

A scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore. The sand is golden-brown and has several footprints scattered across it. In the background, there is a large island or headland under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

What is God Like?
3 of 11
GOD HAS SPOKEN!

“God Is ...”

“What we believe about God,” said the late A.W. Tozer.

“is the most important thing about us.”

Our belief or lack of it inevitably translates itself into our actions and attitudes.

The Word “God” is one of the most widely used -but vague and undefined - terms in our language.

- Some people, such as Einstein, think of God as “a pure mathematical mind.”

Others see Him as a shadowy superhuman person or force.

Still others see God as a ball of fire to which we, as sparks of life, will ultimately be reunited – or as a celestial policeman.

A few think of Him as a sentimental old grandfather up in the sky.

In this lesson we will be looking
at **God's attributes.**

An attribute is

**"an essential characteristic
of a person or thing."**

Thus we will look at some
of the essential characteristics of God.

**The Road to Salvation Begins with
the Proposition, "God Is ..."**

**"But without faith it is impossible to please Him:
for he that comes to God must believe that He is,
and that He is a rewarder of those
that diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6).**

Acts 17:22-30; “So Paul, standing before the Council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious,

for as I was walking along I saw your many altars. And one of them had this inscription on it, **“To an Unknown God”**.

You have been worshipping Him without knowing who He is, and now I wish to tell you about Him.

“He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth. He does not live in man-made temples, and human hands can't serve his needs, for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need there is.”

From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.”

“His purpose in all of this was that the nations should seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.

**For in him we live and move and exist.
As one of your own poets says,**

'We are his offspring.'

And since this is true, we shouldn't think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.”

God overlooked people's former ignorance about these things, but now he commands everyone everywhere to turn away from idols and turn to him.

For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead."

There Is Ample Proof for the Existence of God:-

1. The Argument from Creation.

(Romans 1:20; Hebrews 3:4)

2. The Argument from Beauty. (Psalms 19:1–6)

3. The Argument from Life, Intelligence and Will.

(Genesis 1:26; Psalms 94:9–11)

4. The Argument from Morality. (Genesis 20:9)

5. The Argument from Man's Spiritual Nature.

(Acts 17:23, 27–29)

Our Conviction Determines Our Conduct:–

**The unbeliever, the atheist or agnostic,
does not order his conduct to please God.**

(Psalms 10:3–11).

**It is possible for the believer
to become an unbeliever.**

(Hebrews 3:12, 18-19;).

**12. “Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters.
Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and
unbelieving, turning you away from the living God.”**

**18 “And to whom was God speaking when he vowed
that they would never enter his place of rest?
He was speaking to those who disobeyed Him.**

**19 So we see that they were not allowed
to enter His rest because of their unbelief.”**

The fallen Christian may deny that **“God is”**
by his conduct. (Ezekiel 9:9; cf., Jude 12,
“without reverence.”
see also: 2 Peter 2:10, 21-22; 2 Timothy 3:1–8;).

“Then he said to me, “The sins of the people of
Israel and Judah are very great. The entire land is
full of murder; the city is filled with injustice.
They are saying, ‘The Lord doesn’t see it!
The Lord has forsaken the land!’”
Ezekiel 9:9;

“When these people join you in fellowship meals
celebrating the love of the Lord, they are **like**
dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you.”

“They are shameless in the way they care only about themselves. They are **like clouds blowing over dry land** without giving rain, promising much but producing nothing.

They are **like trees without fruit** at harvest time.

They are not only dead but doubly dead, for they have been pulled out by the roots.”

Jude 12;

Believing “God Is”

Gives Me an Elevated View of Mankind:-

Unlike the lower creatures man is **“in the image”** and **“after the likeness”** of God. (Genesis 1:26;).

“I am not a dumb animal driven by instinct and appetite. No, I am a rational, reasoning, moral and spiritual being **“a little lower” than the angels and **not “far from God.”**”**

“This knowledge causes me to stand in awe of God who created me making me wonder why He has loved me so?”
(Psalms 8:1–9;).

