

Diving Deeper into Discipleship

August 8, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

More: *Your God is Too Small – Grand Old Man*

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Praise God for His immense wisdom and His eternal nature. "There is none like You, O Lord!" (Jer. 10:6)
- Consider the ways you may have been influenced to see God as a Grand Old Man. Have you moved beyond that picture of God, or are you still stuck there?
- Is your view of God too "old-fashioned?" Do you truly believe God is "operating with unimpaired energy in the present and leading us forward into a hopeful future?"
- Thinking about the transcendence and imminence of God, do you hold those in balance together, or do you tend to favor one over the other?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Psalm 115:1-8** | How is our "God in heaven" different from all forms of idols? Why are these differences important?
- **1 Corinthians 1:25** | How does this verse help us understand how "above and beyond" God is in His transcendence?
- **Matthew 1:18-25, 28:16-20** | How do these "bookend" passages in Matthew help us understand how "nearby and close" God is in His imminence?

Self-Care Discipline

August Discipline: True Service | Joy & Laughter

(from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, p.190, 197)

- Celebration is at the heart of the way of Christ. He entered the world on a high note of jubilation: "I bring you good news of a great joy," cried the angel, "which shall come to all the people" (Luke 2:10). He left the world bequeathing His joy to the disciples: "These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11).
- Another way to practice celebration is laughter. The old adage that laughter is the best medicine has a lot going for it. It's good for the soul. So why not?!? Jesus had a sense of humor—some of his parables are even positively comical. So poke fun at yourself. Enjoy jokes and clever puns. Relish good comedy. Learn to laugh; it is a discipline to be mastered. Let go of the everlasting burden of always needing to sound profound. We can't live life too seriously. Allow yourself to enjoy it. Jesus is not opposed to fun.