of God's love, you must take the Word of God, which is the only adequate basis we have for visualizing the character of God, and saturate yourself with it, meditating on it, memorizing and breathing it into your life until it becomes a part of you, and thus the nature of God becomes second nature to you. Once that happens, you cannot help but praise.

On the back page of our last lesson there was a suggested assignment to help you do that. That assignment including taking some 3x5 cards and using those cards to record Scriptures pertaining to the different character qualities of God. The idea was, that when unpleasant or unexpected circumstances entered your life, instead of listening to the enemy's voice, you were to turn to the Word of God and meditate on whatever facet of the character of God that He was trying to reveal to you at that time, asking Him as you did to change you into His likeness by infusing you with that aspect of His nature. Remember, only the character of God always generates thanksgiving, and only the Word of God always accurately demonstrates the character of God.

At the moment, we are looking at one facet of God's nature—His love. And just in case you didn't get around to doing the assignment, we'll do it together as it pertains to the love of God.

We'll simply look at five characteristics of God's love that demonstrate His nature so that as we come face to face with situations in the days to come that cause us to resist or refuse that love, we can, armed with the Word of God, draw nigh unto God, resist the devil, and *give thanks*.

So what is the love of God and what does it do? Let's look:

1- The love of God is unconditional.

By unconditional, we mean that it is not predicated on either worth or response. God does not love us because we deserve it, or even because we love Him in return. God loves simply because He chooses to. In Deuteronomy 7, we have a clear definition of how God's love is uninfluenced and unconditional. It says,

The LORD did not set His love upon you, nor choose you because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you...  
(Deuteronomy 7:7,8a)



## Just Because He Is

II Timothy 1 indicates that God loves “according to His own purpose”.

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,  
(II Timothy 1:9)

In I John 4 we read,

We love him, because he first loved us. (I John 4:19)

So God’s love is the initiating factor in His relationship with man. He does not love us because we are lovable, Romans 5:8 clearly shows that

God commendeth [or demonstrated] his love toward us, in that, *while we were yet sinners*, Christ died for us.

Nor, as I said, does He love us because we first loved Him. (We didn’t and we couldn’t!) His love is simply the essence of His character, and regardless of who we are and regardless of how we have behaved, and regardless of how we respond to His offer of grace, *still He loves us*. And nothing you have ever done and nothing you will ever do can separate you from that love.

Romans 8 ought to settle that. It asks the question,

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?  
(Romans 8:35)

And the following verses answer, “absolutely nothing”.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(Romans 8:38,39)

Love is His inherent nature, and which has been revealed to us perfectly in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thank Him for His Perfect Love, not simply for how that love affects you.

It doesn’t matter how it affects you. Your thanksgiving ought not to be predicated on how God’s character affects you. You are to praise Him *just because He is!* He is the creator God, and therefore, by His nature, whatever He does and whatever He is, is best for that which He has created. So the question isn’t, “How does His love affect me?” He is the sovereign God, the creator

## Just Because He Is

God, the King of kings. *He is the great I AM. He is!* We need no other reason for praise than that! Fall down before Him, Beloved, and give Him the glory due His name. Give thanks just because He is!

But though that is all the reason we need to give thanks, the fact that His love is unconditional does have an infinite effect on our lives. Have you ever praised Him for the benefits of His unconditional love? Look at the benefits:

a- Unconditional love means no one is too bad to be saved. Do you see what that does? It levels the ground at the foot of the Cross.

b- Unconditional love means our assurance is not predicated on anything we do. We are kept by His love.

c- Unconditional love means never, at any time, can we do anything that can cause us to lose His love. We can break His heart, we can grieve His Spirit, but we cannot cause Him to stop loving us.

d- Unconditional love means that as His love is allowed to flow through us unhindered, there is no one we cannot love, and no situation great enough to stop us from loving our mates, our children, or our neighbors. That's why Christian marriages *must* be different! We possess that aspect of God's character that allows us to love unconditionally.

Unconditional love is a part of the nature of God. When was the last time you stopped to thank God just because He is, by nature of His being, perfect, unconditional love. Do that right now.

