

Divine Reactions

Titus 2:11-13

Divine Reaction to Man

Man is sin-sick and hell bound

Titus 2:11-13

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ

God acknowledges human emotions and encourages believers to respond with faith and trust.

God's response to humanity is characterized by love, guidance, and a willingness to engage in a relationship, as illustrated through scripture and personal experiences.

God's Communication

Listening and Answering: God promises to listen and respond to those who call upon Him.

Jeremiah 29:12

"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you". This indicates that God is attentive to our prayers and concerns.

Guidance Through Scripture:

The Bible serves as a primary means through which God communicates His will and guidance.

Isaiah 30:21

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Prayer as Dialogue:

Engaging in prayer is a way to respond to God and receive His responses.

Prayer is not just about speaking to God but also about listening to His guidance and wisdom.

As noted, "Prayer was the essence of David's life," highlighting the importance of maintaining an ongoing conversation with God.

Isaiah 58:9“

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; You will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.

Isaiah 30:19

O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

Isaiah 65:24

It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.

Divine Reactions

Acting in Faith: Responding to God often requires stepping out in faith, even when the path is unclear. The act of serving others and living out one's faith is a tangible way to respond to God's love and guidance.

The term "divine" in the context of the Bible refers to that which pertains to God, His nature, and His actions.

It involves the attributes, essence, and works of God as revealed in Scripture.

The divine nature is characterized by holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, and love, among other attributes.

The Bible provides numerous insights into the divine nature and its implications for humanity.

Isaiah 43:10

- “You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he.
- Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.

• Isaiah 44:6

- Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

• Isaiah 45:5

- I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

Divine signs in the Bible are manifestations of God's power and presence, often serving as indicators of His will or as responses to human actions.

- The reactions to these signs vary, ranging from faith and obedience to disbelief and rebellion.
- Reactions to divine signs in the Bible are diverse and often reflect the spiritual state of the individuals or groups involved.
- Faithful responses include awe, worship, obedience, and transformation.
- Conversely, some react with skepticism, fear, or outright rebellion, often resulting in judgment or missed blessings.

2 Peter 1:3-4

- It is written, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- Through these He has given us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, now that you have escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."
- This passage highlights the transformative power of the divine nature, which believers are invited to partake in through faith and the promises of God.

- **Divine Reactions have purpose.**
- God uses all means for his purpose.
- Life in God is a journey, not an event.
- **Romans 8:28**
- “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
- Mankind has personal interest, but God has global interest.

The verse from Romans reminds us that everything, even adversity, is used by God for good.

It assures us that our challenges are not in vain; they are part of a divine plan.

It encourages us to trust in the unseen, believing that God is crafting a story of redemption and purpose.

Each hardship is a chapter in this story, building character, resilience, and faith.

Embracing this truth can lead to profound inner transformation. Adversity, when met with faith, refines our character and aligns us more closely with God's will for our lives.

Deliverance is not always the response.

2 Corinthians 12:9

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’

Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

Deliverance is not always the response.

Philippians 4:12-13

"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Psalms 119:71

It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

- **God's Patience and Longsuffering:**
- The Bible frequently highlights God's patience in dealing with humanity.
- **2 Peter 3:9**
- "The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."
- This reveals God's desire for all to turn to Him, demonstrating His long-suffering nature.
- He may not be pleased, just patient.

- **Righteous Judgment:**
- While God is patient, He is also just.
- **Romans 2:5-6**
- "But because of your hard and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.
- God 'will repay each one according to his deeds.'"
- This passage affirms that God's reactions are always in accordance with His righteousness and justice.

- **Grace and Mercy:**
- God's reactions are often marked by grace and mercy.
- **Ephesians 2:4-5**
- "But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved."
- This highlights God's gracious response to human sin, offering salvation through Jesus Christ.

- **Love and Compassion:**
- God's love is a central theme in His reactions toward humanity.
- **John 3:16**
- "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- This verse summarizes the depth of God's love and His willingness to act sacrificially for the sake of humanity.

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- The Bible provides a comprehensive framework for understanding reactions, both human and divine.
- Believers are encouraged to model their responses after the character of God, exhibiting patience, forgiveness, and love in all circumstances.

- **Divine Favor**
- Divine favor refers to the special grace, kindness, and approval bestowed by God upon individuals or groups. It is an expression of God's benevolence and love, often resulting in blessings, protection, and guidance.
- Divine favor is not earned by human merit but is granted according to God's sovereign will and purpose.
- **Noah: Genesis 6:8**
- "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD." This favor led to Noah being chosen to build the ark, preserving humanity and animal life from the flood.

- **Joseph:**
- Despite his trials, Joseph experienced God's favour, which elevated him to a position of power in Egypt.
- **Genesis 39:21**
- "The LORD was with him and extended kindness to him, granting him favor in the eyes of the prison warden."
- **Purposeful:** God's favor often aligns with His divine plan and purposes. It is bestowed to fulfill His will, as seen in the lives of biblical figures like Joseph and Moses.

Transformative: Those who receive divine favor often experience significant life changes, leading to spiritual growth and fulfillment of God's promises.

Divine Healing

- Divine healing refers to the supernatural intervention by God to restore health and wholeness to an individual.
- It is considered a manifestation of God's power and compassion, often associated with faith and prayer.
- Divine healing is seen as a testament to God's sovereignty over creation and His desire for the well-being of His people.
- In the Old Testament, God is revealed as Jehovah-Rapha,
- "The Lord who heals" (**Exodus 15:26**).
- Healing is often linked to obedience and faithfulness to God's commandments.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ's ministry is characterized by numerous acts of healing, which demonstrate His authority and compassion.

Matthew 4:23

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people."

These acts of healing served as signs of the coming Kingdom of God and the fulfillment of Messianic prophecies.

- **Faith and Prayer**

- Faith is a critical component in the experience of divine healing. Jesus frequently attributed healing to the faith of the individual or those interceding on their behalf, as seen in

- **Matthew 9:22 ,**

- "Your faith has healed you." James 5:14-15 instructs believers to pray for the sick, emphasizing the power of prayer and the role of church elders in anointing the sick with oil.