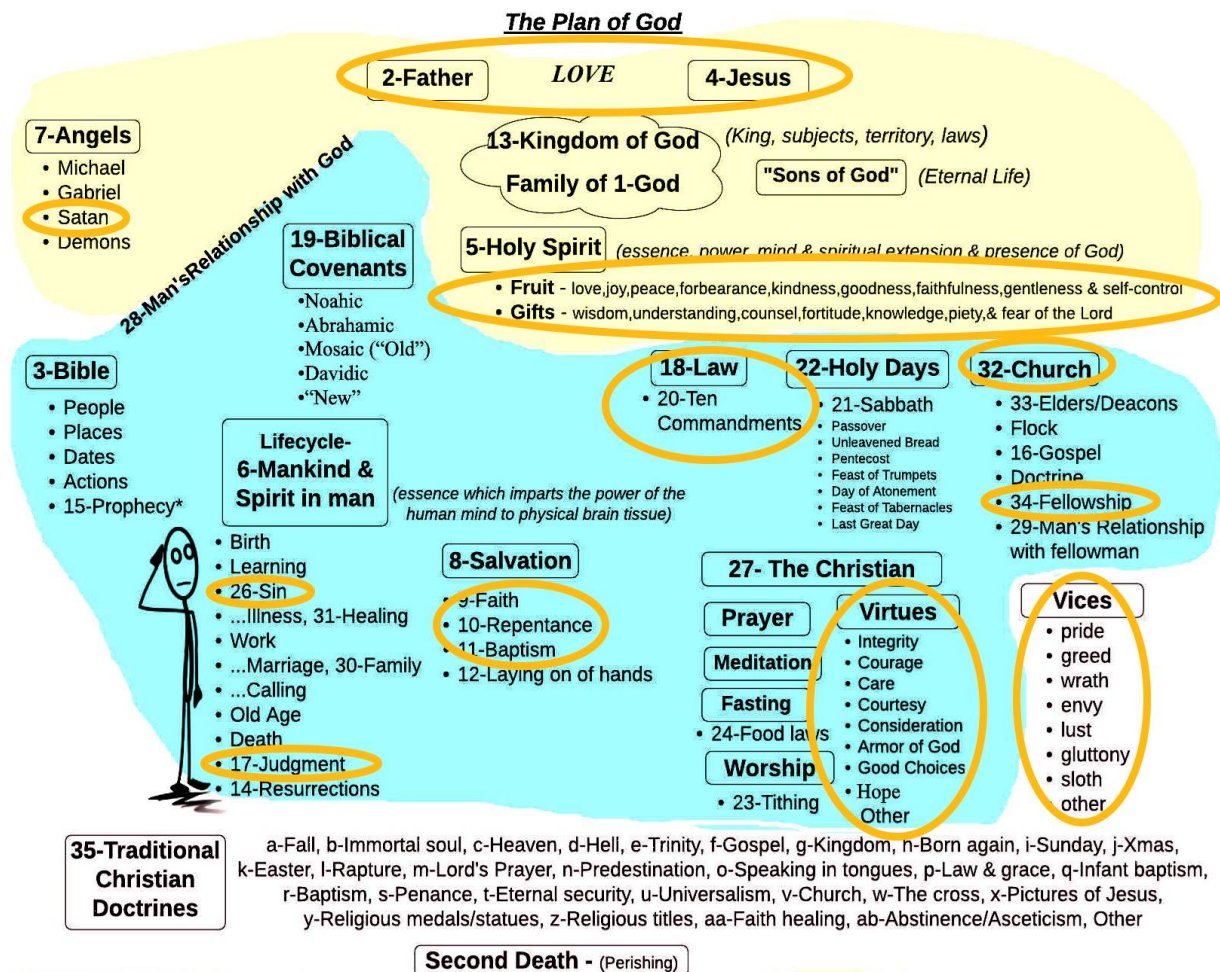


God's Favourite Things



The term "favourite" refers to something that is preferred or liked more than others. It can describe a person, thing, activity, or choice that is held in higher regard or has greater appeal compared to alternatives.

- Someone's favourite things tell us a LOT about them - reflecting God's values and what He delights in
- We don't need to *share* these preferences to appreciate their importance to someone
- Examining favourites ... lets us explore themes of love, nostalgia (history), personal joy, and focus on what is cherished
- Sharing favourites with others can foster connections based upon common interests
- Having favourites can aid decision-making by simplifying choices to what you enjoy most



Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present - (World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)

My Favourite Things

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of my favourite things

Cream-colored ponies and crisp apple strudels
Doorbells and sleigh bells and schnitzel with noodles
Wild geese that fly with the moon on their wings
These are a few of my favourite things

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes
Snowflakes that stay on my nose & eyelashes
Silver white winters that melt into springs
These are a few of my favourite things

When the dog bites, when the bee stings
When I'm feeling sad
I simply remember my favourite things
And then I don't feel so bad



Pussywillows Cat-Tails by Gordon Lightfoot

Pussywillows, cat-tails, soft winds and roses
Rain pools in the woodland, water to my knees
Shivering, quivering, the warm breath of spring
Pussywillows, cat-tails, soft winds and roses
Catbirds and cornfields, daydreams together ...



Exploring some of God's "favourite things" (What does it show us about God!?)

1. **God Delights in Justice and Righteousness:**

- "For I, the Lord, **love justice**; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, and will make with them an everlasting covenant." - Isaiah 61:8
- "But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising **lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness** in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord." - Jeremiah 9:24

2. **God Loves a Cheerful Giver:**

- "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a **cheerful giver**." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

Why?

- *It reflects a genuine and willing heart*
- *It fosters a spirit of kindness and generosity*
- *It aligns with the values of compassion and selflessness*

3. God Values Humility & Contrition:

- "But on this one will I look: On him who is **poor and of a contrite spirit**, and who **trembles at My word.**" - Isaiah 66:2
- "For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a **contrite & humble spirit**, to **revive** the spirit of the humble, and to **revive** the heart of the contrite ones.'" - Isaiah 57:15

4. God Delights in Steadfast Love & Knowledge of Him:

- "For I desire **mercy** and not sacrifice, and the **knowledge of God** more than burnt offerings." - Hosea 6:6



5. God Rejoices Over His People (with singing!):

- "The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will **rejoice** over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with **singing.**" - Zephaniah 3:17

6. God Values Obedience Over Sacrifice:

- "So Samuel said: 'Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.'" - 1 Samuel 15:22

7. God Delights in Faithfulness and Integrity:

- "For the Lord is righteous, He **loves righteousness**; His countenance beholds the upright." - Psalm 11:7

What is Righteousness?

- living a life of moral integrity & ethical behaviour, (ie **God's** standards)
- It involves both being justified before God through faith & being sanctified, growing in holiness & living a life that reflects **God's** character.
- It also signifies a right relationship with God, characterized by faithfulness, obedience, & alignment with His will.
- In practical terms, it means acting justly, loving mercy, & walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

- "He who walks with **integrity** walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known." - Proverbs 10:9

8. God Delights in Mercy:

- Psalm 103:8 The Lord is **merciful** & gracious, Slow to anger, & abounding in **mercy** ie ...Compassion ... the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering & feel motivated to relieve that suffering



9. God Values Love and Unity Among His People:

- "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in **unity!**" - Psalm 133:1
- "A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**; as I have loved you, that you also love one another." - John 13:34

10. God Delights in Truth and Wisdom:

- "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who **deal truthfully** are His delight." - Proverbs 12:22
- "For the Lord gives **wisdom**; From His mouth come **knowledge** and **understanding**;" - Proverbs 2:6

11. God Delights in Those Who Fear Him:

- "The Lord takes pleasure in those who **fear Him**, in those who **hope** in His mercy." - Psalm 147:11
- "The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of wisdom, and the **knowledge of the Holy One** is understanding." - Proverbs 9:10

12. God Loves the Brokenhearted and Humble:

- "The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit**, a **broken** and a **contrite heart**— These, O God, You will not despise." - Psalm 51:17
=A mind broken or crushed under the weight of conscious guilt. The idea is that of a burden laid on the soul until it is crushed and subdued.
- "The Lord is near to those who have a **broken heart**, and saves such as have a **contrite** spirit." - Psalm 34:18

13. God Delights in the Prosperity of His Servants:

- "Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favour my righteous cause; and let them say continually, 'Let the Lord be magnified, who has **pleasure in the prosperity** of His servant.'" - Psalm 35:27

14. God Values Justice and Fairness:

- "The Lord tests the **righteous**, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates." - Psalm 11:5
- "But let **justice** run down like water, and **righteousness** like a mighty stream." - Amos 5:24

Exploring some of Satan's "favourite things" (What does it show us about Satan or God!?!)

Satan's "favourite things" reflect his destructive & deceptive nature ... the behaviours & actions he favours "oppose" God's will and lead people astray including:

1. Deception and Lies

- **John 8:44:** "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is **no truth** in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."

Satan is the originator of lies & deception, using them to lead people away from the truth

2. Temptation

- **Matthew 4:1-3:** "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when **the tempter** came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.'"

Satan is known as the tempter, seeking to entice people into sin.

3. Accusation

- **Revelation 12:10:** "Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the **accuser** of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.'"

Satan is called the accuser, continually bringing charges against believers.

4. Pride

- **Isaiah 14:12-14:** "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High.**'"

Pride is a core aspect of Satan's rebellion against God, seeking to elevate himself above the Almighty.



5. Stealing, Killing, and Destroying

- **John 10:10:** "The thief does not come except to **steal, and to kill, and to destroy**. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

Satan is likened to a thief whose purpose is to bring harm, destruction, & death.

