

Is God real?

Just because you can't see something, it doesn't mean it doesn't exist: air, wind, gravity, love...

-Thomas actually had the same question about Jesus' resurrection. He wanted to see and feel the wounds Jesus received on the cross before he believed.

-Jesus shows up, Thomas believed but Jesus said, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

-Faith has always been the means that pleases the Lord.

-God wants us to believe not because of undisputed proof but solid evidence that supports the truth

The question "Is God real?" can be divided into several subsegments

-Does God exist?

-If God does exist, then why does He seem so hidden?

Maybe worded differently.

-Is God there?

-Why can't I see Him?

Does God exist? Is God there?

- There are several evidences that support the existence of God.
 - Morality – objective moral standards from a completely moral Being
 - Creation – Everything cannot come from nothing, evidence of design
 - Bible – consistency in diversity, predictive prophecy, historical accuracy
 - Jesus – historical figure, resurrection/empty tomb

Why is God so hidden? Why can't I see Him?

1. Sin is the main cause for God being hidden
 1. People living in sin tend to hide themselves from God
 1. Rom 1:28-32 – we are all guilty of sin
 2. Gen 3:8 – “And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.”
 1. People in sin hide themselves from the presence of God by ignoring the Word of God
 3. God also hides Himself from those living in sin
 1. Deut 31:16-18
 1. People forsake God and replace Him with other things
 2. God responds in hiding Himself from them

3. The question people ask, “Where is God? Why is He so hidden?”
 1. Their sin is what caused God to hide Himself from them
4. Who is to blame for God being so hidden?

The risk of free will is necessary for love to be possible

1. Love without free will is not love but an obligatory duty
 1. Love has to always give the person the freedom to walk away with no strings attached
2. God hiddenness allows for free will to be possible for us to choose or avoid God

God’s obvious presence would dominate our free will and we would be obligated to choose God

1. Mt 17:2-6 – transfiguration
 1. Jesus revealed Himself in His glory and God spoke
 2. :6 – “And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.”
 1. We cannot handle the full presence and glory of God
 3. One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord
 1. It will be by force when God’s glory is revealed
 4. God presence in His full glory will cause people do what is right
 1. God wants us to choose Him for who He is and for what we get from Him

Seeking God with all our heart is how we find God

1. Deut 4:27-31
 1. Seek the Lord with all your heart and obey His voice
 2. Jer 29:13 – “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”
 3. 1 John 2:3 – “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”
 1. The depth of your desire to find God will be measured by how diligent you are in searching the Scriptures and pursuing God in prayer
 4. God may seem hidden but He is not absent
 1. Luke 24:13-16, 27-32
 1. Jesus was hidden from them but was right there with them
- The key to unveiling Jesus was through their search in the Scriptures
 1. Your heart can burn with excitement for God once again
 2. It will only be possible through the Scriptures

Invitation:

- Sin causes God to be hidden in our lives
 - we hide from God and He hides from us
- Seek God with all your heart in the Bible and obey Him to find Him
- Find hope in knowing that if God seems hidden, it doesn’t mean He’s missing