

7th January 2024

4 Things to Know in 2024



A new year brings with it new opportunities. I am recommending to members and visitors of the Household of Faith four things to know, which I will share in greater detail in my upcoming sermons in 2024.

1. Know God. Many people including Christians do not have a clear picture of the God they worship. It is not possible to have a strong faith when our understanding of God is not grounded.

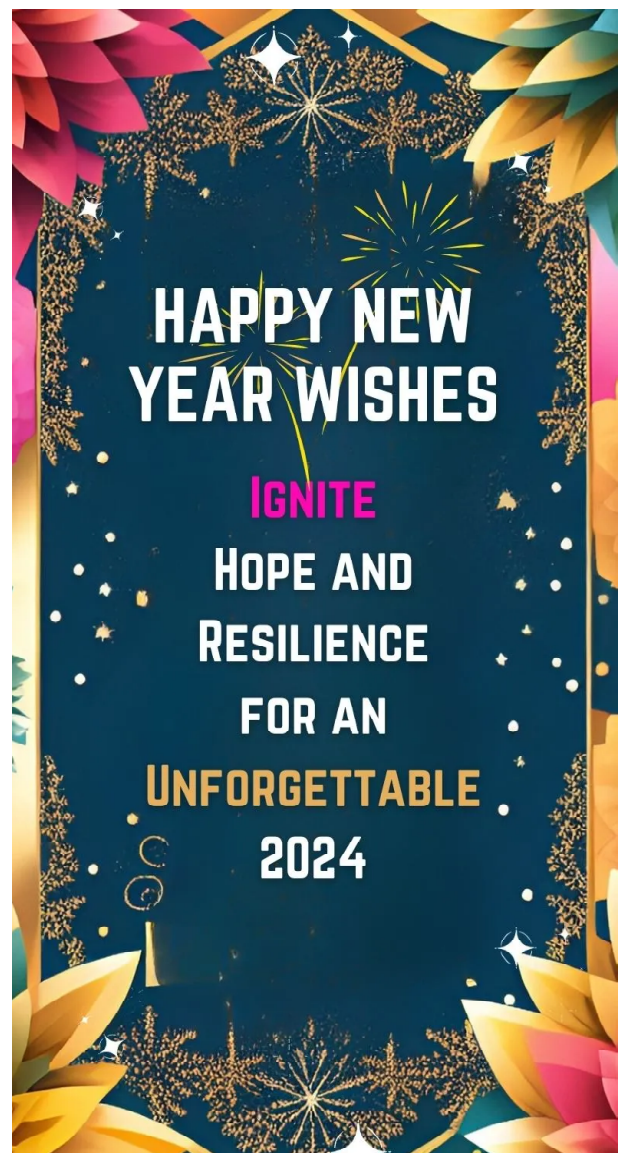
2. Know Yourself. God created mankind in His image. We reflect His glory but we do not possess His omnipotent characteristics. In our own way, it is easy to become puffed up like Lucifer, and think that we are as good or even better than the Creator Himself.

3. Know the relationship between God and man. Too many people have lived and died without this understanding. Life has no meaning no matter how much we achieved, if we do not have a relationship with God.

I hope to cover these 3 things in my sermons in January this year.

4. Grow in prayer. The most important skill that we can learn is how to pray. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 8:26 *that we don't know how to pray as we ought. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which can't be uttered.*

I will devote the month of February to explore the many splendour facets of prayer so that we all may grow in it.







First Sunday of 2024

So much has happened in 2023

Cannot wind back the hands of the clock

Given a second chance in 2024, what would you like to do?

Especially in your Christian life

Let's go back to the basics!






Knowing God

Too often we each have our own idea or image of who God really is

If our concept of God is too small, God cannot help us with our real problems and needs

Sometimes we create a god in our own image to do our every bidding

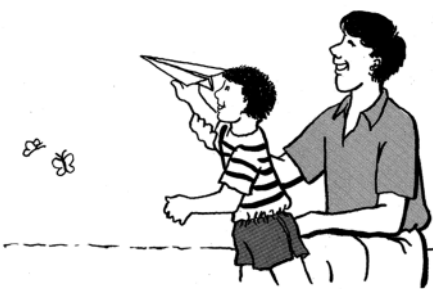
Example: A woodcutter who fashions the timber into a god and then bows down to worship what he has created! (Isaiah 44:13-18)




Introduction
1. God is a Spirit

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- John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
- Not limited by time and space like we are






Introduction
1. God is a Spirit


2. God is Holy

1 Peter 1:16 *Be ye holy; for I am holy*

We are contaminated like a hot cup of water with a teabag immersed in it (*Isaiah 1:18 though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*)

God is not like us: mankind is carnal-minded but God is holy. e.g. forgiveness and grace






Introduction
1. God is a Spirit
2. God is holy

3. God is Superior

Isaiah 55:9 *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

There is no comparison, not even if we compare an ant to an elephant; God is so much more

Bottom line: the person who knows himself cannot be proud; the person that knows God must be humble



grow
your faith in
the new year

Introduction
1. God is a Spirit
2. God is holy
3. God is superior

4. God is Love

- 1 John 4:16 *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love.*
- This is the sweetest statement in all the Bible. What if God is like some gods – angry, must be appeased all the time?
- Example: volcano god, eastern deities that devotees need to climb thousands of steps on their knees to reach. Our God is a God that comes to us and dwells in us!



South China Morning Post, 6 June 2023

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Introduction
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5. God is Gracious

- Jonah 4:2 *For I knew that you are a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness, and you repent of the evil.*
- Max Lucado (Christian author) "Grace means God cannot love you any more or any less than He loves you now"
- Ponder on these characteristics of God: **merciful**, **slow to anger**, **abundant in loving kindness** and **willing to repent of evil**.



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Introduction
1. God is a Spirit
2. God is holy
3. God is superior
4. God is Love
5. God is gracious

6. God is interested in Us

- Psalms 115:12 *The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us*
- Pause awhile and let this wondrous thought sink in
- Example: human being and pig



Introduction

1. God is a Spirit
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4. God is Love
5. God is gracious
6. God is interested in us

7. God wants us to walk with Him

- Micah 6:8 *What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*
- This walk is a lifestyle relationship, not an occasional activity
- This relationship differentiates Christianity from all other religions; when this is absent, a person is no longer in the faith

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Conclusion

1. What kind of God do you worship? Describe your God in a few words.
2. Is your God too small? Is He real or is He someone that you make up through wishful thinking?
3. Which of the 7 characteristics of God are missing from your God?

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Application

Take time each day this week to focus on one characteristic of God. Search other passages from the Bible and deeply impress it in your heart.

Compare the God of the Bible with the deities of our multi-religious country. Take time to share our God with those who are religious, yet uncertain of who the real God who created them truly is (hint: our parents).

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Thanksgiving Service
31st December 2023

