

When we think about God we must start with His greatness. He is the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is holy. This is God's own description of Himself (Isaiah 57). God is of infinite greatness and power and eternity. We owe our existence to Him for He created us and upholds us and is the creator of everything. All that we see around us. God is not only great, all powerful and eternal, He is also holy. There is no impurity with Him. His wrath burns up all that which is wrong, untruthful, impure in any way. As the Bible puts it "our God is a consuming fire" and therefore we should rightly fear Him if we do not walk perfectly upright, and who does this?

D. B. KNOX

So reverence, awe and fear should be our first reaction as we think of God. But the wonder of it is that God is not only the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is holy, but He also dwells with the humble and contrite. This is part of the same verse in Isaiah. We may say then that God is a humble God and so humility is in the very centre of reality. Though great and holy inhabiting eternity, God dwells with us as "THE CHRISTIAN FAITH" if we are humble and contrite in His presence as we should be if this is our true relationship. For God is truth and if we are to be His friend we must acknowledge our true position in His presence but there is still something further that the verses say: God dwells with the humble and contrite to revive and make alive their spirit. He does this of course through the forgiveness

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that He has provided in the death of His son Jesus Christ on Calvary and if we open our lives to God and ask Him to accept us He will dwell with us and revive us and this of course will last for eternity. So this verse from Isaiah draws attention to these three aspects, God is great and holy, God relates Himself to us (He tells us of Himself and He dwells with us, as it were) and God saves us. The whole verse reads "Thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is holy; I dwell in the high and holy place with Him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." We should honour God with reverence and awe for He is the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity. We should fear to sin against Him because He is a holy God. We should thank Him for His kindness in being our father and friend, and imitate His humility in our own relationship with other people; and we should ask for His forgiveness and His spirit's presence to revive us, to give us that new life which lasts forever.

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