

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**)
- 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**)
- 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.
- C. Our God knows and understands our hurts. **(Heb 4:15-16, 5:7-9)**
 - 1. Jesus was hurt and slandered by others.
 - 2. He faced the suffering of the cross and yielded to God.
 - 3. He did this to provide forgiveness to those who were His enemies.

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)**
 - 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)**
 - 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)**