Furthermore, this knowledge ought to cause me to treat my fellowman differently than I might otherwise do. **Why?**

His life and soul are equally precious. (1 Cor 11:7;).
Not only are **we all of one blood**,
but we are **His offspring**. (Hebrews 12:9;).

He is worthy of what we desire and deserve.
(Philippians 2:3; Matthew 7:12;).

Believing gives a Sense of Purpose to My Existence!

Some of the great questions men ask is:-

“What is the meaning of life? why am I here?”

Knowing there is a God makes me understand that I am responsible and accountable to Someone far greater than myself. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14;).

Life is not a finite journey to be filled with as much pleasure and as little pain as possible.

(Luke 12:19; 1 Corinthians 15:32;).

**Rather, it is a pilgrimage toward
an eternal reunion with Our Maker.**

(Hebrews 11:24–27;)

I now am willing to move on to a higher plane.

**Desiring to be with God I recognize
the imperative of walking with God.**

(Genesis 5:24;)

**“So, you see, it is impossible to please God
without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him
must **believe that there is a God and
that he rewards those who sincerely seek Him.**”**

(Hebrews 11:6;)

The **diligent search** for God results in the **obedient life**.

“It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.”

Heb 11:8; (cf. Galatians 5:6-7;).

“For when **we place our faith in Christ Jesus**, it makes no difference to God whether we are circumcised or not circumcised.

What is important is faith expressing itself in love. You were getting along so well. Who has interfered with you to hold you back from following the truth?”

Gal 5:6-7;

**If we truly revere God and keep His commandments.
(Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; 1 John 5:3;)
we achieve the goal for which
God brought us into existence.**

**“8. My true disciples produce much fruit.
This brings great glory to my Father.**

**9. "I have loved you even as the Father has loved
me. Remain in my love.**

**10. When you obey me, you remain in my love,
just as I obey my Father and remain in his love.**

**11. I have told you this so that you will be
filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!**

12. “I command you to **love each other** in the same way that **I love you.**

13. And here is how to measure it, the greatest love is shown when people **lay down their lives** for their friends.

14. **You are my friends if you obey me.”**
John 15:8–11;.

Believing “God Is” Ought to put the Joy into Living:-

Life is filled with many unpleasant tasks and experiences; there are hardships of every kind and description.

Without the hope of heaven and eternal fellowship with God, life can be dismal, utterly meaningless and frankly not worth living.

However, joy is ours in the midst of these trials.
(James 1:12;).

We rejoice because through trials we are perfected for our ultimate goal of heaven and our Father.
(1 Peter 1:6-7;).

We rejoice because our efforts in the kingdom
in redeeming souls are not wasted.
(Philippians 2:14–18;).

Believing **“God Is”** Takes the Fear Out of Dying:-
If there is no God, death is
the senseless end to a senseless life.
We are like the animals in the end,
but more miserable.

The **animals** have no desires,
yearnings or aspirations.

They do not dream, neither do they purpose.
Their lives are fully what they ought to be
in sleeping, eating, breeding and even in dying.

Yet, if “God is” we know that death is the door through which we must pass to attain all that we hope for.

Death is no longer a miserable end to fear, but the first step on the last leg of a wonderful journey to God.

The one in Christ is prepared for death.
(Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:8;).

There is no “sting,**” its pangs cannot hold us just as they could not hold Christ Jesus our Lord.**
(1 Corinthians 15:55-56; Acts 2:24;).

When the Lord returns for us we will break forth from the grave incorruptible, glorious, powerful, spiritual, immortal.
(1 Corinthians 15:42–44; Romans 2:7, 10;).

**Salvation Begins with the Proposition:-
“God Is” Do WE believe that “God is”?**

**Does our conduct indicate
that we truly believe “God is”?
Are we seeking God and His will?**

Are we living recognising His Grace?

Are we obeying His commandments?

Or is our life in rebellion?

Like the fool, do we live without fear of God?

Believing that “God Is” Will:-

Elevate our view of mankind.

Give purpose to our existence.

Put joy into our living.

Take fear out of dying.

“God Has Spoken”

**There Is No Faith in God or Salvation from Sin
apart from His revealed Word.**

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

(Rom 10:17).

Without faith it is impossible to please God.

(Heb 11:6).

**Therefore, without the
“Word of God”
we cannot please God.**

That God Has Spoken Is Evident:-

It is reasonable to believe that

**the God who created would
communicate with His creation.**

(Psalms 94:9–11;).

**The God that made us rational thinking beings
is Himself a Rational, Thinking Being,
necessarily of superior thought
guided by infinite wisdom.**

He who made speech, hearing and thought.
He who made us in His image. (Gen 1:26;).
He must have intended to communicate with us
and give us instruction. (Psalms 67:1-2;).

Just as a parent is able to communicate
with an infant child,
so **God has made Himself known unto us.**

**He is not beyond our comprehension
provided He makes Himself known.
(see Romans 1:19–22; Acts 17:27;).**

“Any revelation that God would make would be so conceived and designed as to make it possible for His creation to gradually come to know and understand Him.” (Psalms 119:111;).

The Bible Is the Means by which God Has Spoken:-

The Holy Scriptures make the claim to be the only revelation of the one true God. (Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:15–17;).

**The evidence supporting this claim
is overwhelming.**

The unity of the Book exemplifies its claim.

The Bible is a collection of 66 books written
by about 40 men over a 1600 year span.

**With a harmonious thread and essential
agreement characteristic of a single Mind.
(1 Corinthians 2:6-13; 2 Peter 1:19–21;).**

The character of the Book verifies its origin.
It is not the kind of book a man would write
if he could, or could write if he would.

It reveals the weaknesses of its heroes
and condemns their sins and shortcomings.

It presents **a morality** that none,
but one, have lived up to,
but which all have admitted is excellent.

The knowledge revealed in the Book certifies its supernatural character.

**Undeniable accuracy in matters of history, geography and contemporaneous culture.
(e.g. the Hittites, Pilate, writing.)**

**For centuries even into the 1900's secular historians pointed to the Hittites as a "Bible Mistake".
They said that no such people ever existed.
Now you can spend hours in the British Museum looking at all their history that has been dug up.**

“God Has Spoken”

No statements of fact that can be demonstrated to be out of harmony with established and knowable principles of physics, earth science and mathematics.

**The ark is properly proportioned for sailing.
The circle of the earth described in Isaiah 40:22;
Peoples of the earth of one blood in Acts 17:26;**

Biblical prophecy obviously revealed and written years, and in some cases centuries, before the events transpired establish the supernatural superintendence given to its authors.

Daniel’s visions.

Isaiah’s reference to Cyrus.

The prophecies concerning Christ.

As Noted Before, Conviction Determines Conduct:-

The unbeliever, the atheist or agnostic, does not order his conduct to please God. (Psalms 10:3–11;) Neither does the fallen Christian. (Hebrews 3:12, 19;)

All unbelief and apostasy begins with doubting the Word of God.

Some people say!

“I’ll take the words of Christ, but I’m not so sure about those Apostles.”
“There are many things the Bible which just cannot be true, like that fish story and the tale of making a man out of dust.”

Some people say!

“When science, reason and experience contradict the Bible, we cannot ignore the preponderance of evidence that means we see things from a different perspective.”

If we TRULY believe and are strongly convinced that “God has spoken” what effect should that have upon our behaviour.

“So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.

The message God delivered through angels has always proved true, and the people were punished for every violation of the law and every act of disobedience.

What makes us think that we can escape if we are indifferent to this great salvation that was announced by the Lord Jesus himself?

It was passed on to us by those who heard him speak, and God verified the message by signs and wonders and various miracles and by giving gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose to do so.” **Heb 2:1-4;**

**“Dust on the Bible is indicative
of a drought in the soul.”**

**The Bible is still the best selling book of all time.
More copies of it are sold in more languages
than any other book.**

**However, it is probably the
least read book that is owned.**

**Most know very little of what it actually says,
and less of what requires for salvation.**

**If we truly believe the Bible
to be the Word of the One True God...**

**We ought to read and study it with
a willing enthusiasm. (Psalms 119:97, 131;).**

**We ought to make time for
the consideration of it.**

(Psalms 63:6; 119:147–148;).

**We ought to take every opportunity
to be instructed**

by those who know it best.

(Isaiah 2:3; Micah 4:2; 2 Tim 2:2;).

**“You have heard me teach many things that
have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses.
Teach these great truths to trustworthy people
who are able to pass them on to others.”**

“God Has Spoken”

If we say that we believe in Him yet spend so little time in real study and inquiry into the pages of that which truly is **“the mind of Christ.”**

What we say does not always seem to be reflected by what we do.

There should be in all of us an insatiable yearning to commune with our God;
A yearning that can only be satisfied by hearing Him speak to us through His word.

Since **“God Has Spoken,”**

We Should Expect to Understand Him:-

Acts 17:11; “And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message.

They searched the Scriptures day after day to check up on Paul and Silas, to see if they were really teaching the truth.”

The nobility of the Berean's lay in their unwillingness to accept anything without proving it by the Scriptures.

Their confidence was in God, His word and their ability to understand it for themselves.

“Dear friends, **do not believe everyone** who claims to speak by the Spirit. **You must test them** to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.” 1 John 4:1;

Numerous times in the Scriptures we are warned that men can and will lead us astray if we are not diligent to test the things we are taught.

Our confidence is in the word of God not in men.
(1 Corinthians 4:6; Titus 1:11; 2 Timothy 2:15–17;).

God has not placed His word in the keeping of special handlers, a clergy, who have a supernatural gift of understanding. **Eph 3:1-4;**

2. “Surely you have heard about the plan of God's gracious love which was given to me for you.
3. God used a revelation to make this secret clear. (I wrote a little bit about it before.)
4. **As you read this, you will be able to grasp my understanding of the secret of Christ.”**

We are commanded to understand

“This is why you should not be fools. Instead, try to understand what the Lord wants.”

(Eph 5:17;).

We are told that we can know and do the truth

“Jesus was talking with the Jews who had believed in him, saying, ‘If you stay with my teaching, you are truly my followers. 32. You will find out the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ (John 8:31-32;)”

We can not only know, but also do the will of the Father in Heaven (Matt 7:21, 24;).

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the kingdom of heaven. Only the person who does what my heavenly Father wants”

“Every person who listens to my words and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house upon rock.”

Since “God Has Spoken” I Must Tell Others. What if...

I knew how to cure cancer?

I had discovered a map that led to riches beyond belief?

I found the way to feed the whole world?

You would expect me to share this good news with you and everyone we met, even strangers and enemies.

God has spoken to us the greatest news that has ever been heard is now in our possession.

Examples of those to whom God had spoken:-

The Samaritan woman. (John 4;)

The demoniac. (Mark 5:18–20;)

Witnesses to the healing of the deaf and dumb man.

(Mark 7:31–36;)

Andrew and Philip. (John 1;)

If we truly believe God has spoken,
we cannot be silent with those around us

Since **“God Hath Spoken”**

we would Expect Him to Enforce His Word.

It is unbelievable that one should **believe the Bible is God’s Word** and then **live a life contrary to its principles.**

“I believe the Bible, but...”

“I know the Bible says this, but I think...”

“I know it’s not in the Bible, but I feel...”

“The Bible might not allow this, but we like...”

The God whom we serve is the God revealed in the Bible.

He is the God who took Adam
out of the Garden of Eden for one sin.

He is the God who rejected Cain's offering.

He is the God who destroyed the world with a flood.

He is the God who destroyed Egypt with the plagues.

He is the God who left Israel strewn
in heaps in the wilderness.

He is the God that consumed Nadab and Abihu with fire.

He is the God who opened the earth
to swallow Dathan and Abiram.

He is the God who struck Uzza dead.

He is the God that smote Uzziah with leprosy.

He is the God that drove Nebuchadnezzar
like a mad man into the fields.

Judgment is according to the Word of God:-

“The person who rejects me and does not accept my words has something to condemn him- the very message which I spoke. **That message will condemn him on the last day.”**

John 12:48;

“5. But your heart is hard and unchanged. You are storing up punishment for yourself on the Day of punishment when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. 6. God will pay back each person according to the way that person lived.”

Romans 2:5-6;

16. “On that Day, God will use this Good News of mine to judge the secret things of men through Jesus Christ.” Rom 2:16;

12. “I saw dead people--important and unimportant. They were standing in front of the throne.

Books were opened.

And another book--the Book of Life--was opened.

The dead were **judged** from the things which had been written in the books, according to the way they had lived.”

Revelation 20:12;

There Is No Salvation Apart from what God's Word has revealed.

Do we believe that God has spoken and the Bible is His Word?

**If so how has that transformed our life?
How does that truth direct our conduct?**

Belief that “God Has Spoken” Ought to:-

**Motivate genuine interest for study
and meditation on His word.**

**Cause us to seek our own understanding
and not to rely upon others.**

Lead us to tell others what we have learned.

**Give rise to an expectation of judgment
according to His word.**

“If someone doesn't believe, he cannot please God, because the person who comes to God must believe that He lives. That person must also believe that God will give rewards to the people who are searching for Him.”

Heb 11:6;

As we have said before:-

Our Belief or Conviction Determines Conduct.

Whether or not we believe God exists determines our conduct before Him. Psalms 10:3-11;

“3. For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, And the greedy man curses and spurns the LORD. 4. The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, “There is no God.” His ways prosper at all times; Your judgments are on high, out of his sight; As for all his adversaries, he snorts at them.”

“ 6. He says to himself, "I will not be moved; Throughout all generations I will not be in adversity. 7. **His mouth is full of curses and deceit and oppression;** Under his tongue is mischief and wickedness. 8. He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the hiding places **he kills the innocent;** His eyes stealthily watch for the unfortunate.”

9. He lurks in a hiding place as a lion in his lair; **He lurks to catch the afflicted;** He catches the afflicted when he draws him into his net. 10. He crouches, he bows down, And the unfortunate fall by his mighty ones. 11. **He says to himself, "God has forgotten;** He has hidden His face; **He will never see it."**

The man who denies the existence of Deity is not concerned with pleasing Him, neither does he fear displeasing Him.

“Since there is no God, he says, man is a law unto himself. Every man does that which is right in his own eyes.” (Proverbs 30:11–14;)

**This principle is put into practice daily
by those around us**

“The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

**They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds;
There is no one who does good.” (Psalms 14:1; 53:1;)**

**Similarly, what we believe about God,
regarding His character, determines
our conduct before Him.**

“Moses leaves Egypt.” (Heb 11:26;)

**The man who doubts either God's ability
or His willingness to bring into judgment will
undoubtedly behave without regard to His laws.**

**(Isa 5:19-21; 29:15; Job 22:12–14; Eze 9:9;
see: Num 15:38–41;)**

**“The man who is ignorant of God,
either by neglect or default,
will learn to be a law unto himself.”**

(Judg 2:10-11;)

**He will make for himself a god
after his own image and likeness.**

(Galatians 4:8; Romans 1:21–31;).

Therefore, It's not Enough to Believe "God Is."

To be saved requires more than
an acknowledgement of God's existence.

It necessitates the acceptance of the Divine character.

(Ex 20:5, 6; 34:6, 7; Num 4:18; Deut 4:31, 32; Psa 86:15;)

Heb 11:6; sums up the character of God in this one
word, **"rewarder."** The word designates a
"remunerator," one who pays for goods provided,
services rendered or losses incurred.

