

Who Do You Believe God Is?

I have been challenging myself in the area of belief. I know that I have saving faith in Christ, that I have accepted Him as Savior and Lord, but lately, I've been challenged by whether or not I have what I call the God-kind-of-faith. This is having and living by the faith God gives us for everyday life in the Kingdom of God.

I've been studying principles and key concepts of the Kingdom, and in so doing, I've been led to ask some simple questions: "Who do I believe God is?" "What do I believe about who He says He is?" "What do I believe about what He says He can do?" "What do I believe about who God says I am?" "What do I believe about what He says I can do?"

What thought-provoking, awe-inspiring questions to answer. I had sincerely hoped by the time I penned these thoughts that the Lord would have given me answers to all of these questions, but He did not. I am still stuck on the very first question – "Who do I believe God is?"

The answer to such a question reveals so much about our relationship with God. If we have a small view of God in our hearts, and a larger view of ourselves, then God can only do small things in our lives. We may actually have a larger view of our own abilities, and therefore may believe that we need to rely more upon ourselves, than upon our God.

If our view of God is that He is a "God somewhere out there", but is not interested in the intricate details of our lives, then we may make Him a God who is far off. We don't look for Him to show up in the seemingly small issues of our lives. We don't look for Him to be concerned about our personal affairs – after all He's dealing with the larger issues of life like world hunger and war.

If we believe that God is only reserved for the issues we cannot handle, then our view of God may be that He is an emergency God, only needed in crisis. So, we seek His involvement only when we conclude that we, ourselves, cannot solve the issues in our own strength or might. He becomes the God we seek for miracles only, and the rest is left for us to handle on our own.

Can you identify with why I believe this is such an important question to answer, and why it becomes necessary for all of us to examine just who we believe God is? Sometimes we find ourselves critical of our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith. We look at how they approach and solve problems and think that because they don't seem to have faith enough for issues that arise in their lives that they really don't believe at all. But, realistically, you cannot believe God beyond your own view of who He is in your life! If you do not have an accurate view of God, then you cannot be expected to believe Him beyond the view you have created, nor can you believe that He can aid you beyond what you expect He can do!

God has revealed to me that our view of Him is often introduced to us when we are children. Some of you may have come from families that may not have believed anything about God, and therefore your belief about Him may have come from an entirely different perspective. But for those of us, who may remember Sunday School, or even Vacation Bible School, it may have been in some of those early memories that God was introduced to us. And so I invite you to consider your early years. How did you first hear of God? What were you taught about who He is?

I know that I remember hearing of the great stories of the Bible. I know I was introduced to the awesome power of God, as revealed through the story of Moses, David and Goliath, and many others. I know I learned about the power of God through the story of Creation. But, what was missing in my introduction was the perspective that God was involved in the everyday affairs of my life. I only believed that God was available for the "big" things in life.

This perspective limited my intimacy with God for many, many years. I didn't turn to Him to share my inner most thoughts and concerns; I didn't allow Him to shape my understanding of life and death. I lived independent of His perspective, and took on philosophy and psychology as a means of understanding life.

How about you? Who do you believe God is? What place does God have in your understanding of life? Is God only reserved to be consulted when life is tough and you have no answers? Is He the God that lives afar off, or is He the One to whom you draw near, every day?

God wants us to clarify His place in our lives. He wants to know how we view Him in light of all things. Once we begin to examine and answer this question, we're well on our way to real, authentic relationship with God!