6. Spiritual Blindness

- **2 Corinthians 4:4:** "Whose minds the god of this age has **blinded**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

Satan seeks to keep people in spiritual darkness, preventing them from seeing the truth of the gospel.

7. Sin and Rebellion

- **1 John 3:8:** "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil
Satan delights in sin and rebellion, encouraging actions that oppose God's commandments.

8. Division and Strife

- **James 3:14-16:** "But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."
Satan fosters division, envy, & strife among people, leading to confusion & conflict.



9. False Teaching and Idolatry

- **1 Timothy 4:1:** "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."
Satan promotes false teachings and idolatry, leading people away from the true worship of God.

10. Persecution of Believers

- **1 Peter 5:8:** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."
Satan actively seeks to harm and persecute those who follow Christ.

Favourite things for men:

1. **Technology:** Gadgets, smartphones, computers, gaming consoles.
2. **Sports:** Watching or playing sports, sports gear, memorabilia.
3. **Fashion:** Casual wear, suits, accessories, watches.
4. **Fitness:** Gym equipment, sports activities, workout gear.
5. **Food and Drinks:** BBQ, craft beer, coffee, gourmet snacks.
6. **Hobbies:** Fishing, hiking, woodworking, or car repair.
7. **Books:** Thrillers, biographies, historical fiction, or non-fiction.
8. **Music:** Favourite bands, playlists, concerts, or musical instruments.
9. **Movies and TV Shows:** Action films, dramas, or favourite series.
10. **Travel:** Road trips, outdoor adventures, or exploring new destinations.
11. **Technology and Gadgets:** Smart home devices, drones, or the latest tech gear.
12. **Home Improvement:** DIY projects, tools, or home upgrades.
13. **Collecting:** Sports memorabilia, vintage items, or hobby-related collections.
14. **Social Activities:** BBQs, game nights, or hanging out with friends.
15. **Relaxation:** Comfort items like a good chair, books, or a cozy blanket.

Jesus' favourite things (as seen in His priorities & values - His words & deeds)

1. Love

- **John 13:34-35:** "A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **By this** all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Jesus emphasized love as the defining characteristic of His followers.

- **Matthew 22:37-39:** "Jesus said to him, 'You shall **love** the Lord your **God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.'"

Jesus highlighted love for God and others as the greatest commandments.



2. Faith

- **Mark 5:34:** "And He said to her, 'Daughter, **your faith** has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.'"

Jesus often commended those who demonstrated strong faith.

3. Humility

- **Matthew 18:4:** "Therefore whoever **humbles himself** as this little child is the **greatest** in the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus valued childlike humility & dependence on God.

4. Righteousness and Justice

- **Matthew 5:6:** "Blessed are those who **hunger & thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be filled."

Jesus valued a deep desire for righteousness.

- **Matthew 23:23:** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: **justice & mercy & faith**. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."

Jesus emphasized the importance of justice, mercy, and faith.

5. Mercy and Forgiveness

- **Matthew 9:13:** "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire **mercy** and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Jesus valued mercy over ritual sacrifices, highlighting compassion & forgiveness.

6. Truth

- **John 8:31-32:** "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the **truth**, and the truth shall make you free.'"

Jesus emphasized the liberating power of truth found in His teachings.

7. Compassion for the Needy

- **Matthew 25:35-36:** "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me."

Jesus valued acts of compassion and care for those in need.

- **Matthew 9:36:** "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."

Jesus was often moved by compassion, leading Him to heal, teach, & provide

8. Obedience to God's Will

- **John 4:34:** "Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.'"

Jesus' life was centered on doing the Father's will.

9. Servanthood

- **Mark 10:45:** "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Jesus valued a life of service, as seen in His own ministry.



10. Peace

- **John 14:27:** "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Jesus valued peace and offered it to His followers as a lasting gift.

Favourite things for women:

1. **Fashion:** Clothes, shoes, handbags, accessories.
2. **Beauty Products:** Skincare, makeup, perfumes, hair care.
3. **Jewellery:** Rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings.
4. **Books:** Fiction, self-help, romance, mystery, or personal development.
5. **Fitness:** Yoga, Pilates, gym workouts, running gear.
6. **Travel:** Exploring new destinations, weekend getaways, travel accessories.
7. **Home Decor:** Candles, plants, cozy blankets, art.
8. **Tech Gadgets:** Smartwatches, earbuds, phones, fitness trackers.
9. **Food & Drinks:** Gourmet chocolates, wine, coffee, tea.
10. **Hobbies:** Painting, knitting, gardening, photography.
11. **Wellness:** Spa treatments, meditation, aromatherapy, massages.
12. **Music & Entertainment:** Concerts, movies, playlists, streaming services.
13. **Social Activities:** Brunch with friends, book clubs, wine tasting.
14. **Pets:** Dogs, cats, or other pets and their accessories.
15. **Crafting:** DIY projects, scrapbooking, sewing, or baking.

Some final ... "Favourite Things" to Dwell on???

Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy**—meditate on these things.

... make these things some of YOUR favourite things!