

# AFTER CHURCH DEVO

BY REBUILD

## Topic: Discovering God as He Truly Is

### Opening Prayer:

Psalm 145:3

Heavenly Father, Your greatness is unsearchable, and Your works declare Your glory. Open our hearts today to see You more clearly, as we meditate on who You are and draw near to Your presence. Teach us through Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Read: Psalm 145

When was the last time you paused and asked yourself, "Who is God, really?" Many of us have grown up with ideas about God—what He does, what He wants, and how He interacts with us. But Psalm 145 invites us to set aside assumptions and let the Word of God reveal who He truly is.

This psalm, written by David, is a magnificent declaration of God's character. It is an acrostic poem, meaning each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This structure reflects David's effort to give a complete and all-encompassing view of who God is—a fitting framework for describing a God whose greatness is limitless.

Let's focus on 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."

In these verses, David uses words that speak of God's kindness and patience toward us. The Hebrew word for "merciful" in verse 8, *rachum*, carries the image of tender compassion, like that of a parent toward their child. This means God doesn't just tolerate us; He feels deeply for us.

When we consider the world around us, it's easy to reduce God to what we see—powerful, but distant; just, but maybe harsh. Yet David reminds us that God is both mighty and merciful. He rules over all creation (v.13), but He is also near to the brokenhearted (v.18). He upholds those who fall (v.14), satisfies the desires of all living things (v.16), and hears the cries of those who call on Him in truth (v.19).

In practical terms, this means we don't have to guess at who God is or approach Him with fear that He'll reject us. His character doesn't change depending on the day or our performance. He is always gracious, always loving, and always good.

When you feel distant from God or uncertain of how He sees you, Psalm 145 reminds you that He is faithful, kind, and intimately involved in the details of your life. Reflect on His vastness—His glory and splendor—but also let the truth of His compassion and mercy shape your view of Him. The more we know God as He truly is, the more we'll learn to trust Him, love Him, and rest in His presence.

### **Conclusion:**

Psalm 145 calls us to declare God's greatness and to recognize the fullness of His character. As we meditate on His mercy, goodness, and faithfulness, we begin to understand that He is not only the God of the heavens but also the God who draws near to us.

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### **For Students:**

1. How does knowing God is compassionate change how you view Him when you make mistakes?
2. What does Psalm 145 teach you about praising God?
3. How can you share God's goodness with your friends this week?

#### **For Parents:**

1. How can reflecting on God's mercy influence the way you parent your children?
2. What does it mean for your family to "call on God in truth" (v.18)?
3. How can you create a home that reflects God's steadfast love?

## **For Professionals:**

1. How does the knowledge of God's goodness shape the way you approach work challenges?
2. What practical ways can you show mercy and grace to others in your workplace?
3. How can you use your platform to declare God's greatness?

**Spend 15 minutes each day this week meditating on one verse from Psalm 145. Let it shape your prayers and actions. Write down one way you can reflect God's goodness and mercy to someone in your life.**