### 2- The love of God is eternal.

It had no beginning; it can have no end. It isn't simply that God's love has no limits to its object, it has no limits to its duration. God can never stop loving because by nature of His being, throughout the endless eternity to come, God is.

Jeremiah says it so beautifully.

I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee. (Jeremiah 31:3)

Ephesians echoes the same refrain where it says,

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame

## Just Because He Is

before him in love:

Having predestinated us...

(Ephesians 1:4,5a)

God is eternal; and God *is* love. Therefore, God's love is eternal because it is part of the essence of His nature. Thus, neither in time nor in eternity can that love cease to be or change its nature. Do you see what that means? It means we have something wonderful to spend our days being thankful for. God cannot stop loving us—ever. Nor can the selfless, grace-revealing nature of His love change—ever. It is everlasting.

Man's love changes with the wind. Man's love rides the waves of human emotions and is affected by the slightest shift in the tides of experience. Not so the love of God; God cannot change. God's love cannot change, nor can it end. When was the last time you stopped as the disappointments and heartache of broken relationships or unfulfilled promises left you shattered in defeat and feeling unloved and unlovely, and falling to your knees in worship, filled your heart and the earth with songs of praise just because He is eternal love?

### 3- God's love is holy.

Because the love of God is an expression of the nature of God, it is not regulated or dispensed at one's whim or fancy. It is not given by caprice, or passion, or sentiment, but by principle. It is consistent in its expression, constant in its reflection, without partiality in its demonstration. It is not the result of compromise, pity, or weakness. God's love never conflicts with His holiness.

Whom the LORD loveth, He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.

(Hebrews 12:6)

God's love and God's discipline are not in contradiction the one to the other. His love is holy. It never ceases to flow from His heart, but it never runs crosscurrent to His righteousness. Therefore we never need to violate the principles of His Word in order to demonstrate His love. Never. God's love is a holy love. When last did you stop to thank Him for that?

### 4- God's love demands a response of obedience.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my father's commandments and abide in His love.

(John 15:10)

Jesus abided in the essence of God's love because He always did that which pleased the Father. He then instructed the

## Just Because He Is

disciples to abide in His love the same way. Love is freely given without merit by the dispensing of grace God has designed in the heavenlies. But, Beloved, our ability to receive that love, to rest in that love, and to reflect that love, will always be proportionate to our obedience to that which we know to be His will. Therefore we have adequate motivation always to obey, “for the love of Christ constraineth us.”<sup>4</sup> And finally,

### 5- God’s love dispels fear.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear:  
because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made  
perfect in love. (I John 4:18)

In other words, fear and love are contradictory. If you are living in fear, you are not living in the security of God’s eternal love. You and I need not ever be afraid. What a relief! So when circumstances surround you this week that tend to generate a spirit of fearfulness in your heart, stop immediately and begin to praise God for the power that is in His love, the power to cast out all forms of fear. And knowing that this incredible love is but the natural outpouring of who He is, thank Him, pour out your heart in thanksgiving to Him, *just because He is*. When last did you stop and begin praising God for the fearlessness of His love?

The love of God is unconditional. It is eternal. It is holy. It demands obedience. It dispels fear. It is perfect. It is wonderful. It is God.

Oh, what love! how can I grasp it?  
Oh, what love, what can I say?  
God Himself, in every facet,  
Longs to give Himself away.  
Why He does it is no secret;  
It but flows from Heaven above.  
It is but His very nature,  
For you see, our God is love.