(see: Strong's Greek Lexicon.)

The Hebrews writer indicates that God is one
**who will make a fair, just and equitable
remuneration or reward to all that seek Him.**

There Is Ample Evidence to Persuade us that God Is Indeed a Rewarder.

There is the evidence found in creation.

“so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

Matt 5:45;

“saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things **to a living God,**

WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM.”

“In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; and yet **He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” Acts 14:15–17;**

“God Is the Rewarder.”

**There is the evidence found
in the relationship of the Old Testament saints:**

a. Adam & Eve. (Genesis 1 and 2)

b. Enoch. (Genesis 5:24)

c. Noah. (Genesis 6 through 9)

d. Abraham. (Genesis 12ff)

e. Job.

f. Jacob. (Genesis 27ff.)

g. Joseph. (Genesis 37ff.)

h. Moses. (Exodus.)

i. David. (2 Samuel 7:8-9;)

j. Solomon. (2 Chronicles 9:22-23;)

There is the evidence found in the mission of Christ:-

It was a mission of mercy and compassion.

“When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:- **"HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES."**

Matthew 8:16-17; 20:34;)

It was a mission of reconciliation and restoration:-

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” John 3:15-17;

It was a mission of service:-

“4. Jesus got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.”

12. “So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 13. “You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.

14. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.”

15. “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. 16. “Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.” John 13:4–17;

**If we are Persuaded that God Is a Rewarder,
We Will Diligently Seek Him.**

“He that comes to God” must do so by Jesus Christ.

(John 14:6). **“He that comes to God”**

must be taught of God. (John 6:44, 45).

“He that comes to God” must believe and obey
the Gospel. (Matthew 11:28–30;).

a. Believe unto righteousness. (Romans 10:10, 17;)

b. Repent unto life. (Acts 11:18;)

c. Confess unto salvation. (Romans 10:10;)

d. Be baptized unto remission of sins. (Acts 2:38;)

A diligent search for God will yield favourable results.

(Acts 17:27; cf., v. 11;).

**The man who will not search the Scriptures
and obey the Gospel will not be rewarded of God.**

If we are Persuaded that God Is a Rewarder. Our Faith Will Endure.

**There is a temporary benefit, blessing
or reward in seeking after God.**

**This was evidence in the lives of some of the Old Testament saints.
This is affirmed in the New Testament. (1 Timothy 4:7-8;)**

There is peace. (Philippians 4:6-7;)

There is comfort. (1 Thessalonians 4:13;)

There is joy. (Philippians 3:3;)

There is freedom. (Galatians 5:1;)

There is success. (Revelation 5:9-10;)

If we are Persuaded that God Is a Rewarder. Our Faith Will Endure.

However, Hebrews 11:6;

Does not have in view any present reward.

“without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

**The one that comes to God “must believe...
that He is a rewarder.”**

Therefore, the reward is a matter of faith.

It is a thing unseen and hoped for.

“That for which we hope, we have not seen.” (Romans 8:24;)

Now, if we are truly convinced of both God's ability
and His desire to reward. (Romans 8:31-32;)
Then we will endure and wait for it. (8:25;)

**“We will remain loyal
to the doctrine of Christ.”** (2 Tim 1:12-14;)

**“12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I
am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed
and I am convinced that He is able to guard what
I have entrusted to Him until that day.**

**Retain the standard of sound words
which you have heard from me, in the
faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.
Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us,
the treasure which has been entrusted to you.”**

If we are Persuaded that God Is a Rewarder, We Will Look to Things Above.

**We saints that are fully persuaded of
the eternal reward ought not to be sidetracked
into the pursuit of the mundane.**

(Colossians 3:1, 2; cf., Luke 8:14; 22:34; Mark 4:19;)

This is an ever present danger.

Perhaps, it is the thing that troubles us most.

