

# THE WAYS OF GOD

## What Do You Believe About God?

### I. What you believe about the one you are endeavoring to trust determines the level of trust that you can place in them

#### A. Before you can trust God/Have faith in God you have to believe right about God

1. This first generation are known for their unbelief – They never would trust God, they struggled with faith
  - a. Heb3:8-10-The irritated God (provocation), they erred in their heart and their error was their unbelief
2. Dt1:27-What do they believe about God?
  - a. They believe God hates/against them and wants to destroy them and this is undermining their ability to trust Him, to have faith in Him – Heb3:10-They don't know God's ways
  - b. Because what they believe about God is wrong, they can't believe God, trust Him, have faith in Him

#### B. There are things that you can believe about God that will undermine your ability to trust Him, to have faith in Him

1. Until those things are addressed it'll keep you from trusting Him the way you should no matter how hard you try
2. Do you believe that sometimes for some mysterious reason He withholds good things? Do you believe that he's against you, trying to make things hard on you, trying to keep you from your answer? Do you believe that He sits back and endeavors to do nothing while His people suffer? Do you believe sometimes he doesn't heal or deliver?
  - a. It's couched in religious tones: God allowed that bad thing to happen; God is sovereign; God's mysterious will – Just say what you mean God saw some awful thing happening and never did anything to try to stop it or didn't do all He could to try to stop it

#### C. At the foundation of your faith lies this question, "What do I believe about God?"

1. If you can't answer that question correctly and w/ conviction you have no foundation upon which faith can stand

#### D. To live by faith you have to know The One in whom you believe, you have to know His ways

1. 2Tim1:12-He knows God, he knows the ways of God and it lead to Him being persuaded in what He believed
  - a. Know-Understand; Believed-Persuaded, confidence; Persuaded-Trust, have confidence, be confident
2. He knows the ways of the one He is trusting and so it makes trust possible
  - a. *Psalm 91:14-Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he knows and understands My name [has a personal knowledge of My mercy, love, and kindness—trusts and relies on Me, knowing I will never forsake him, no, never].*

#### E. Genesis 3-The enemy wanted to get them to see God in a way they couldn't trust him

1. What did they believe about God? They basically believed that God was holding out on them, trying to keep good things from them, not totally for them and for their good
  - a. f that's what you believe about God then can you trust Him when He says don't eat of the tree or you'll die? Can you trust Him to sustain you and take care of you? No
2. If you believing wrong about God faith in God is an impossibility and Satan knows that
  - a. Like the children of Israel you'll never be able to get over the hump where trusting God is concerned
3. This undermined their ability to trust God and so their unbelief rooted in their wrong believing about who God was led to their disobedience and demise – Wasn't it the same pattern for the Children Of Israel?

### II. You have to choose what you are going to believe about God

#### A. You have 2 options as to what you base your belief about God: 1) Reasoning/Experience 2) The Word of God

1. Most pay no attention to the Word of God and base what they believe about God on their reasoning and experience
2. Many believe what happens in their life and in the world speaks to the nature of God, speaks to the ways of God

#### B. Psalm 84:11-Does God withhold good things from them that walk uprightly?

1. *CEB*-The Lord gives – doesn't withhold! – good things to those who walk with integrity; *CEV*-Never denying any good thing to those who live right; *CS*-He does not withhold good from those who live with integrity; *EX*-He does not hold back anything good
2. Ps85:12-The Lord shall give that which is good; 2Pet1:3-He has given unto us all things that pertain to life

**C. Psalm 35:27-Is God for your prosperity and success? Or is God for your destruction and demise?**

1. When you're struggling and not doing well does He like it?

**D. 1 John 4:8-God is love (benevolent)**

1. It's His nature and disposition to do good; He desires to promote my prosperity and happiness; He wants to do me abundantly good and relieve me from all distress – Is this true or not true?

**E. Isaiah 41-Is God for you? Or is God against you?**

1. Did he say that He is with you/for you? Did he say he would strengthen you, help you, and uphold you? Did he extend his hand and say don't be afraid I'm going to help you?

**F. Is God fair or unfair? He is good and kind in ALL He does?**

1. Psalm 145:17-The Lord is righteous (fair) in all His ways, and holy (good, kind) in all his works
  - a. *TLB*-The Lord is fair in everything he does; *VO*-He is kind in all His acts
2. Ps25-God is always good, always kind, always compassionate, always fair and never stops being so
  - a. 6-Tendermercies-Bowels of compassion, love deeply, tender affection; Lovingkindness-Goodness, kindness; Old-Always, forever, continuous, perpetual; When was God ever not compassionate, good, kind?
  - b. 8-God is fair and kind (Upright-Straight, correct, just, equity, fair; Good-Good, kind)
  - c. 10-All the ways of the Lord are mercy (goodness, kindness) & truth (faithfulness) for them who keep his covenant
    - 1) *CEV*-In everything you do you are kind and faithful to everyone who keeps our agreement with you

**G. Ex34:6-From God lips to our ears this is Him telling us who He is**

1. Merciful-Full of compassion; *Compassionate*-inclined to show mercy, easily moved by the distress, sufferings, wants and infirmities of others; Love deeply; Gracious-Favorable, kind, benevolent, mercy; Disposed to forgive offenses and impart unmerited blessings; Is God gracious? Or is He unkind, cold, mean, hateful, severe? Longsuffering-Slow to anger, not easily provoked; Goodness-Kindness, benevolence, promotes well-being of others;

**H. Now you have a choice to make in what you're going to believe about God-You can whatever you choose to believe**

1. The COI had God's word and miraculous experiences with God and still chose to believe He hated them because of some adversity that they were facing-Num14:22
2. People have a negative thing happen in their life or something they prayed for doesn't happen and they want to throw all this out the window and act like their experience brings into question God's nature; You're experience doesn't change His nature

III. When revelation of the ways of God, that God is love, that God is for me, that God is not trying to keep good from me, but he's trying to get good to me, that God likes it when I do well burns in your guts you don't have to work faith up or make faith happen

**A. Faith in God has to come from somewhere**

1. Faith in God is birthed from revelation of the character of God, the nature of God and the ways of God
2. Heb11:6-I have to believe not just that God exists, but that he is the rewarder of those that diligently seek Him

**B. This kind of faith comes with this revelation burns within**

1. Daniel 3:17-They're getting ready to go in the fire because they wouldn't compromise and rather than crying and getting mad at God for it faith came roaring out of their heart; Where does faith like this come from? – Isaiah 43:2-5-It comes from being 100% rooted in God and in His ways

2. Numbers 13:30, 14:9-Don't minimize the obstacles: The giants, walled cities, they are completely outnumbered and outmatched, they are just a bunch of ex-slaves and yet faith comes roaring out of them – We are well able, they are bread for us – Where does faith like this come from? Num14:9-God is with/for us
3. 1Sam17:45-48-Where does faith like this come from?
4. Psalm 3:6-I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that surround me – Where does faith like this come from?
5. Ps118:6-He's not going to fear because this revelation burns within – God is for me
6. Psalm 56:9,11-He's not going to be afraid because he knows this, he's persuaded of this – God is for me

C. [Josh1:5-9-Revelation that God is for you, will provoke your faith](#)

1. The moment you start to wonder or question whether or not God is for you, whether are not God is doing everything He can, your faith is gone