

And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished... (Exodus 34: 6, 7)

This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.
(Jeremiah 9:23, 24)

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father! So why are you asking Me to show Him to you? (John 14:9, NLT)

Who Is God?

Now, *that’s* a tough question. Being the Creator of everything that exists and (by virtue of that fact) far wiser and vastly more powerful than ourselves, how do you get to know a being like this? How do you even *approach* such a one to make inquiries?

We cannot even begin to understand God. Fortunately, He knows that His creation would view even the feeblest attempt at knowing Him would appear to be hopeless from the beginning. So, God decided to do the reaching out to us in various ways, all leading up to the appearance of His Son, Jesus.

And, as the verse from the Gospel of John states, Jesus is the key to knowing God, simply because of the fact that He *is* God. The Second Person of the Trinity, the One who took human form in order to live among us, demonstrate God the Father, live a perfect life and pay the penalty for sin that we deserved and make the Third Person of the Trinity – the Holy Spirit – available to live in us.

So, when Jesus says that anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father, what exactly does that mean?

First and foremost, it means that despite preconceived notions, corrupt doctrines, fables and outright lies, *God isn’t out to get us*. In fact, He loves us and wants the best for us. He knows every wrong thing we’ve done in our lives (He was actually present when we did them) yet knows so much about us that He can look past the petty sins we commit and into the potential He set up in each one of us. We may not know what He had in mind when we were formed in the womb, but He does. *That* is the best for us that He has in mind, and the more we are willing to yield ourselves to Him, the greater the possibility that He will bring us to that potential.

This does not mean that God won't deal with those petty sins, because He loves us too much to let us stay in them. But He does not deal with them for the purpose of humiliation, but correction. God wants us free of them in order to experience everything He has for us. That includes help with our problems in the here and now.

And this best that He has for us doesn't stop with our earthly lives. We were made to live forever, and so our spirits will. God wants us with Him forever, which is why He went to all the trouble of setting up the plan of Salvation before we were even created, so that a way of forgiveness for sin would be available.

So many people think that a life lived for God is a perpetual denial of enjoyment, fun, etc. But when you consider that what most people think of as "fun" are things that run out, expire, or get old after a while, prompting a search for new "kicks," the promise of the eternal that He offers is really a more excellent deal than can be imagined.

Who is God? He is the One Who has existed from before time, and will continue after its end. He knows me and everything about me and yet loves me anyway. He is my friend, although the very concept of friendship (as we humans know it) is deeply insufficient to describe what He has done for me. And I have not lived for Him as I should have, but He chose to forgive me anyway and make the riches of His Kingdom – and, more importantly, Himself – available to me if I just yield myself to Him. I do not have an ordinary calling from Him, but one specifically made for me; I do not know fully what that is yet, but I have His promise that I will know. And I have His promise of eternity spent with Him once my life in this current body is over.

And, you have the same opportunity if you just take it. Why on earth would you not?