(1 Timothy 6:6–10; Hebrews 13:5;

**We cheat God out of more and more of our time and talent
by being entangled in the cumbersome burdens that the
world wants us to bear—job, hobbies, school,
family, friends, and community.**

God challenges us to put Him first! (Matthew 6:31–33;)

**In order to avoid the pitfalls of covetousness,
we must be confident of the value
of the treasure we are saving:-**

Its value seen in its durability.

(Matt 6:19–20; Rom 2:6, 7; 1 Pet 1:3-5, 1 Cor 9:25).

Its value suggested by what will not be there. (Rev 21:1-4).

“I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, the home of God is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

4. He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever."

Its value implied in lesser-to-greater comparison with the stresses of life.

(2 Cor 4:16-18).

Are We Fully Persuaded that God Is a Rewarder?

**A candid evaluation of our spiritual affairs
will lead us to the answer.**

Have we obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

**Are we enduring the hardships and trials that
come to all believers with grace and gratitude?**

**Do we care more for things and pleasures
than we do for Christ?**

**If we have answered truthfully,
Are there ANY CHANGES IN OUR THINKING
AND LIFE STYLE WE NEED TO MAKE?**

REMEMBER God Also Rewards Those that Do not Seek Him!

God will render to all according to his works!

(Matthew 16:27; Romans 2:5–11;)

**"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it;
but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**

**"For what will it profit a man if he gains
the whole world and forfeits his soul?"**

Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory
of His Father with His angels, and **WILL THEN
REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.**"**

Matthew 16:25-27;

**“5. But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,
6. who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:-**

7. to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life;

8. but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

9. There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek.”

Romans 2:5–11;

The believer will receive eternal life.

The unbeliever will receive ?

(Romans 6:22, 23; Matthew 25:41, 44;).

“22. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

23. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:22-23;

41."Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; 42. for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;”

There is no escaping this reward. Hebrews 2:2-3;
“2. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,

3. how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,
It is a fearful thing to fall into His hands.

Heb 10:30-31; “How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?”

30. For we know Him who said,
31. **"VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY."**

And again,
"THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."

31. It is a terrifying thing
to fall into the hands of the living God.

God will reward him. (2 Timothy 4:14;)

**"Alexander the coppersmith
did me much harm; the Lord will repay him
according to his deeds."**

We Are Partakers of the Divine Nature.

The process by which the believer is transformed into the likeness of his God and the Saviour Jesus Christ is by adding to faith all that the Word of God, “the present truth,” is able to supply. (2 Peter 1:2–12;)

By obedience to the Gospel we escaped the corruption that was in the world through lust, that is, we were freed from the damning constraints of sin. (Romans 6:7, 14–17;)
We were made “new” in Christ. (Romans 6:4;)

“4. Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be {in the likeness of His resurrection.”

It is a spiritual “do over”, “all things are made new.”

(2 Corinthians 5:17;)

**Our slate is wiped clean; we are given
a new page upon which to write.**

The past is forgotten never to be found or remembered again.

(Micah 7:19; Isaiah 1:18; Psalms 103:12;)

**We are set free in our acquisition of those qualities and
attributes which reflect God and His Christ in our lives.**

(Gal 5:22–25;).

**“22. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, 23. gentleness, self-control;
against such things there is no law.**

**24. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh
with its passions and desires. 25. If we live by the Spirit,
let us also walk by the Spirit. 26. Let us not become boastful,
challenging one another, envying one another.”**

Therefore, as we walk according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh we acquire a “spiritual mind**” which pleases God, puts to death the deeds of the body and leads to eternal life. (Romans 8:4–14;)**

4. “so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5. For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

6. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7. because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8. and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

“9. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

11. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh:-

13. for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

**God is the basis for our love for one another
as well was the source. Rom 5:5;**

**“5. And this expectation
will not disappoint us.**

**For we know how dearly God loves us,
because He has given us the Holy Spirit
to fill our hearts with His love.”**

What is God Like?

3 of 11

GOD HAS SPOKEN!

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Next in the series:- God Is Omniscient.