

GOD DRAWS HUMANS TO ETERNAL LIFE

There is a Hindu prayer that reads:

From the unreal lead me to the **real**:
From the darkness lead me to **light**:
From death lead me to **immortality**.

The elements of unreality, darkness, and death, are universally unwanted characteristics. However, those elements are indeed uniquely experienced by every individual person in every generation. The only living, loving Godhead answers this prayer and brings a person's deepest longings to life.

Jesus' apostle Paul wrote,
[God] saved us
and
called us to a holy calling,
not because of our works
but because of his own purpose and grace,
which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,
and
which now has been manifested
through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus,
who abolished death
and
brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,
2 Timothy 1:9-10 (ESV)

God created and endowed the human family with reality, light, and immortality. The quality of "reality" is experienced in each person as consciousness. Each person is unique. I am no one other than me! God has given me my own self! The quality of "light" is awareness. I am not in a coma. My experience in the world is real and unique to me. Also I have the "light" of life. The quality named "immortality" is each person's longevity. The Bible teaches that each human is an immortal being even though death awaits each physical body. Immortal beings will exist in some location after the fleshly body dies. Where is this location?

Speaking of humans and beasts, Solomon wrote, "All go unto one place; all are of

the dust, and all turn to dust again." (Ecclesiastes 3:20 KJV) Solomon was speaking of the physical body, flesh and blood. But then later Solomon spoke of the separation of body and spirit which is called death and wrote, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." (Ecclesiastes 12:7 KJV) Yes, God created and endowed the human family with conscious reality, enlightened light, and ceaseless immortality.

However, the human experience in the fleshly body is corrupted with sin. Sin brings a bitter reality; sin causes darkness and misunderstanding; sin threatens our immortal life with the Creator. But the sin that so ruins the human race can be overcome by God's great merciful gift of forgiveness! God's forgiveness of sin can be received through a person's faith, repentance, and obedience to God.

The eternal God created human uniqueness and endowed the human spirit with everlasting existence. God planted living seed with countless DNA in both the first man and woman so that flesh and eternal spirit were created and united in the same physical body. God then blessed the first couple by saying, "be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28). The couple was created in the image of God and was empowered to bear children who possessed the same "image", the characteristics of God. And so God's image was passed along to all succeeding generations of humans, from the beginning down to the present. You have the image of God stamped into your existence!

Every human being is created in a woman's womb in God's image. Why has God given this power to humans? God has done this because God is love (1 John 4:16). Humans intuitively know that true LOVE always wishes to share life. God shared His immortality with human beings. Jesus' apostle John wrote that life "was the light of men" (John 1:4), and like a candle-fly is drawn to light, that eternal endowment within our hearts draws us to God. Do you feel the tug?

Jesus likened this "tug" to hunger and thirst. Jesus said, "**Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**" (Matthew 5:6 KJV) Furthermore Jesus advised those who were worried about life in this world to "**seek...first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**" (Matthew 6:33 KJV) Jesus predicted then that there are some prerequisites for seeking the eternal kingdom of God.

Jesus' apostle Paul talked about these prerequisites in Athens Greece. While speaking to a group of educators about who they called the "Unknown God", Paul

said that "God provides sustenance and providence as His prerequisites to His "draw". "He is the God who made the whole world and everything in it. He is the Lord of the land and the sky. He does not live in temples built by human hands. He is the one who gives people life, breath, and everything else they need. ...God began by making one man, and from him he made all the different people who live everywhere in the world. He decided exactly when and where they would live. "God wanted people to look for him, and perhaps in searching all around for him, they would find him. But he is not far from any of us. It is through him that we are able to live, to do what we do, and to be who we are. As your own poets have said, 'We all come from him.' "That's right. We all come from God. So you must not think that he is like something people imagine or make. He is not made of gold, silver, or stone. In the past people did not understand God, and he overlooked this. But now he is telling everyone in the world to change and turn to him." ([Acts 17:24-30 Easy-to-Read Version](#)) The reason that the apostle Paul was reasoning with those educators was because eternal life with God is the true destiny of every human!

