**BLOG 36 – Who Is God?**

The great men of God’s history had a deep personal relationship with God. That relationship was anchored in a life of prayer. They took their issues, questions, joy and fears before God. They related to Him personally.

Examples:

1. Abraham and his life with Isaac
2. Isaiah in Isa 6:1-11 was before the throne
3. Daniel’s prayer life
4. David in the Psalms
5. Jesus
6. And more

As the 2019 starts-question: Are you a person of prayer?

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When man sins, he separates himself from God. God is our power source and beacon for living this life. Without Christ, when people sin they lose this source of power and direction and head towards Hell. Being disconnected from God they plug into the world. Plugging into the world’s system brings them to at least three dilemmas.

1. They have lost their contact with God, their creator.
2. Now, how do they know where and how to go?
3. Also, who will give them the power to keep on keeping on?

Our salvation saves us from being disconnected from God. After our salvation God dwells in us through the Holy Spirit. He teaches and directs us if we feed Him the Word.

Question: How about the person who thinks they come to Christ as a child? I think that this salvation is possible, but in growing up they mute the Holy Spirit by sinful choices, God allows them to move away from Him.

If they die I think they may be in Heaven, but they have missed growing in Christ.

If they live on in years and turn back to Christ, there could be an awakening of the spirit and the person could turn and pursue God. Through repentance and pursuing God’s Word, they could get reconnected. When were they saved? Only God knows.

Are you getting help from the Holy Spirit? (Remember, we need to feed Him the Word.”)

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I have been asked these questions:

1. Can I receive Christ and believe there isn’t a God? REALLY? These two are a package deal. Jesus is God. A conclusion I have drawn is this: If you don’t believe in God, you don’t need Jesus. If there is no God, I don’t need salvation. I need a lot of HELP.
2. If I received forgiveness from believing in Jesus and the Holy Spirit is in me, do I have to believe all the Bible is true? REALLY? Think logically! I think Christians today, and especially the new generation, is playing fast and loose with what the Word is says. The Word will never align to societies, PC thinking and fads. Without the Word, where do you get Jesus?
3. What is the objective of my salvation? 1 Peter 3:9 says: “to receive, inherit a blessing and give a blessing.” Here are other benefits:
4. A pass to Heaven.
5. Reunion/reconnection with the Living God.
6. That I may rejoice when entering Heaven and receiving rewards.
7. Have an eternal impact on others from your time on earth.
8. Become like Jesus.
9. To quit being a degenerate.

 You might think that this motive is selfish i.e. definition of selfish: “concerned primarily with one's own interest, benefits, welfare, etc., regardless of others interest, benefits, welfare”.

 It is not selfish-it is in your best self-interest.

 If I get all these it does not prohibit or deny anyone from getting the same or more or less.

1. What about the degenerate? God says there are degenerates because of a downward spiral in their life and in societies. It is not a fatal problem if I have become a degenerate. But it is fatal if I stay there. If I am a serial adulterer, with Christ I am to stop and go another direction to be in harmony with the scriptures. To continue being a degenerate could be evidence that I am not a saved person.
2. Question: Would I be friends and associate with an adulterer, killer, homosexual, transgender, or wife beater? Yes, because I am one also, but if they are professing Christ, I would not condone them continuing in their depravity. God has chosen to associate with me therefore, I should be willing to associate with others.

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Questions and thoughts for the New Year:

1. How is your prayer and study life? I can’t be intimate with anyone if I am not talking and being with them. You don’t vicariously grow in Christ because of good friends or the organization you affiliate with.
2. Do I know any degenerates that I show love to and challenge them in their thinking? We tend to drift towards a Christian ghetto.
3. Am I giving cheerfully and enough? 2 Cor 9:6-7
4. Am I a witness for the living God and Jesus in my life? Do I let people know I am committed to God? Does my family know of my commitment to Christ and God other than we go to Church?
5. At your age are you ready to die and review your life with God? This could be the year.
6. Am I committed to the Word to the maximum of my skill, facilities, support group, and habits I have?

 Eph 4:11: “And truly He gave some *to be* apostles, and some *to be* prophets, and some *to be* evangelists, and some *to be* pastors and teachers,

 Eph 4:12 for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

1. We are all gifted differently but we are gifted. We will not have an excuse before God for doing nothing.

How are you gifted and serving the body this year?

Matt\_6:19: “Do not layup treasures on earth for yourselves, where moth and rust corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.

Matt\_6:20: But layup treasures in Heaven for yourselves, where neither moth nor rust corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”

1Cor 3:13: “Each one's work shall be revealed. For the Day shall declare *it*, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try each one's work as to what kind it is.

1Cor 3:14” If anyone's work which he built remains, he shall receive a reward.

1Cor 3:15” If anyone's work shall be burned up, he shall suffer loss. But he shall be saved, yet so as by fire.”

 8. Are you storing up treasures and rewards in Heaven? And how are you doing this?

 This is the year Jesus could come back and if not, this may be the year you go to Him. Are you ready?

Have a great year in Jesus.