

Who is God to You?

For a number of years I've told people, "If you think you want to come to God, there is an important reality you must accept first. That reality is that 'He is God and I'm not.'" So many today define God on their own terms. They see Him in whatever light they, themselves, create. They forget that God created them in His image and in doing so, they mentally and/or emotionally attempt to create Him in their own image.

That problem never really solves any of life's challenges. In fact, it magnifies and compounds them because in reality we are seeking our own selfish desires and cloaking them in religious feelings or jargon. It *seems* so religious. It *feels* so spiritual. But the truth is that people with that approach are merely seeking to use God as a magic talisman, a genie in a bottle if you will, to have their desires granted. "If I go to church three times, do I get three wishes granted?" That whole approach to Christianity creates the response, "Well, I tried church, it didn't work for me!" No, actually that person tried to put God in a genie lamp and that didn't work for them.

There is a precious and beautiful answer to this (not so modern) dilemma, but only one that I know: *open His book and read!* Start with Genesis chapters one through three to see His unspeakable power to create. Open Psalms and let king David (and others) lead your head and your heart into a deeper understanding of who He is and how He blesses us with His blessings and not our own concept of blessing. Open Matthew and see Him come to earth to teach us how to live and how to live forever. See therein His eternal sacrifice for your own personal sins. Open Acts and see His specific plan to bring you home to live with Him forever.

But please, for the sake of truth and your personal eternity, weed out from life's garden every hint of manipulating God for your own earthly desires. When godly blessings come and righteous prayers are answered, thank Him from the bottom your heart, remembering that, "**Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights,**" James 1:17 (NASB),

When tough times overwhelm daily life, remember, "**Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him,**" James 1:12 (NASB).

And in all times, remember, "*He is God and I am not. He is God and I am blessed to be His servant. He is the loving Father and I am His beloved child to who He gives great gifts* (read Matthew 7:7-11), not merely trivial trinkets of daily desire.

Then the question ceases to be a selfish, "Who is God to me?" and becomes simply, "Who is God?" The answers in His book are the real road to blessings in this life and the next.

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