

Our God Is Real

(Excerpted from *God and Christ and Man: A Unique Relationship*)

We who believe know the experiences we have had with God. There is no way we can lightly say that He doesn't exist. So perhaps we have determined that God is real and eternal partly because there is no other means of explaining Him. When you feel the breath of God flowing over your inner being, as if to say softly, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost," you can't say it didn't happen any more than you can deny the wind blew although you have never seen the wind. But that is precisely what the world criticizes: the subjective nature of the experience we have with Him. Because they have never felt the breath of God, they choose to ignore our assertions to that effect. They sagely tell us that you can't prove there is a God by scientific means, which demand proofs that flow from the mathematician's calculations or the test tube of the laboratory. This is true, but still we should not discount the experiential basis of the dedicated believer's faith.

There are two different spheres of operation in existence as we know it: the natural and the spiritual. We (believers in Christ everywhere) know the power and eternal quality of the spiritual realm. It predates the natural world and will eventually survive it. The Christian philosopher knows that the verities of the spiritual world are more real than a seemingly everlasting Rock of Gibraltar or a towering Mount Everest. Those enduring heaps will some day be flattened and nonexistent while the eternal verities will continue to be, well – eternal.

We believers know these things. To us they are the data or "factual information" (Webster) that satisfies any questions we have about the existence of God. A well-known song says, "You ask me how I know He lives; He lives within my heart." That, of course, is not proof to an unbeliever, but to the believer in Christ it is all-important. He has no words to defend such a stand except to say, "I feel it in my heart." That is strictly subjective and spiritual evidence, if we may even call it evidence.

Yet, what did we just posit about the spiritual realm? It alone is forever enduring. When craggy, unmovable mountains have been flattened by the wrath of God and the entire material world annihilated, the world of

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the spirit will be around, not for billions or trillions of light years, but forever.

That is a long, *l-o-n-g* time.

Perhaps the core of the unbeliever's difficulty lies in this: In order to get the proof he seeks for a God, he has to first accept God on God's own terms. When the former unbeliever accepts God, God will then give him the so-called subjective proof that heretofore he couldn't accept. God will work in the new convert's life and on his being in such a manner that he will have to say, "God is so real to me!" without physically seeing Him or hearing Him.

You who still don't believe will just have to humble your "intelligent" selves and accept this God on the conditions He lays down. Then He will give you all the proof that your enlightened heart requires. But you must do it God's way. Sometimes it isn't wise to be too wise in one's own mind.

We have a God. We have the Scriptures. We have our own daily communion with Him. We have Him. It's enough.

Sorry about you who don't believe.