

September 2022

Is God YOUR God?

Praise the Lord, Partners and Friends!

God is good, and His mercy endures forever! Who wouldn't want to serve a God like Him?!?!

I started to write, "Who wouldn't want to serve a God like *ours*," but I felt a check in my spirit. The Lord has been ministering something to me for the last couple of months that I'd like to share with you. I'm going to ask you a question. I want you to answer it soberly and then to SELAH – pause and think about it. Then answer again:

Is God – the one true God, the Creator of Heaven and earth - your God?

Is He the first One you turn to in times of joy, sorrow, plenty, and need? The One you look to for your provision and supply, your needs and desires? The One you look to for your acceptance and deliverance? The One in Whom you put your trust? The One you allow to come through for you every time?

That's what He wants, you know. He wants to be the One Who comes through for us every time. He wants to be everything we need. Let me rephrase: He wants us to *let* Him be everything we need – because He already IS everything we need. And whether we know it or not, He is everything we want, too. Will we let Him be that to and for us?

God expressed His heart to His people, the Children of Israel, when He gave them the Ten Commandments. The very first commandment was, "*Thou shalt have no other gods before Me*" (Ex. 20:3). He prefaced this commandment with, "*I am the Lord thy God, Which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage*" (Ex. 20:2). Do you know what He was communicating with this statement? He was communicating that "<u>I</u> am the One Who brought you out. <u>I</u> did for you what you <u>could not do for yourself</u> and what no one else could do for you. If I did this for you, don't you know I want to do everything else for you, too?"

He goes on with the other nine commandments – none of which are a "*Don't you dare do this, or else*" kind of deal. Rather, they point to God's people not needing to depend on any god but Him because He is ready, willing, and able to fulfill all their needs and desires (Ex. 20:4-7). They point to His people following the systems He set in place so they could enjoy the long and abundant life He had for them (Ex. 20:8-12). They point to His people not needing to take matters into their own hands or to desire what belongs to someone else because He is taking care of them and will provide them with their hearts' desires if they let Him (Ex. 20:13-18).

God wanted to be *their* God. He wanted to *belong* to them. He wanted to give Himself to them to bless them. And guess what? He wants to be *your* God. He wants to belong to *you*. He wants to give Himself to *you* to bless *you*! He's not trying to be "Mr. Dictator God." He desires to be your loving Heavenly Father, Who supplies you with everything you need to live the good life that He preordained for you (see Eph. 2:10, AMPC).



Some of you might be saying, "*Prophetess Free, the Ten Commandments were in the Old Testament. We are not under the law.*" You have a point. But let me remind you: **1**) Jesus did not come to do away with the law. He came to *fulfill* it (Matthew 5:17), and **2**) We New Testament Saints are instructed to flee from idolatry (I Cor. 10:14) and to keep ourselves from idols (I John 5:21).

I Corinthians 10:14 in the Amplified Classic translation defines idolatry as "loving or venerating anything more than God." God does not want us to love, honor, or worship anything more than Him. Why? Because He knows that if we desire anything more than Him and choose to go after it, we will come up empty. Not only will we come up empty, but we will also remove ourselves from God's protective cover and fountain of Blessing. We will experience pain and disappointment that God never designed for us.

You may remember that I have been engaging in the "Read through the Bible in a Year" exercise. As I read through the book of I and II Kings, I picked up on a thread I hadn't noticed before. Do you know the one thing that angered God more than anything else? Yes, *WORSHIPPING IDOLS!* Let's take a look:

- <u>I Kings 14:9 AMPC</u> (Speaking to King Jeroboam): But you have done evil above all who were before you; for you have made yourself other gods, molten images, to provoke me to anger...
- <u>I Kings 14:15 AMPC:</u> The Lord will smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water; and He will root up Israel out of this good land which He gave to their fathers and will scatter them... because they have made their Asherim [idolatrous symbols of the goddess Asherah], *provoking the Lord to anger*.
- <u>I Kings 16:26 AMPC</u> (Speaking of King Omri): He walked in all the ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat and in his sin, by which he made Israel sin, *to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger* with their idols.
- <u>I Kings 16:31-33 AMPC</u>: As if it had been a light thing for Ahab to walk in the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, he took for a wife Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and **served Baal and worshiped him. He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal,** which he built in Samaria. And Ahab **made an Asherah [idolatrous symbol of the goddess Asherah].** *Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel before him.*
- <u>I Kings 22:53 AMPC</u> (Speaking of King Ahaziah): **He served Baal and worshiped him** and *provoked the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger* in all the ways his father (Ahab) had done.
- <u>II Kings 17:9-12 AMPC:</u> The Israelites did secretly against the Lord their God things not right... **They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim [symbols of the goddess Asherah]** on every high hill and under every green tree. There they burned incense on all



the high places, as did the nations whom the Lord carried away before them; and they did wicked things *provoking the Lord to anger*. And **they served idols**, of which the Lord had said to them, You shall not do this thing.

Yes, Brothers and Sisters. Idolatry angers God. Here is your New Testament witness:

• I Corinthians 10:21-22 AMPC: You cannot drink the Lord's cup and the demons' cup. You cannot partake of the Lord's table and the demons' table. **Shall we thus provoke the Lord to jealousy** *and* **anger** *and* **indignation**?

Again, not so He can be "Mr. Dictator God." But so He can be your loving Heavenly Father Who supplies you with everything you need to live the good life that He preordained for you (see Eph. 2:10, AMPC), which is better than anything you can achieve on your own.