©Russell Kelfer

The love of God is but one tiny facet of infinity. It is but one reflection of the light of life that’s reflected from the gem of Deity. And yet, simply spending time each day meditating on that love, worshiping Him for that love, and being thankful just because He is by nature of His being always that love, the whole of our countenance can be transformed. The whole of our perspective

---

<sup>4</sup> II Corinthians 5:14

## Just Because He Is

can be changed. Our very lives can become instruments of praise, for, Beloved, if you are spending your days in praise over the incredible, matchless, incomparable, unchanging love of God our Savior, what can possibly happen to you that will cause that praise to cease? Will not the very things Satan sends your way to harass you only confirm His love? Will not they, though intended to bring fear, instead generate praise? And can Satan stand to see you living a life of praise? Of course not. He will flee in disgust. As with Joseph, you will constantly be able to say, “He meant it for evil; God meant it for good.”<sup>5</sup>

The greater the pain, the greater the praise. In pain, the eyes of the Spirit open wider to see the love of God. The deeper the valley, the higher the praise. In the valley there is more love to comfort you; in the valley there are fewer distractions to blur your vision of the God who is.

Satan has no weapon that can alter the nature of God. But he can create a memory loss, damaging the disk that stores the circumstances that caused you to praise Him, covering them over with later circumstances that the flesh can't handle.

The book of Job is a good example. Remember Satan's charge against Job? He said, in essence, “God, Job just loves you because you give him everything. Take it away, and he'll curse you to your face. God said, “Take it.” Satan took it.

What happened? Job began questioning God for changing his circumstances, for misjudging his motives, for not being sensitive to his good works, and finally for sending him wrong counsel. Job missed the whole point of it all. He had been praising God for what God had been doing. Finally, in those last three memorable chapters, God took Job aside and said, “Oh, Job, you've missed it. Don't worship me for what I give you. What I give you will change with time. Worship me for *who I am!*”

So God began to articulate just who the great I AM really is. The heart of Job softened like putty in the hands of a potter, and Job repented in dust and ashes. He fell down and began to praise God, *just because He is.*

There Job sat on the trash heap of life—  
his body infested with sores,  
his children gone,  
his fortune gone,

<sup>5</sup> Genesis 50:20

## Just Because He Is

his friends gone,  
his own wife taunting him.

Suddenly, his eyes were opened, and it was thanksgiving! You say, “That doesn’t make sense.” Yes it does! Job finally saw who God is, and that’s all anyone needs to be transformed into a flowing fountain of praise!

Study the love of God! Then begin to praise Him, not simply for what that love has done for you. But because remembering those clouds that hover over the horizon of your life might cause you to forget what He’s done for you, learn to praise Him just because He is! That will never change. Love Him; praise Him; worship Him; thank Him—just because He is!

### JUST BECAUSE HE IS

I wish I could say we have really touched on who God is in this lesson. We have only mentioned one aspect of His character, His love! And we have only looked at one ten-trillionth of the magnitude of that one part of who He is.

Yet, oh, what a life of praise awaits us as we begin to embark on the sheer adventure of living each day beginning with praise, ending with praise, infused with praise, from start to finish, *just because He is*.

Why not turn every Monday into thanksgiving just because God is perfect love. And why not turn Tuesdays into “praise day” just because He is perfect faithfulness. And how about this for a memory verse: Deuteronomy 7:9. It proves that just as God cannot cease loving, in the same way, He will always be faithful. At no time can He ever be less than perfectly true to His word, perfectly consistent in His expression of Himself.

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful  
God... (Deuteronomy 7:9)

Timothy adds,

If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny  
himself. (II Timothy 2:13)

Just as God’s eternal love means that He cannot ever, by nature of His being, cease giving Himself away, so His eternal faithfulness means that never at any time will God ever not do what He has promised. Never at any time will His plan be altered nor His principles changed. He promised Messiah would come; He was faithful. He has promised Messiah will come again...He is

## Just Because He Is

faithful. He promised to always meet our needs; He always has. He promises never to leave us or forsake us and He never will.

The winds of trial may beat against the walls of your life; the doors may creak; the walls may tremble, and you may be tempted to doubt. It will help some to remember His faithfulness in the past, but circumstances just may cloud your view or erase your memories of the past. Nothing, however, can mar your vision if you have learned to praise Him just because He is!

Memorize Numbers 23:19. Make it your anthem of praise each Tuesday.

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man,  
that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it?  
or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

(Numbers 23:19)

If you look at God's faithfulness through eyes of your circumstances you will, like Job, be prone to error; look at your circumstances through the eyes of God's faithfulness and all you will be able to do is praise. So why not make Tuesday your thanksgiving day...just because He is perfect faithfulness.

