

God Is

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Where did God come from? Who created God? Not only children but adults pose such questions and may be totally confused when you reply that God isn't a created being, has always existed, and didn't "come from" anywhere.

At the burning bush Moses asked the Lord what he should tell the Israelites when they asked what God's name is. The Lord replied, "I am that I am" (Exodus 3:14). Unfortunately, most newer versions read, "I am who I am," which misses the point that God is eternal and self-existent. He simply "is." No one created Him. He didn't "come from" anywhere. He has always been; He is; and He always will be. Moses understood this and wrote in Psalm 90:2, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

Understanding the concept of eternity challenges us! As creatures of flesh who have always functioned in terms of time, comprehending eternity stretches our minds to the breaking point! How can it be that God is timeless? Or try this on for size: What is time, anyway? I can't even define it without using the term "time" in the definition, which makes it no definition at all!

Our Lord Jesus Christ, being Deity, affirmed His eternal nature as He told the Jews, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). His enemies thought of Him only as a man who had grown up in Nazareth. They refused to acknowledge Him as co-existent with the Father and the Holy Spirit from eternity.

Because God "is," we need not fret about the future. He is already there! As the saying goes, "God's got this!" The song is right: He's got the whole world in His hands.

No Part-Time Help Needed

Jesus has never been in the market for part-time help. He is looking for full-time, fully committed disciples.

Too many of us are like the little boy who cut off his puppy's tail an inch at a time for fear of causing the dog undue pain by lopping off the whole thing at once. We live our lives in partial surrender. We seem content to stop with the verse of the song promising "some of self and some of Thee." And we're ever searching for the elusive answer to what we consider to be life's single most important question: "What is the least I can do and still make it to Heaven?"

We should know better!

We should recognize this anemic attitude of half-hearted Christianity as running counter to what our Lord clearly demands: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever will save his life shall lose it; for whoever will lose his life for My sake, the same shall find it" (Luke 9:23-24).

The apostle Pau gladly answered the Lord's call to commitment. He counted all things as loss and refuse so that he might win Christ (Philippians 3:7-8). He considered himself "*crucified with Christ*" (Galatians 2:20). He counted not his very life as dear to himself (Acts 20:24). And he finally offered himself as a martyred sacrifice (2 Timothy 4:6-7).

Paul was determined to live a "none of self and all of Thee" life.

Are we?

--Dalton Key (Tulsa, OK) via *Old Paths*

The church is not a cruise ship where a handful of people serve the others who are relaxing.

The church is a battleship where it's "all hands on deck" and everyone serves the cause.

Reflecting The Son

Due to its location among sheer mountains and its northern latitude, Rjukan, Norway, does not see natural sunlight from October to March. To illuminate the town, the citizens installed large mirrors on the mountainside to reflect the sun's rays, sending sunlight into the town square. The continuous glow is possible because the giant mirrors rotate with the rising and setting sun.

I like to think of the Christian life as a similar scenario. Jesus said His followers are "*the light of the world*" (Matthew 5:14). John the disciple wrote that Christ the true light "*shines in the darkness*" (John 1:5). So too, Jesus invites us to reflect His light into the darkness around us: "*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven*" (Matthew 5:16). That is a call for us to show love in the face of hatred, patience in response to trouble and peace in moments of turmoil. As the apostle Paul reminds us, "*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light*" (Ephesians 5:8).

Jesus also said, "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life*" (John 8:12). Our light is a reflection of Jesus the Son. Just as without the sun the large mirrors of Rjukan would have no light to reflect, we, too, can do nothing without Jesus.

--Lawrence Darmani (via Athens, AL) adapted

"Baseball cannot be known at a glance. It must be learned, studied, and embraced. To know baseball isn't common; it's an accomplishment one can be proud of." (Author unknown. Could not the same thing be said about Christianity?)