I urge you today ~ examine yourself. Is God – the one true God, the Creator of Heaven and earth - *your* God? Is He the first One you turn to in times of joy, sorrow, plenty, and need? The One you look to for your provision and supply, your needs and desires? The One you look to for your acceptance and deliverance? The One in Whom you put your trust? The One you allow to come through for you every time? Or has the bank become your god? The government? Your job? Your friends, family, or significant other? I have news for you, my friend. Anything you place your dependence on other than God has become your god.

You may be wondering what it means to have God as *your* God. Many Christians think that having God as our God is proven or achieved by what we do for Him: how much we serve Him, how much we sacrifice for Him, how much we suffer for Him.... No, Beloved. Having God as our God is not based on what we do for Him but on what He has already done for us simply because He loves us.

The only thing God wants is for us to receive all that He has already provided. He has provided us HIMSELF. By receiving Him for all that He is, we allow Him to live in us and through us. We live the holy, righteous, and sanctified life not by what we do but by what we allow Him to do in us. That is how we live the blessed life. That is how we live the victorious life. That is how we live the abundant life.

How do we show God that He is our God and that we place none other before Him? I submit to you that we declare Him as our God and make Him our "Go-To" – in every situation. David gives us a beautiful example in Psalm 86. He is in trouble, but rather than depending on himself or turning to others to deliver him, he depends completely on the Lord. Him and none other.

Psalm 86 AMPC:

¹ Incline Your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor *and* distressed, needy *and* desiring.
² Preserve my life, for I am godly *and* dedicated; O my God, save Your servant, for I trust in <u>You</u> [leaning and believing on <u>You</u>, committing all and confidently looking to <u>You</u>, without fear or doubt].



- ³ Be merciful *and* gracious to me, O Lord, for to <u>You</u> do I cry all the day. ⁴ Make me, Your servant, to rejoice, O Lord, for to <u>You</u> do I lift myself up.
- ⁵ For You, O Lord, are good, and ready to forgive [our trespasses, sending them away, letting them go completely and forever]; and You are abundant in mercy *and* loving-kindness to all those who call upon You.
- ⁶ Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; and listen to the cry of my supplications. ⁷ In the day of my trouble I will call on <u>You</u>, for You will answer me.
- ⁸ There is none like unto You among the gods, O Lord, neither are their works like unto Yours. ⁹ All nations whom You have made shall come and fall down before You, O Lord; and they shall glorify Your name. ¹⁰ For You are great and work wonders! You alone are God.
- ¹¹ Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk *and* live in Your truth; direct *and* unite my heart [solely, reverently] to fear *and* honor Your name. ¹² I will confess *and* praise You, O Lord <u>my</u> God, with my whole (united) heart; and I will glorify Your name forevermore. ¹³ For great is Your mercy *and* loving-kindness toward me; and You have delivered me from the depths of Sheol [from the exceeding depths of affliction].
- ¹⁴ O God, the proud *and* insolent are risen against me; a rabble of violent *and* ruthless men has sought *and* demanded my life, and they have not set You before them. ¹⁵ But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy *and* loving-kindness and truth.
- ¹⁶ O turn to me and have mercy *and* be gracious to me; grant strength (might and inflexibility to temptation) to Your servant and save the son of Your handmaiden. ¹⁷ Show me a sign of [Your evident] goodwill *and* favor, that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, **because** <u>You</u>, Lord, [will show Your approval of me when You] help and comfort me.

David turns to nothing and no one else. He trusts God to get him out of the trouble he is in.

What about you today? Who do you turn to when you're in trouble? Whether it be financial trouble, emotional trouble, spiritual trouble, trouble on your job, trouble in relationships, trouble in your mind... It doesn't matter. God can deliver you out of it all. Won't you make Him your one and only God today? Have no other gods before Him.

Don't be like the kings and Israelites I listed above who provoked the Lord to anger by building and worshipping idols. Be instead like King Asa, who did right in the eyes of the Lord, as... he **removed all the idols** that his fathers had made or promoted (I Kings 15:11-12 AMPC). **Remove the idols in your life. Dethrone them and allow Jesus to sit squarely on the throne of your heart.**

If I am talking to you, allow me to lead you in prayer. It doesn't matter if you are a newcomer, a seasoned Saint, or anyone in between:



Father,

Thank You for Your love. Thank You for your correction. I praise You, Lord, for You are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy and loving-kindness and truth. I receive Your mercy, loving-kindness, and truth.

I ask that You forgive me for having other gods before You. I dethrone them now. I receive my forgiveness.

Jesus, I ask You to be the King of my heart. I make You the Lord of my life. I turn from doing things my way. I turn to doing things your way. I repent of trying to take care of myself. I give You the reins of my life. I place all of my trust in You.

> I believe that You are the Son of God. I believe that God raised You from the dead on the third day. I receive You as my Savior.

I declare, Father, that You are my God. You and You alone. I ask You for the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. I thank You for the power and the ability to live the abundant life that You have given me. I believe, I receive, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Praise God! *Welcome to the family!* or *Congratulations on your re-dedication!* (Grab the one that belongs to you! ③) If you prayed that prayer, <u>contact me</u> and let me know. I'd love to celebrate with you and be a blessing to you!

If you receive this Word, I encourage you to sow a seed to connect with this Word and activate what you have received. Use this seed to activate a deeper desire and greater commitment to let God be your one and only God. Name your seed for the harvest you are expecting. I stand in agreement with you as you stand on the Word of God.

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