

ORDER OF SERVICE

February 5, 2023

The big problem: we recreate God in our image

Hos 11:9

Worship in Fellowship
Worship in Music
Worship in Message
Worship in Giving

Wayne Braudrick

Love Exists

Selected Scriptures

Love Is Series

Life Change: We love the great I Am.

My Pa was a talented athlete?!

The big idea

Gen 3:13-15

I AM

Humans lack the ability to grasp God

Other subjects we can comprehend and grapple with; in them we feel a kind of self-contentment, and go on our way with the thought, "I am wise." But when we come to this master science, finding that our plumbline cannot sound its depth, and that our eagle eye cannot see its height, we turn away with the thought, "I am but of yesterday and know nothing." – Charles Spurgeon, Sermon on Malachi 3:6

God is incomprehensible. Incomprehensibility does not mean that we know nothing of God, but that we know only in part. Our knowledge may be true, but it's not exhaustive. – Joseph Pipa, "Lord Without End"

The big solution: God is the Father

Matt 6:7-9

The Father desires conversation with His children

The Father is love

The God of the Judeo-Christian biblical faith is holy God, the almighty Creator and Lord, totally other than everything and everyone he has made. We therefore cannot know and worship him unless he reveals himself to us. But with a love surpassing human understanding, he has revealed himself to us as the Holy One of Israel...the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In that revelation, now mediated for us through the Scriptures, he has offered to adopt us as his beloved children (John 1:12; Gal. 4:4-7), to allow us to call him Father, Abba (see Rom. 8:14-17), and to know him as his Son Jesus Christ knows him. – Elizabeth Achtemeier, "God is Not Mother"



PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy Janna Braudrick

Those who can't do,



courtesy freepix

Coach Close: You boys must be smart, tough athletes like my old friend, Benny.

Me: Wait... what?





He showed me the yearbooks and the newspaper clippings from when Pa was named all-state running back.



Richard Close



Benny Braudrick



I was humbled by the truth that he had an existence beyond merely interacting with me.





GOD

IS LOVE

**I get whatever
I want!**



courtesy liveabout



¹³ Then Moses asked God, “If I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what should I tell them?”

¹⁴ God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.”

Exodus 3 CSB

GEN

EXODUS

LEV

NUM

DEUT

JOSH

¹⁴ God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.”

Exodus 3 CSB

Hebrew: אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה *ehyeh 'ăšer 'ehyeh* = Existent being who/that is existent being

In the ancient world, a name represented character.

Moses, for example:

- **The Egyptian sound *mo* means water, and it is added to *uses* which signifies drawing something out (especially used for gathering reeds or fish from the water.)**
- **The Hebrew verb *mashah* means to deliver, and Moshe [Moses] is apparently contrived from it. (However, we don't know when some words got their meaning. *Mashah* may have been coined later to describe the actions of Moses, Israel's deliverer.)**

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Exodus 3 CSB

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Hebrew: *ehyeh 'ăšer 'ehyeh* =
Existent being who/that is
existent being

Heb: YHWH = self-existent
One, always has been, will
be, and exists in complete
personal sovereignty

Exodus 3 CSB

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YHWH means the self-existent One, but it’s more than just that. It’s also a relational covenant name.





The always-present God had demonstrated His character in the past to the fathers (patriarchs; cf. vv. 6, 16; 4:5) and that willingness to look over

His people tenderly is an abiding attribute. He is to be remembered by that name forever...the immanent God who cares for and loves His chosen ones. – John Hannah, *Exodus*





**He said God's self-existence
cannot be humanly
understood – something I
took as a personal
challenge.**



courtesy cefonline

**I don't know! I don't know how God can just always BE.
Why don't you sit there until you figure it out so we can
have some peace!**





