



# **What is God Really Like?**

**Spiritual Day January 2, 2009**

# What is God Really Like?



## Why is this important to know?

- ❖ If you want to be friends with someone you need to know what he/she is like.
- ❖ If you don't know what God is like, you won't know how to have a relationship with Him.
- ❖ Study of the 50 biggest atheists of all time like Karl Marx and Joseph Stalin.
  - One common theme

# What is God Really Like?



Part of Jesus' purpose was to reveal who God is when He came into this world.

If we would ask Christ what is God like?  
What would Jesus say?

Matthew 6:9

“ In this manner, therefore, pray: **Our Father** in heaven...”

Call God your Father

# THIS IS HUGE

# What is God Really Like?



**The entire old testament refers to God as “Father” only 7 times.**

**Christ called God father in this chapter alone 7 times. And over 150 times in the four Gospels.**

# This is Good News and Bad News



## Good:

- ❖ God is a father and not a force.
- ❖ Good because you can have a relationship with him. You can be friends with him.

## Bad:

- ❖ A lot of us think of our Heavenly Father like our earthly father.
- ❖ Absentee, punishment, unfair, Alaa
- ❖ No thanks

# What is God Really Like?



The second part of Matthew 6:9

“ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father  
**in heaven...**”

# What is God Really Like?



## Three ways God is not like an earthly father:

### 1. God is not unreasonable

- a) Fun Police
- b) Grades
- c) You can't think of God that way or else you won't get close to Him.

# What is God Really Like?



## 2. God is not unreliable

- a) Some people think, because they have been let down by their earthly father, that God is unreliable too.
- b) Some people think that God let them down when something bad happens
- c) Drunk driver
- d) The worst thing you can do is blame God for something bad.
- e) James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights...”

# What is God Really Like?



## 3. God is not unconcerned

- a) We sometimes think because our earthly dads are busy at work and don't make it to our practices and games that God in heaven is too busy for us.

# What is God Really Like?



Those three characteristics are the ones that we usually take from our earthly fathers and project them onto our heavenly Father.

Not all earthly fathers are like this, most are pretty good.

The goal of today is tell you what God is really like. So erase what you know about God and lets see what the bible tells us about God.

# What is God Really Like?



## Four main characteristics of God, our heavenly Father:

1. **God is a caring Father**
  - a) This is his number 1 characteristic. God is Love. You can't know God without knowing Love.
  - b) He cares about you more than you know, realize and understand. (He loves the whole world)
  - c) Psalm 103:13 “As a father has compassion *his* children, So does the LORD to those who fear Him.”

# What is God Really Like?



- d) Jesus and disciples in the boat during the storm
- e) Why would we come to church if God didn't care?
- f) 1Peter 5:7 "... casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."
- g) He cares always and in every situation - Flat tire, Car payments, No friends, 3 papers to write in 2 hours
- h) There is nothing about you that he doesn't care about.

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- i) **Mat 6:25-26 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?**
- j) **He cares about all the hairs on your head.**
- k) **Some people don’t stop sinning because they say they don’t love God enough.**
- l) **If you know how much God loves you then you have no choice on how much to love him back. Our love to God is a response to how much He loves us and not the opposite.**

# What is God Really Like?



## 2. God is a consistent Father

- a) What is an inconsistent father like?
- b) Personal example
- c) We think God is the same way but look at James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, **with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.**”
- d) Malachi 3:6 “For I *am* the LORD, I do not change.”
- e) You can’t be close to God if he changed

# What is God Really Like?



## 3. God is a close father.

- a) He is not far away. You don't have to travel a long way to talk to him. You don't have to go through obstacles to get to him. He is right here. He is everywhere.
- b) Acts 17:27 “so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, **though He is not far from each one of us.**”
- c) Time magazine did a study showing that parents spend 22 hours less per week with their kids than they did back in 1969.
- d) No wonder why people think God is not close

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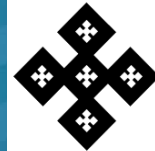
- e) Three implications to God being close:
- a) God is not too busy for anyone. Psalm 145:18  
“The LORD *is* near to **all** who call upon Him”
  - b) He loves to meet my needs, Mat 7:11 “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”
    - Don’t feel like you have to wait till He is in a good mood.
    - I am not saying that God will give you everything you ask for but I am saying that he is also open to you asking.
  - c) God is sympathetic to my hurts. When you cry God feels it. God doesn’t say things like, suck it up and move on. He won’t say put a band-aid on it and move one. Psalm 34:18. “The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart,”

# What is God Really Like?



## 4. God is a competent Father

- a) What does competent mean?
- b) God is very competent - Luke 1:37 "For with God nothing will be impossible."
- c) How do TV shows portray fathers?
- d) Eph 3:20 "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think." (Moses example)



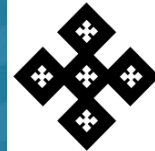
## **What is God Really Like?**

**Look at the 4 characteristics and which one are you struggling with. Which one don't I believe?**

**You will not live the life God wants for you if you don't realize these 4 things.**

**Hebrew translation of the bible called god Ava. Literally is daddy. Term of endearment.**

**Other religions say that you have to do a bunch of things to talk to him. Not true. God wants to be your daddy and have an intimate relationship, not just on Sundays.**



## **What is God Really Like?**

**God is the father of everyone, but does that mean everyone in the world has a relationship with him?**

**NO, because we need to choose to have the relationship with him.**

# Questions



**Glory be to God forever and ever, Amen.**