

A Living God
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Introduction: Most people do not have a correct concept of the one true God.

- A. Often the old testament prophets would try to reason with those who worshipped idols.
1. Think! Is this what God is really like? (**Isa 44:16-20**)
 2. Those who worshipped idols did not want the knowledge of the true God in their thoughts.
 3. In short they did not know God and their lives showed it. (**Gal 4:8; 1 Thess 4:4-5**)

“The essence of idolatry is the attempt to make God manageable.”

- B. Sadly there is the same problem facing people today by that which is falsely called “Christianity”.
1. One may speak of a “Jesus” that is “another Jesus”. (**2 Cor 11:3-4**)
 2. The man who knows God will show it in his life. (**Titus 1:16; 1 Jn 4:7-8**)

I. Implications of a Living God

- A. This is a God who **thinks, reasons and plans**.
1. His will is from eternity and is perfect. (**Eph 1:5,9,11**)
 2. His spoken word is described as living. Why? (**Heb 4:12-13**)

Ex. Words of an old preacher to some young preachers:

- B. This is a God who **sees and knows**.
1. This is of great comfort to His servants. (**Psa 139:1-10**)
 2. Why do men act as if He cannot see? What is your God like?
- C. This is a God who **speaks and can be spoken to**.
1. Why do we pray? (**1 John 5:14-15**)
 2. Jesus wanted His disciples to know what God was like! (**Jn 14:8-11**)
 3. How do we know the will of God?
- D. This is a God who is **constantly acting according to His will**.
1. Our salvation depends upon the past, present and future actions of God. (**1 John 2:1-2; Rom 5:9-10**)
 2. Do you trust God for these things? (**1 John 2:3**)

II. The Living God will forgive Sins.

- A. Our entire focus on forgiveness depends upon our understanding of the wrath of a living God.
1. We do not want to stand before God unprepared. (**Rom 1:18; Heb 10:29-31**)
 2. What will the judgment day be like? Do you think about this? (**Jn 8:21,24**)
- B. Some doubt God’s promises on forgiveness.
1. Often this reflects their suspicion based upon the actions of men.
 2. Others fail to know the power and certainty of God’s promises. (**1 John 1:9; Acts 2:38-39**)

3. A doubt of forgiveness can destroy us. What is your God like? **(2 Cor 2:10-11)**

III. The Living God will Avenge Wrong

A. God wants us to trust Him in this area. **(Heb 10:31-32; Rom 12:17-21)**

1. We are afraid that the evil done will not be repaid.
2. The Christian is to rest in the response of God. **(Rev 6:9-11)**
3. Jesus is our example here too. **(1 Pet 2:19-23)**

B. Why do we not trust God to avenge us?

1. We do not think God will expose evil. He will. **(1 Cor 4:2-5)**
2. When we try to "help God out" we will endanger our own souls. Some try to look for evil in others and in the process slander them.

IV. The Living God sees and hears the worship of the righteous.

A. God seeks a certain kind of worshipper. **(John 4:22-24)**

1. God wants us to seek Him as a living God. Our hearts are molded by Him. **(2 Cor 3:3-4)**
2. Great men of God worship this way. Ex. Hezekiah **(2 Kings 19:4-6; Isa 37:4, 14-20)**
3. David also knew this God. **(1 Sam 17:26,36)**

B. Our concept of the fellowship of God depends on this view of God!

1. Do you want God to be with you? **(1 Pet 3:12-13)**
2. Are you forsaken or under His protection? What is your God like?

V. The Living God will deliver the Righteous

A. Often we find ourselves in miserable circumstances with no way out. What do we do?

1. A living God is able to deliver you. **(2 Cor 1:8-11)**

"You might want to ask yourself whether you have a big God or a little God? A little girl listened attentively as her father read the family devotions. She seemed awed by her parents' talk of God's limitless power and mercy. "Daddy," she asked, placing her little hands on his knees, "how big is God." Her father thought for a moment and answered, "Honey, he is always just a little bigger than you need."

2. It may be His will for you to remain in suffering for His glory. **(2 Cor 12:7-10)**

B. Our God gives us a living hope. **(1 Peter 1:3)**

1. Our suffering will only be for a while. **(Heb 10:35-39; Rom 8:18)**

A Sunday school teacher who asked her group of children if any of them could quote the entire twenty-third psalm. A 4 year old girl came to the rostrum, faced the class, made a perky little bow, and said: "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want."

She then bowed again and sat down. She may have overlooked a few verses, but that little girl captured David's heart in Psalm 23.

2. Are you tempted to quit doing what is right? Protect your heart by turning to a living God. **(Heb 3:12)**

Conclusion: Do you know this great and living God?

A. Take God's test on this subject. Do you know God? **(1 Jn 4:7-8)**

B. Will you yield to a living God? (**Rom 14:12**)