courtesy Corbin Kimberling

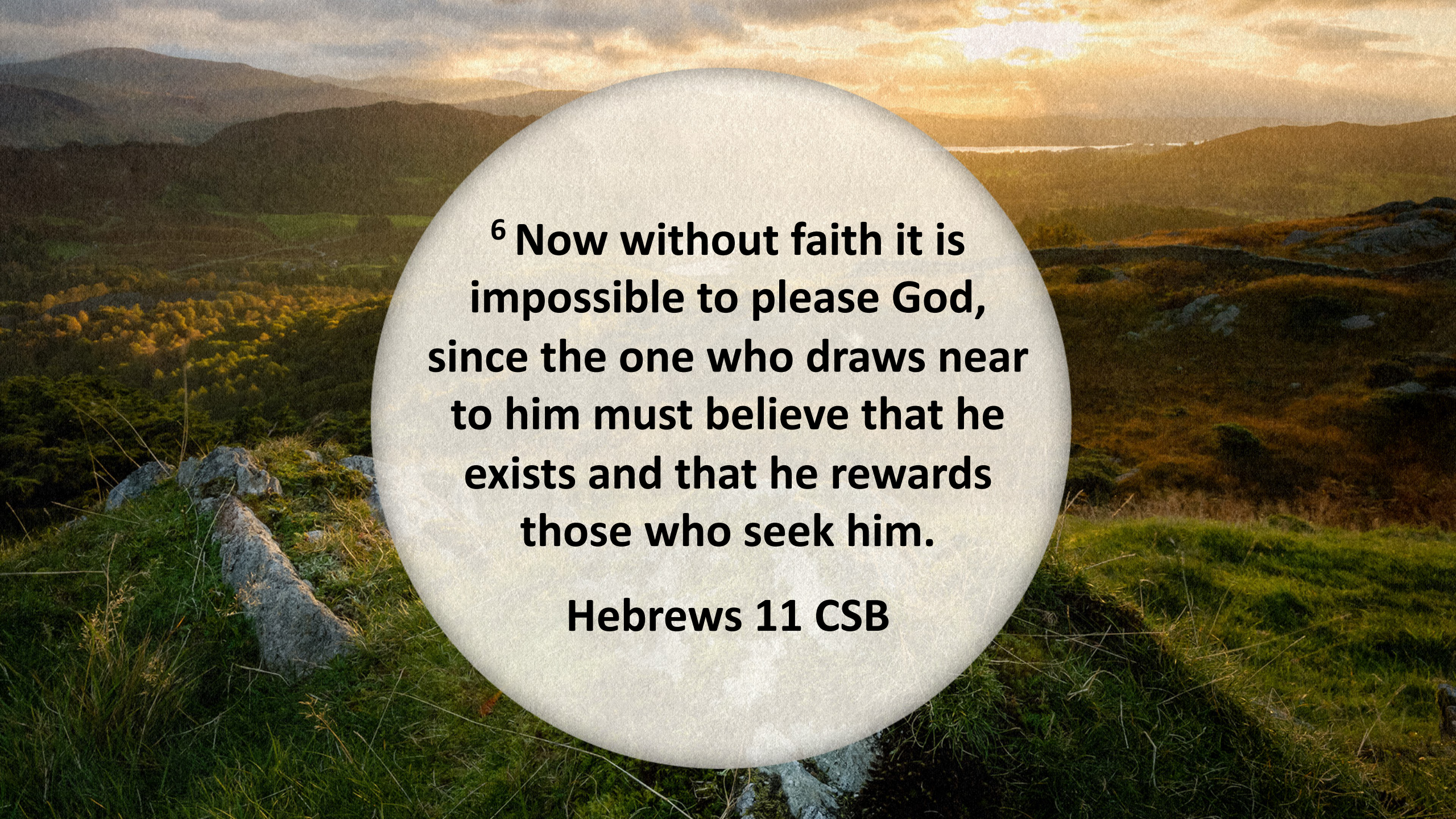


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courtesy NASA



⁶ Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11 CSB

Exodus 3 CSB

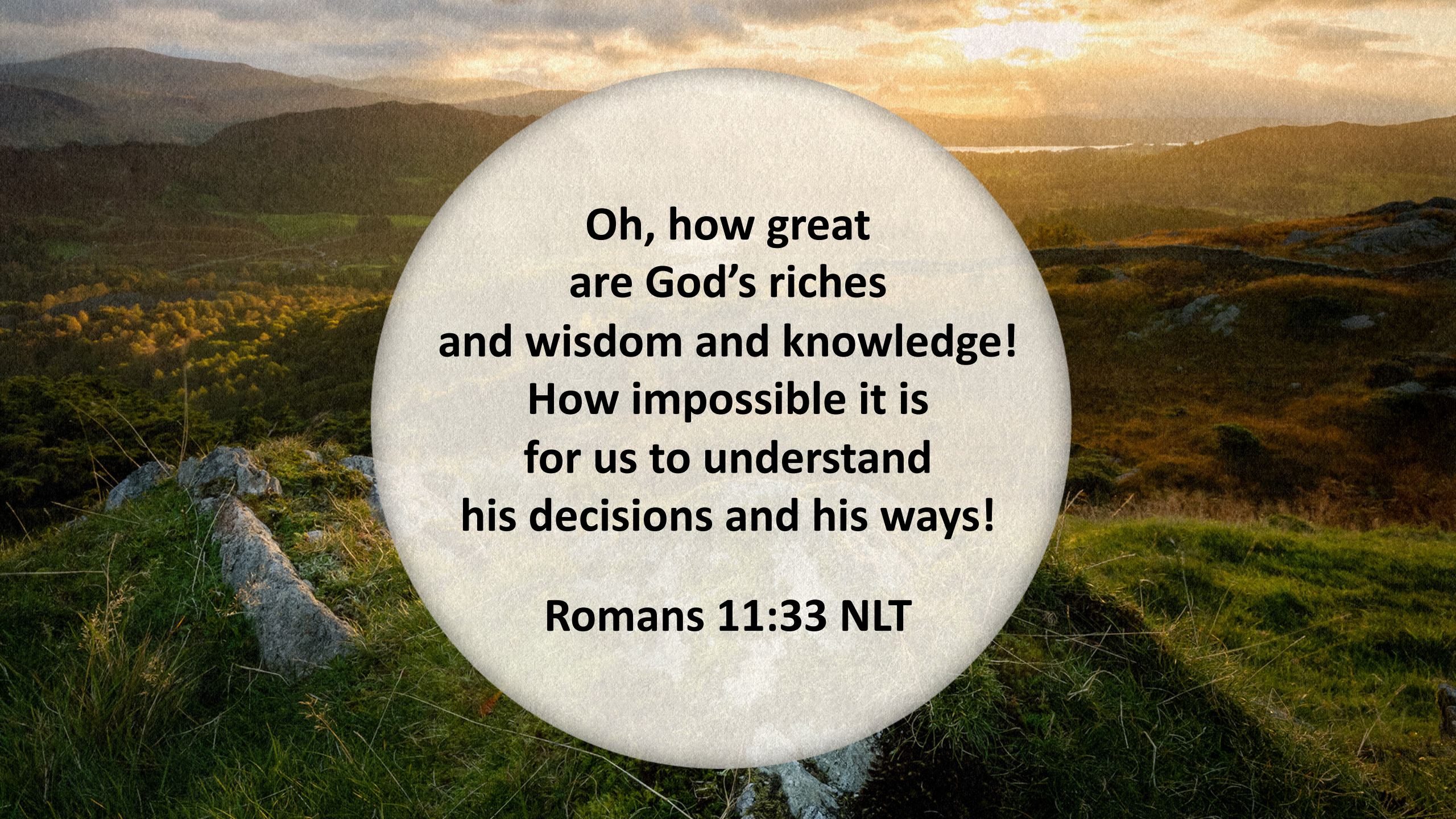
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Hebrew: *ehyeh 'ăšer 'ehyeh* =
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Heb: YHWH = self-existent One,
always has been, will be, and
exists in complete personal
sovereignty

Finitum non capax infiniti.

“The finite cannot comprehend the infinite.”