Cannot Wednesday be thanksgiving, too? Just because He is! Perhaps, just because He is perfect *mercy*. Psalm 136:1 would be a perfect verse to begin the day with

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy  
endureth for ever.

(Psalm 136:1)

Instead of just the usual blessing at mealtimes, why not build your thanksgiving for that day for the whole family around that quality of God you are praising Him for that day, in this case, His mercy. Have a mercy songfest every Wednesday. Psalm 59:16 is your basis for that.

I will sing aloud of thy mercy.

(Psalm 59:16)

What a way to spend a Wednesday!

And why not make Thursday praise day...just because He is perfect grace! That grace is *eternal* according to II Timothy 1:9. That grace is *sovereign* according to Exodus 33:19 and Romans 5:21. That grace is *undeserved* according to Romans 3:24. Each facet of His grace could occupy your heart for a year of Thursdays. Not if we lived to be a thousand years old, could we have enough Thursdays to adequately praise God just for that one attribute of His nature, which, when infused into our hearts by His Spirit, enables Him

## Just Because He Is

to be Himself in us. The angels in Heaven marvel at His grace, and yet they have not even experienced it as we have. So they are not worshiping Him for what they have experienced; they are worshiping Him just because He is. And so will we, throughout the endless ages of eternity, behold His glorious face and simply praise Him for His grace. An eternal thanksgiving...just because He is.

And cannot the sunrise of every Friday mark the dawning of another day in which you and I spend our every waking moment in praise and adoration just because He is perfect *holiness*?

Will we not celebrate that essence of His being throughout eternity as well, singing with the angelic host words of praise from Isaiah 6:3? Listen to their thanksgiving hymn,

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts: (Isaiah 6:3b)

And are we not commanded in Psalm 30:4 to

Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks  
[at what?] at the remembrance of his holiness. (Psalm 30:4)

Was it not His holiness that made redemption essential? Is it not His holiness that makes living in victory possible? Just spend one day a week doing nothing but contemplating His holiness. Do you know what will happen to you? You will fall down in wonder and adoration before Him—just because He is.

And on and on it goes. Make Saturday thanksgiving day, too. Just because He is perfect *knowledge*. He is *omniscient*. He knows the future as though it were today. He knows the thoughts of our hearts as clearly as if they were painted in neon on the portals of Heaven.

And of course, make Sunday thanksgiving day, too. You might spend Sunday morning praising Him just because He is *omnipotent*. You might spend Sunday evening praising Him just because He is *omnipresent*. Or you might want to take a week and just praise Him all week long just because He is *immutable*, or *supreme*, or *sovereign*. You will never run out of reasons to praise Him—never.

Thanksgiving will never end. Because of what He's done? Partly. But you may tend to forget what He's done. But I ask you, "How, oh how, could the glory of His majesty, the grandeur of His holiness, the awesomeness of His mercy, ever escape you,



## Just Because He Is

once you have entered into the Holy place where your character is being transformed by beholding His character? How could it escape you once you have actually begun to praise Him...just because He is? The answer is...it can't and it won't.

Please don't let the reality of this principle fade into the filing cabinet of your heart marked "things to do some day". Rather determine to never ever be the same again, simply because never again will you stop being thankful...just because He is.

### JUST BECAUSE HE IS!

Just because He is!  
That's all there needs to be  
To motivate our hearts to praise  
And set our spirits free.

Just because He is!  
What blessed, sweet release;  
No circumstance can come our way  
And cause that praise to cease.

Just because He is!  
A song for all life's days,  
For every sunrise brings anew  
Another cause to praise!

And every day's thanksgiving,  
Where e're in life we've trod;  
In everything give thanks and sing,  
*Just because...He's God!*

©Russell Kelfer

*God is not someone who was or will be, but the One who is,  
and who is for me in the present moment.*

—Henri Nouen

Just Because He Is

A Challenge to Further Study and Application

Additional verses to use in your daily study of the character of God.

**THE LOVE OF GOD**

Deuteronomy 23:5	Deuteronomy 33:3	Psalm 42:8
Psalm 63:3	Isaiah 43:1-7	Isaiah 62:4
Psalm 89:3	Jeremiah 31:3	Zechariah 2:8
I Corinthians 2:9	Ephesians 1:3-6	John 17:10

**THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD**

Genesis 9:16	Genesis 28:15	Psalm 92:1,2
Deuteronomy 7:8	Joshua 23:14	I Kings 8:56
Psalm 119:89,90	Isaiah 54:9,10	
Jeremiah 33:20,21	I Corinthians 10:13	
II Corinthians 1:20	I Thessalonians 5:24	

**THE MERCY OF GOD**

Exodus 34:6	Numbers 14:18	I Kings 8:23
Deuteronomy 4:31	I Chronicles 16:34	Psalm 25:6
II Chronicles 30:9	Psalm 85:2-10	Psalm 100:5
Psalm 116:5	Ephesians 2:4-7	Titus 3:5

**THE GRACE OF GOD**

Exodus 33:11,17	Psalm 84:11	Acts 4:33
II Corinthians 4:15	Hebrews 4:16	I Peter 5:10
James 1:17	John 1:14	John 1:17
I Corinthians 1:4,5	Ephesians 2:7-9	
II Corinthians 9:8		

**THE HOLINESS OF GOD**

Exodus 3:5	Exodus 15:11	Leviticus 19:2
I Samuel 2:2	I Chronicles 16:10	Psalm 30:4
Psalm 47:8	Psalm 48:1	Proverbs 9:10
Luke 1:49	I Peter 1:15,16	Revelation 4:8

*(Continued next page.)*

**THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD**

I Samuel 16:7	I Kings 8:39	Job 23:10
I Chronicles 28:9	Job 28:10, 24	Job 42:2
Psalms 11:4	Psalms 33:13-15	Psalms 69:19
Psalms 103:14	Psalms 139:1-6	Proverbs 24:12

**THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD**

Genesis 18:14	Job 42:2	Isaiah 26:4
Matthew 19:26	Acts 25:8	Revelation 19:6
II Chronicles 20:6	Psalms 21:13	Psalms 29:3-5
Psalms 46:6	Psalms 62:11	Isaiah 40:22-28

**THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD**

Genesis 28:16	I Kings 8:27	Psalms 139:3-10
Jeremiah 23:23,24	Acts 17:24-28	Isaiah 66:1
Jonah 1:3,4	Genesis 28:15	Psalms 32:6,8
Exodus 13:21,22	Deuteronomy 33:12,25	
II Chronicles 20:15-17		

**THE IMMUTABILITY OF GOD**

Numbers 23:19	Psalms 33:11	Proverbs 19:21
Psalms 119:89,90	Ecclesiastes 3:14	Isaiah 31:2
Malachi 3:6	Romans 11:29	James 1:17
Hebrews 6:17,18	Psalms 102:12	
Psalms 102:24-27		

**THE SUPREMACY OF GOD**

Exodus 8:10	Exodus 15:11	II Samuel 7:22
Deuteronomy 4:35	Isaiah 40:25	Isaiah 42:8
Isaiah 43:10	Isaiah 44:6,8	Isaiah 45:5,6
Isaiah 46:5,9	I Corinthians 8:4-6	Ephesians 4:6

**THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

Deuteronomy 2:19	Job 9:12	Job 41:11
I Chronicles 29:11,12	Psalms 24:1	Psalms 66:7
Psalms 95:3-5	Jeremiah 18:6	Ezekiel 18:4
John 10:29	Deuteronomy 10:14,17	
Deuteronomy 32:8	Deuteronomy 32:39-43	

dtm DISCIPLESHIP TAPE MINISTRIES, INC.

10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230

210-226-0000 or 1-800-375-7778

[www.dtm.org](http://www.dtm.org) • [dtm@dtm.org](mailto:dtm@dtm.org) • © Russell Kelfer

(09.30.18)