However, there are many people who wish to escape the gravity of eternity and the "draw" of God! They deny that God sustains them or provides for them! They may not believe in God at all. But the draw of God is hard to escape because physical death is an ever present reminder of a hidden desire for immortality! "One person dies after living a full and successful life, a life completely safe and comfortable, (24) with a body that was well fed and bones that were still strong. (25) But another person dies after a hard life that has made them bitter, never having enjoyed anything good. (26) In the end, both of these people will lie together in the dirt. The worms will cover them both." ([Job 21:23-26 ERV](#)) Yes, Death is all around us and we know that our time to die will come! Death is inescapable!

This awareness **should** make us curious about eternity. It **should** make us ask Job's question, "If a man dies, shall he live again?" Even the ancient man Job had an expectation of life after death. That's right! After asking his question, Job went on to confess that if it were so that there is life after death then he would wait patiently. Job said, "All the days of my service I would wait, till **my renewal** should come. [Job called his death "My Renewal"!] You would call, and I would answer you; you would long for the work of your hands. For then you would number my steps; you would not keep watch over my sin; my transgression would be sealed up in a bag, and you would cover over my iniquity." ([Job 14:14-17 ESV](#)) Job was anticipating God's gracious forgiveness of his sin. Job was anticipating

eternity with God. Yes it is hard to escape the draw of God's eternity!

Jesus predicted how God would finally "draw" people to Christ. Jesus said, "**No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.'** Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— (John 6:44-47) So God "draws" people to Christ by teaching them. An inquiring person who is hungering and thirsting for God and eternity must "hear" and "learn" from the Father.

Jesus made it clear that hearing and learning from God was not actually hearing and learning in the presence of God. Jesus qualified what He said about hearing and learning from God. Jesus explained, It is "**Not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.**" (John 6:44-47 ESV)

You see, believing is **not** seeing first hand. Believing is **not** being personally visited by God or being taken upward into God's presence. Believing is the avenue, the human ability that God has given every human so that a human can span the distance from earth to heaven. Faith is the bridge between humans and God. "Without faith it is impossible to please God!" (Hebrews 11:6). "So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17 KJV) Yes, humans must hear and learn from God in order to come to Jesus Christ.

Faith is the result of testimony, God's testimony, God's word. If a person rejects it and cuts himself off from God's Word then he effectively disables the only mechanism for approaching and pleasing God! "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

However, when a person hears, learns, and believes God's testimony that person is then exposed to God's "gravity" that draws that person to Christ. Believers are drawn to Christ because He is the reason God can forgive. The testimony of God tells us the good news that Jesus Christ has taken our penalty for our sins. "He was being punished for what we did. He was crushed because of our guilt. He took the punishment we deserved, and this brought us peace [*with God*]. We were healed because of his pain. We had all wandered away like sheep. We had gone our own way. And yet the LORD put all our guilt on him. He was treated badly, but he never protested. He said nothing, like a lamb being led away to be killed. He was like a sheep that makes no sound as its wool is being cut off. He never opened his mouth to defend himself. He was taken away by force and judged unfairly. The people of his time did not even notice that he was killed. But he was put to death for the sins of his people. He had done no wrong to anyone.

He had never even told a lie. But he was buried among the wicked. His tomb was with the rich. But the LORD was pleased with this humble servant who suffered such pain. Even after giving himself as an offering for sin, he will see his descendants and enjoy a long life. He will succeed in doing what the LORD wanted." (This was the prediction of God's forgiveness, justified by Son Jesus Christ. Isaiah 53:5-10 ERV)

Friends, do you long to live life to its fullest reality? Do you wish to possess the "light" of understanding? Do wish to live forever with God, which is what God wants from you? Then look for all of this in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. Visit a church of Christ near you and sit at God's feet so that He can properly draw you to His Jesus Christ and His eternal kingdom. You can be a citizen of the Kingdom of God and His Christ.