**Oh, how great
are God's riches
and wisdom and knowledge!
How impossible it is
for us to understand
his decisions and his ways!**

Romans 11:33 NLT



God grasps everything in a moment, the beginning, the middle, and the end of the entire human race and of all time. And what we consider and measure according to the sequence of time as a very long, extended tapeline, He sees in its entirety, as though wound together in a ball. – Martin Luther, *What Luther Says: An Anthology*

**God is incomprehensible.
Incomprehensibility does not mean that
we know nothing of God, but that we
know only in part. Our knowledge may be
true, but it's not exhaustive.**

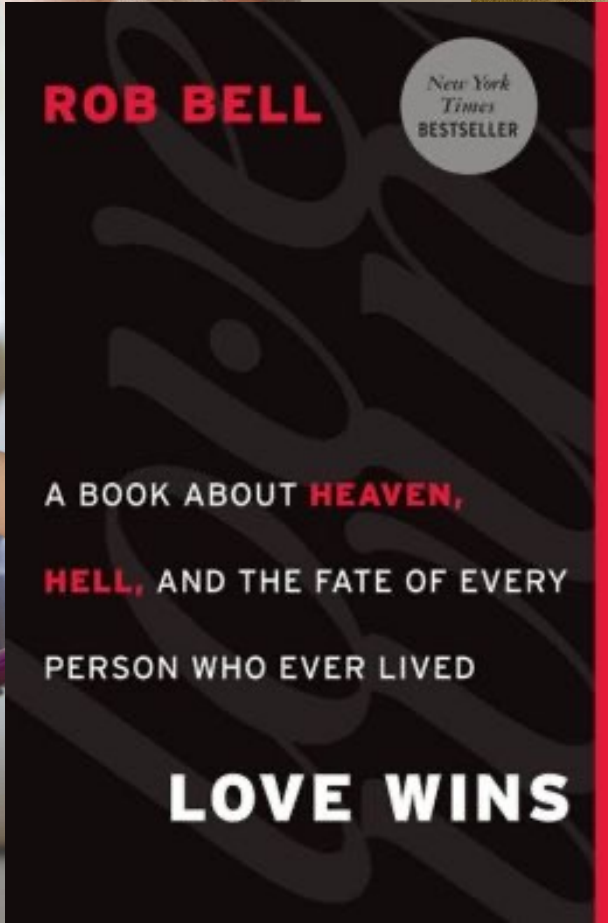
– Joseph Pipa, “Lord Without End”



I get whatever I want!

fake God made in our image

God the Father Almighty





**Warum ist es wichtig,
dass Menschen eine
richtige Vorstellung von
Gott haben?
[Why is it a big deal for
people to have a
correct concept
of God?]**



**A nation which has a false or bad
conception of God has also a bad
state, bad government, and bad laws.
– Georg Hegel**

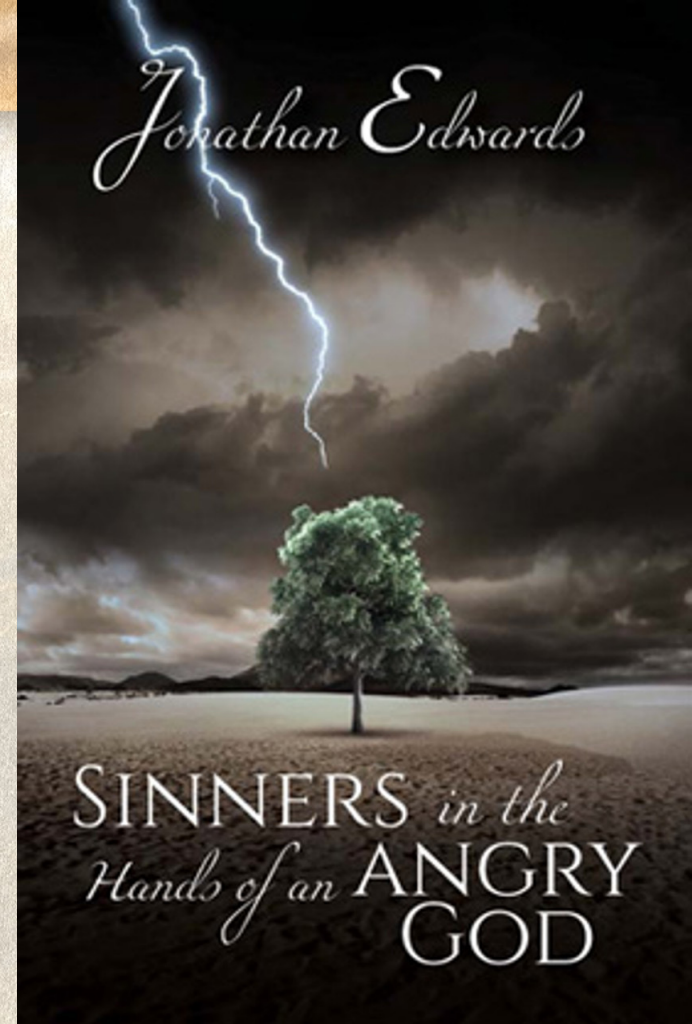
**Note: Hegel is a very flawed theologian.
Read with wisdom!**


Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel
Jakob Schlesinger
1831

God in the hands of angry sinners.
– R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*
People get angry that God doesn't do what we want. He won't change with our changing values, so we take our concept of god in hand and rework him so that he can escape our wrath.



Though it deals with Hell, Edward's sermon is very hopeful because God takes people who trust Him and reworks them to be acceptable. The Father puts His righteous wrath on God the Son and transforms the Christian.





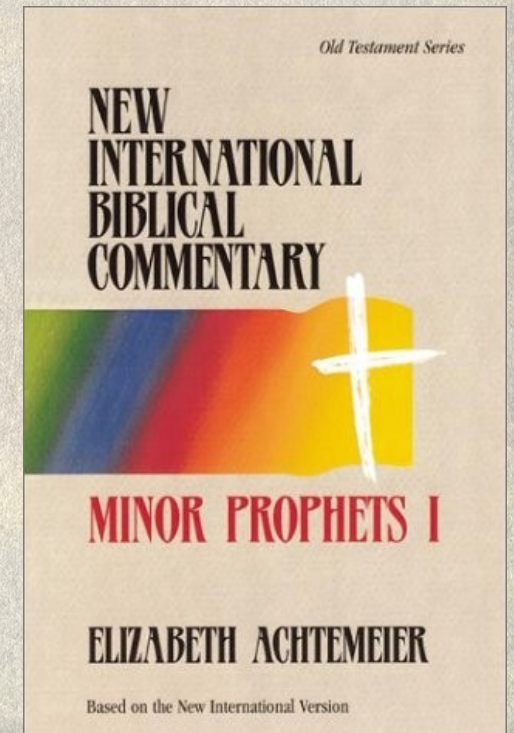
**⁹ for I am God and not a man,
the Holy One in your midst**

Hosea 11 ESV

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Hosea 11 ESV

By insisting on female language for God, the radical feminists simply continue to emphasize the nonbiblical view that God does indeed have sexuality. – Elizabeth Achtemeier



Recreated God of “Neotheism”

- **God knows past & present, but learns future, free events.**
- **God is passable. That is, He can be acted upon.**
- **God is composite (made of parts), not One God in three Persons.**
- **God is mutable. Change is good for Him as it is for people.**
- **God’s sovereignty is limited. He needs our help to carry out His plan.**
- **God is fallible. He can and has erred.**

Quiz re: concept of God the Father

Y/N The god of most religions is essentially the same.

Y/N I sometimes think that if I mess up badly enough, God's good plans will be ruined.

Y/N The God of the Old Testament is different than the Lord of the New Testament.

Y/N It's important to revise one's theology to better align with culture.

Y/N I sometimes believe God needs my help.

Quiz re: concept of God the Father

Y/N If God knows the future, then He is sinfully culpable for the pain and sin that will occur.

Y/N I picture God as limited by time/space.

Y/N I picture God as completely transcendent of & removed from time/space.

Y/N God would agree with my political views.

Y/N God wants me to be happy, wealthy, and healthy in this life.



