

JANUARY 10, 2021

WORSHIP

God My Rock,
Solid Ground,
In Christ Alone

WELCOME

What words would
you use to describe
a rock?

How important are
rocks in everyday
life?

WORD

PSALM 9:10

¹⁰ And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, Lord, have not abandoned those who seek You.

DEUTERONOMY 32:3-4

³ For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God! ⁴ The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and just is He

ANEW is a short series that extends from last year's series on knowing God by His names. The unique purpose of this series is not only to know God more but how to respond to Him in prayer.

Oftentimes, we make the mistake of trusting primarily in our abilities. We ignore warnings from God's Word. Then, we drift away from God. Then when we encounter problems, we begin to feel overwhelmed, overpowered, lose our footing, and feel helpless. We need a rock to which we can cling! That rock will replace our sense of panic, helplessness, and hopelessness with a sense of peace, stability, and security. **PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD THE ROCK.**

"**The Rock**" is a vivid description or name of God in the Bible. It is so descriptive that it was something familiar and understandable to people in Old Testament times; it is also meaningful for us today. **Psalm 9:10** tells us the importance of studying and knowing the names of God. When we know God, it will elicit the proper response—putting our trust in God the Rock. We find the term all over the Bible but let us look into **Deuteronomy 31:30** wherein Moses was at the tail end of his life. God told Moses that after his death the Israelites are going to drift away from God. He was told to write a song of warning to the Israelites. Moses then calls heaven and earth as witnesses praying that it be a time of reminding God's people of what He has done for them and how much they need Him (**Deuteronomy 32:1-2**).

DEUTERONOMY 32:3-4 mentions explicitly God as the Rock and we discover these three things that are true about Him:

HIS WORTH

Moses **proclaims** the name of the LORD—the personal name of the God, the supreme moral being, the relational and promise-keeping God.; **ascribing** (give what is due) greatness to God **the Rock** [tzur (tsoor), Hebrew]. Why is the rock a familiar picture to the people of the Bible even after Moses' time?

Places of REFUGE. Mountains of rock were excellent places to build fortresses or refuge. Furthermore, you can expect a mountain to remain where it is for years, decades, and even centuries. Matthew Henry translates that for us today: "*God is the Rock, for He is in Himself unchangeable, immovable, and He is to all that seek Him and run to Him an impenetrable shelter, and to all who trust in Him an everlasting foundation.*"

Places of BEAUTY. They can also exhibit some of the most beautiful patterns. We see beautiful patterns of who God is.

HIS WORK

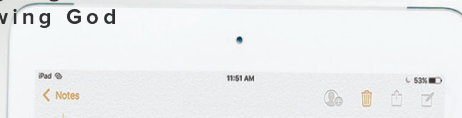
God's **work** (activity or conduct) is **perfect** (complete, blameless, without blemish). Meaning, in all God does, His purpose and outcome are perfect.

Philippians 1:6 assures us that when a person truly believes in Jesus as his Lord and Savior, God starts to do a good work in that person's life and that God will complete that work. He oftentimes allows trials to complete that work in us (**James 1:2-4**) with the end goal to make us more like Jesus (**Romans 8:29**).

HIS WAYS

Moses goes on to say that all **His ways** are **just (without injustice, righteous, just)**. Ways is similar to work but it also means direction or journey. In whatever direction God takes us on life's journey, His ways are just. He is never unjust because nothing escapes his judgment. He is a perfect judge and He has our best interest in mind.

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WORD

Hebrews 6:10 reminds us that God does not forget our work. He is a rewarder. In His own time and way, we will experience God's blessing and reward. **Galatians 6:7** reveals that God is a God of perfect justice; He cannot be mocked. No one can get away with God. The best illustration of God's justice is found in **2 Corinthians 5:21**. God hates sin and sin has a penalty that must be paid. God's justice requires satisfaction. We are unable to satisfy that through our own effort so God provided the only acceptable substitute—His own Son, Jesus. God's ways are just. His justice was completely satisfied through the sacrifice of Jesus. We also find that all His ways are faithful. **Faithfulness** means steadfastness or fidelity. Joshua made a testimony of God's faithfulness before he died (**Joshua 23:14**). God keeps His promises

How do we express our trust in God the Rock? It all begins with prayer!

HIS WORTH:

ADORATION (prayers of worship)
Psalm 62:1-2, 6-8

HIS WORK:

THANKSGIVING (prayers of acknowledging blessing)
Psalm 95:1-3; Psalm 18:1-2,46

HIS WAYS:

SUPPLICATION (prayers of petition)
Psalm 28:1-2; Psalm 31:1-3

HIS WARNINGS:

CONFESSION (prayers of repentance over sin)
Psalm 51:1,4

HIS WARNINGS

We should also listen to God the Rock in terms of His warnings. These are clearly stated in **Deuteronomy 32:15,18**. This is our natural tendency. If we are not careful, we will rely on our own abilities, be confident only in ourselves, ignore God's warnings, and drift away from him. This is where a time of confession comes in.

Who is this rock of our foundation and salvation? Jesus spoke of himself as the **chief cornerstone** who was rejected (**Matthew 21:42**). A cornerstone is foundational to the integrity of the entire building. We need Jesus as the cornerstone of our lives. We need to trust him as our foundation. Without him, our lives will eventually fall apart.

Jesus was a choice stone; He was the choice of the Father. God chose to send His son to die for us. The precious blood of Jesus paid for our sins. Our decision to put our trust in Jesus as the Rock of our Salvation is the most important decision we could ever make, and one that we will never regret (**1 Peter 2:6**)!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Which aspect of God being The Rock is most important to you and why?

2. Setting It Right

In what specific way will this impact your prayer life?

3. Living It Out

How have you personally experienced God as The Rock in your life?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that people will cling to Jesus as their Rock of Salvation. Take time to pray or intercede for someone this coming week of Prayer and Fasting. Proclaim to the world that Jesus is the Rock of our Salvation

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends