

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS?

by Call of Hope

Do you believe that God exists? You may reply, “Yes, of course, I do!” May I then ask, **“In what kind of God do you believe?”**

Many say, “I can see God in the wonders of nature.” They are quite right, for nature speaks of his glory. We love the greatness of the oceans. We are calmed by the silent beauty of the forest and are impressed by the immense grandeur of the mountains. We wonder at the stars shining throughout the heavens. We like the fragrance of roses, and we have to say again that in nature God draws near. Truly our hearts are happy in the works of the Creator. Yet, there is one thing which nature cannot do for us: it cannot bring us into contact with the holy God or comfort us in the hour of trouble.

Still others say, “We really do not know God, but we believe in fortune or fate.” At the funeral of an air force pilot, his senior officer spoke at the graveside, “Dear comrade, you have been with us in the battle and gained honors and decorations. You have shown loyalty to your country. We sent you to train young men behind the lines. Now in the midst of your duties, fate has struck you down. How sad we are at your loss.”

Do you realise that belief in fortune or fate is only a remnant of heathenism? The Greeks and Romans, as well as other ancient and modern pagans, were slaves to this belief. When people speak about fate and fortune, it is clear that they do not know the true God, who showed himself to us as the **God of love**. We are not in the power of blind fate, but of the God of mercy who allows us to plan our lives with him and treats us as responsible people at all times.

Some others may boast that they do not need God since they have not sinned. “I have not stolen, killed or quarreled with my wife. At work I am the best of colleagues. My religion is to be upright and to fear nothing.” So he denies his need to be in contact with God. Do you realize that this attitude is dishonest and self-deceiving? Do you imagine that you have never sinned or done evil? The Bible tells you clearly that **“There in no one righteous, not even one . . . all have turned away . . . there is no one who does good.”**

Meditate deeply on your life. Openly and honestly confess your sin. You have broken God’s commandments and failed in love for others.

Praise God that he is alive. He created the world and keeps it. He commands the nations and reveals his glory in human history. He is all-powerful and can help us in great and small things. Study the history of the nations and learn that those who obeyed God's commands went forward.

God gave the ten commandments to Moses and these are the basis of the good life for everyone. He who neglects God's law is evil and the cause of much pain to himself and others. Have you ever wondered why kidnappings, murder, theft, etc., are becoming more frequent, and how sin takes shape in all kinds of degradation and scandal? The cause of this evil is that we have lost reverence for God and have neglected the commandments he laid down for all. Nations that care only for money drift into sinful pleasure and crime increases there. Facing such disorder and chaos, we call on every person to turn to the living God for he alone can give true salvation. Call upon him, as the prophet Jeremiah did, **"O land, land, land, hear the word of the Lord"** (Jeremiah 22:29). "They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water" (Jeremiah 2:13). God says in his word, **"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart"** (Jeremiah 29:13).

Come to the Lord, for one day every life will be exposed before this holy God. Before his glory no one will stand innocent, and all our faults and sins since childhood will be brought to light. But this holy God loves us and longs for our fellowship. Though we have left him, he sent his chosen one, Jesus Christ, to lift the barrier between him and us. Jesus carried our sins in his body and received the punishment for them on the cross, offering to us all a perfect and eternal cleansing. **"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world"** (John 1:29).

Dear friend, your sins have been laid on Christ, so that you may have peace with God and your soul may be healed of its wounds. If you come to the Crucified One and trust in him, you will find that his blood cleanses you from all sin, even if you happen to be a murderer, a fanatic or a blasphemer. Whatever your sins, great or small, Christ forgives them all. Whoever truly repents and does not hide his sin will hear the Lord's word of divine comfort, **"My son, your sins are forgiven."** Then the heavenly truth emerges, **"As the father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him"** (Psalm 103:13).

Hand your life over to Christ and be sure that he will lead you on your way by his eternal wisdom and his overcoming love. He will give you a new heart and create an upright spirit within you, and you will confess with us that God is not a distant stranger to be feared but that he is our heavenly Father through our Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ.