

What Were/Are We Thinking

Into. Dumb things we say: If you have a blowout on your vehicle, some is going to pull up while you're changing the tire and say, "Did you have a flat?" If you're looking for something that you lost, someone is going to ask, "Where did you lose it?" Or, once we find it, in telling someone about the difficulty of locating the lost item, we'll say, "I found in the last place I looked!" Just who continues to look in more places AFTER they've found the item? But, we also **do dumb things:** We'll continue to walk into rooms and flip "On" light switches for hours after the electricity goes out. We'll look for reading or sunglasses for several minutes before finding them on our noses/heads! And which one of us has NOT, after the server puts the plate down in front of us and says, "Be very careful, this plate is extremely hot," immediately burned our finger? We say and do extremely dumb things all the time. But none of these compare to the things we do in the spiritual realm that just make absolutely no sense. **Like...**

Trying to run or hide from an *omnipresent* God. It makes no sense- just ask Jonah (Jonah 1-4). God told Jonah to go and urge the great city of Nineveh to repent to avoid complete destruction for their exceeding wickedness. But Jonah viewed the Assyrians, of which Nineveh was the capital city, as Israel's enemy. So, he attempted to "run and hide" from God's requirements. Obviously, that didn't work for a very simple reason: God is everywhere, Psalms 139:7-12. We simply cannot "run and hide" from the God who is everywhere, or from His requirements of us, Luke 11:30.

Attempting to fight an *omnipotent* God. It makes no sense- just ask Pharaoh (Exodus 7-12). The Egyptian king had enslaved and greatly mistreated God's people. God sent His deliverer, Moses, to Pharaoh with a straightforward command, "*Let My people go.*" But Pharaoh refused to comply, and tried to fight against the God of heaven. Ten plagues later, when even Pharaoh's own firstborn son was dead, he relented. But even after Israel left Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind again, and pursued them. That didn't work too well either, as God destroyed the Egyptian army in the Red Sea, Exodus 14. We simply cannot "fight" the all-powerful God.

Thinking we can somehow outsmart an *omniscient* God. What are we thinking? Just ask the Romans. God, through Paul's inspired letter to them, explained that the *ungodly* and *unrighteous world* sought to "*suppress the truth,*" Romans 1:18. To do so, they had to ignore the obvious- the *eternal power* and the *divine nature* of God that was clearly evident within the creation, and themselves, vv.19-20. So, though wise in their own eyes, they became foolish enough to reject the very existence of God, vv.21-22. This led to rampant idolatry, v.23, all sorts of depravity, vv.24-31, and the ultimate rejection of God's word, v.32. However, since everyone will be judged by the Word, John 12:48, they simply could not "outsmart" the all-knowing God- nor can we.

Believing we can outlast an *eternal* God. In conflicts between men, it is not always the smartest or the strongest that wins- sometimes the ultimate winner is simply the one who outlasts his opponent. Will this tactic work with God? Hardly. Physical man is a mortal and finite being. From his very beginning, everything about him is marked and governed by time. Psalm 90:10 says that our days will be about 70 or 80 years. But God, who is immortal and infinite, is neither marked nor governed by time, vv.1-2. No, we simply cannot hope to overcome by "outlasting" the eternal God.

Such surely makes absolutely no sense! But neither can we...

Exhaust His ability to love. We typically “love” for selfish reasons- because there is some perceived value in this person to us. But God’s love *establishes* a value rather than *requiring* one. Note Romans 5:8 to illustrate, “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.*” The point is that while we were *sinners* (or “*enemies,*” v.10), and therefore contained no inherent value to God, His love **established** sufficient value in us for Him to be willing to sacrifice His Son to save us. Such love is simply inexhaustible. We can, however, miss the benefits of that love by failing to appropriate its sacrifice. We do so by refusing to obey the gospel. But nonetheless, the very essence of God is love, 1John 4:8-10. Therefore, it cannot be exhausted, for then the eternal God would cease to exist.

Exceed His power to save.” No matter how far we have strayed into sin and depravity- perhaps because of the above mentioned futile attempts to oppose and reject God, we cannot exceed His power to save, Romans 5:20. God has invested His power to save in the gospel, 1:16. If we will: in faith turn to Christ, 10:10; confess Him as Lord of our lives (which necessarily includes repentance), 10:9; and be buried with Him in baptism, 6:3-4; then any and all sins, no matter how heinous or depraved, can and will be forgiven, 6:5-7. Just ask Saul of Tarsus, cf. 1Timothy 1:13-14.

Conclusions:

- **Are you trying to run or hide from THE *omnipresent* God?**
- **Are you fighting THE *omnipotent* God?**
- **Do you think you know more, or can outsmart THE *omniscient* God?**
- **Do you somehow believe that you can outlast THE *eternal* God?**
- **Do you feel unlovable- even to THE God whose very essence is *love*?**
- **Do you believe that your sins are too bad for THE God of power and salvation to forgive?**

THEN YOU’RE WRONG!

It makes no sense whatsoever to oppose and reject an *omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal* God. But, why would we **want to** oppose and reject a God whose love for us is inexhaustible, and His ability to save us we are unable to exceed? So instead of opposing and rejecting Him, why not reciprocate His love by trusting and obeying Him?