

*Does God show himself to those who are not believers but they ask him to show himself?*

The apostle John wrote: We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him (Jn 9:31, NASB). In Proverbs it is written: The Lord is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous (Pr 15:29).

God may listen in on the prayers of the wicked, but he is under no obligation to do so. To the non-believer or make-believer, God asks for faith: Now determine in your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God (1 Ch 22:19, HCSB). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6). Luke wrote: Everyone who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened (Lk 11:10, HCSB). Men must seek him with all their: heart, soul, mind and strength (Mk 12:30). They must listen for his still small voice (1 Ki 19:12). He is not far from any man (Ac 17:27).

No one has seen God (Jn 1:18). One can look at the sun for a moment but if he were to look for too long, he'd damage his retina. In the same way, God, the creator of the sun and all of the stars, says that no man can see him and live (Ex 33:20). Jesus, veiled in human flesh (Heb 10:20), made God known to men.

Those who choose to gaze upon him for who he truly is (Ps 27:4) will find that he is worthy of all worship (Heb 3:3, Rev. 5:2, 4, 5:9–14). They will live with him in his light forever (Re 21:22–27).

When one refuses to know him—not the creation of his mind which an idol—but God as revealed in scripture, he will get what he wants—darkness (Jn 3:19). Some prefer darkness to light because their deeds are evil (Jn 3:19).

The disciples asked Jesus why he spoke in parables. He answered:

Because the secrets of the kingdom of heaven have been given for you to know, but it has not been given to them. For whoever has, more will be given to him, and he will have more than enough. But whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him (Mt 13:11–12).

One must respond to the light shown him—he must use it or lose it so to speak. Responsibility to God is increased by: sight (Jn 9:39–41), privilege (Jn 15:22, 24) and opportunity (Mt 11:20–24).

God invites men to taste and see that the Lord is good (Ps 34:8). Test his word. Jesus said: If anyone wants to do His will, he will understand whether the teaching is from God or if I am speaking on My own (Jn 7:16–17). God takes his word and makes it real to the believer (Jn 14:26).

Two men can read the same scriptures. One will understand while the other will not. Jesus is the wisdom and power of God. The apostle Paul wrote: For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is God's power to us who are being saved (1 Co 1:18). God's word will not return to him void. The prophet Isaiah wrote: My word that comes from My mouth will not return to Me empty; but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do (Is 55:11).

The believer learns and grows (Ps 1:2). Jeff Schwarzentraub said: "Ongoing obedience is essential for ongoing instruction." The non-believer and make-believer neither trust nor obey (Num 20:24); therefore, they will die (Re 20:14).

Man is born spiritually dead (Ps 51:5). He cannot approach a holy God without the mediator, Jesus. Paul wrote: For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, Christ Jesus, Himself human (1 Ti 2:5).

Wise men listen and obey (Mt 17:5). Everyone will see God. Job knew: I will see Him myself; my eyes will look at Him, and not as a stranger (Job 19:27). Individuals can meet him as a friend (Jn 15:15) or as a judge (Jn 5:22).

When men read the word, they must believe. Failing to thrive leads to a second death (Re 20:14). The apostle Peter wrote:

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning [2 Pet. 2:20].

When one hears the word of God, a right response is required. James wrote:

If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man looking at his own face in a mirror. For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but one who does good works—this person will be blessed in what he does (Jas 1:23–25).

To know the Father, one must know the Son (Jn 14:7). It was Paul's desire to know him and the power of his resurrection (Phil 3:10).

Jesus is not the founder of a dead religion (Heb 9:14). He is alive now and men can know him personally (Ps 42:2, 1 Tim. 3:15).