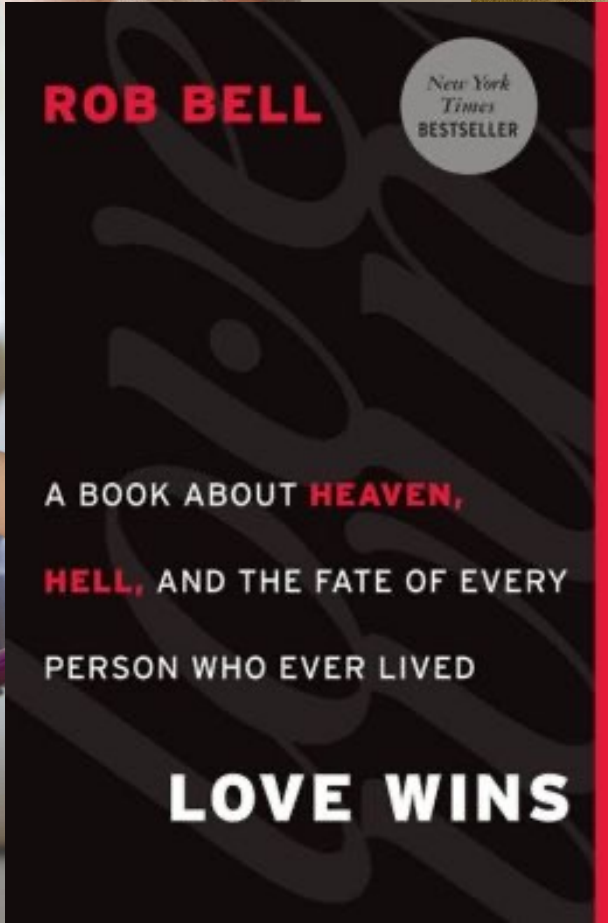
GOD

IS LOVE

I get whatever I want!

fake God made in our image

God the Father Almighty



**⁷ When you pray, don't babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words. ⁸ Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him. ⁹ Therefore, you should pray like this:
Our Father...**

Matthew 6 CSB



courtesy daddysaturday

We love our parents, and God does want us to be in a relationship with them. However, you *need* a relationship with God the Father. When things are not what they appear or how they should be with your birth parents, or if your birth parents are no longer here, know that you have a heavenly Father who is willing to hear you and ready to be close to you.

**– Sandra Hamer Smith,
“Why is God Known as Our Father?”**





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Matthew 6 CSB



courtesy virtue

Clients worked for a Roman landowner. They could approach when invited.



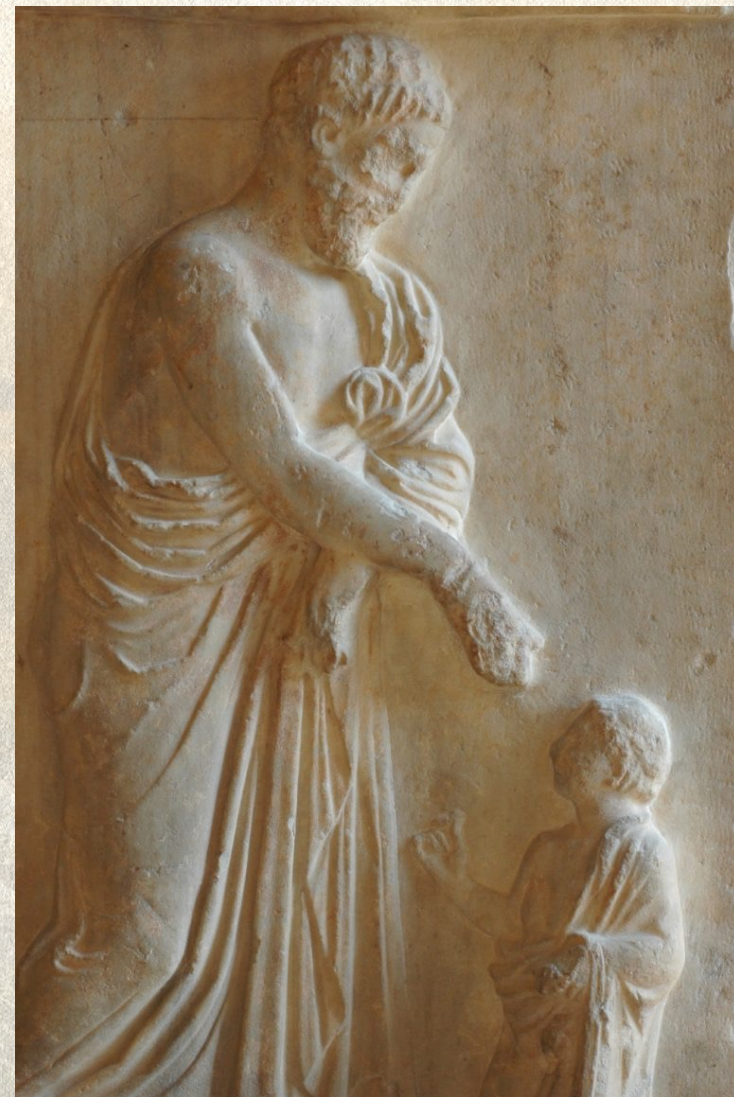
Legitimate children could approach the paterfamilias on their own. Family could start the discussion.



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Matthew 6 CSB



¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God—God remains in him and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

1 John 4 CSB

**That is what we
are looking for!**

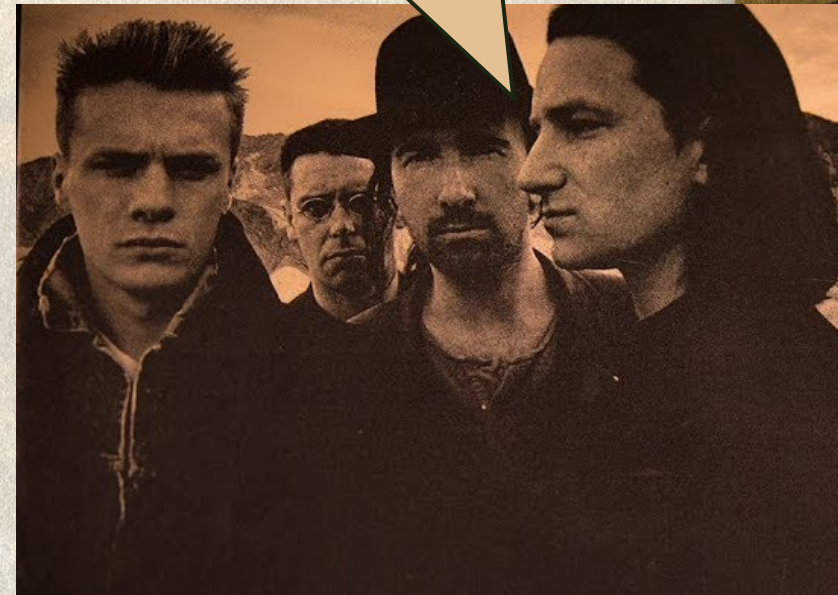


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¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God—God remains in him and he in God.

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– Elizabeth Achtemeier, “God is Not Mother”

**Love exists.
Love creates.
Love pursues.
Love harmonizes.
Love sacrifices.
Love reigns.
Love sanctifies.
Love plans.
Love judges.
Love lives.**



BENNY BRAUDRICK



HALL OF HONOR RECIPIENT 2012

A 1960 graduate of BHS.
Dedicated himself to bettering
Bethany and developing young
athletes through coaching.
Supporter of Bethany Schools
and athletics.

Because we study the Father, we:

- **Stop remaking God in our image.**
- **Rely on absolute truth.**
- **Trust the Father.**
- **Pray, knowing prayer matters.**
- **Understand God's will.**
- **View evil is a subservient part of greater good.**
- **Share Christ with confidence.**
- **Rest in God's stable control.**



I confess that I don't spend much time contemplating the wonder of God and all His attributes. I pray that this series will activate me to worship Him with reverence and awe; to love Him with all my heart and soul and mind and strength by obeying His commands; and to continually enjoy fellowship with Him and all who are in Christ through Jesus our Lord and Savior. I'm praying that you will be filled with the awe and wonder of God as you prepare and present this week.

**Objective [what we hope to see God accomplish in us]
That we know the Father and make Him known.**

**¹⁰ All you have made will thank you, LORD;
the faithful will bless you.**

**¹¹ They will speak of the glory of your kingdom
and will declare your might,**

**¹² informing all people of your mighty acts
and of the glorious splendor of your kingdom. ^{CSB}**

Psalm 145 CSB

Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity...The proper



study of the Christian is the Godhead.

The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can engage the attention of a child of God is the name, the nature, person, the doings, and the existence of the great God which he calls Father.

– Charles Spurgeon, *Sermon on Malachi 3:6*

