



How do we know God is real - other than the Bible telling us?

We live in a society that seems to want us to believe that God is nothing more than a figment of our imagination. The above question is a natural result of being constantly bombarded with messages to that effect.

God actually answers that question for us in His Word. In Romans chapter one (vv19-20) God tells us that His creation (the earth we live on as well as the things that live on the earth) is constant proof of God. It's quite simple logic really: When you see Creation, you instinctively know there had to be a Creator who designed it and made it.

This basic logic is why it "boggles my mind" to think that people can actually be convinced that the theory of evolution is a viable explanation for how everything got here. You look at a painting and you *instinctively* know that it didn't just one day by chance happen to appear out of thin air. You know there had to be a painter who painted it. You look at a building and you instinctively know there had to have been a builder who built it. You look at creation and you know there had to be a Creator who created it.

God also tell us in the next chapter, Romans 2, that our conscience - our instinctive knowledge of the existence of "right and wrong" - is evidence of a God who designed things to function well when used the 'right' way and not function well when used the 'wrong' way.

After pointing out creation and conscience as evidence of God, I asked this question: "How do you know there is wind? No one can see wind, so how do you know there is such a thing?" This is the answer I received: "You know the wind is there, because of the effect it has on things. Trees bend. Leaves come off trees and float or fly through the air. Your skin feels cooler when the wind is blowing on it than when there's no wind."

BINGO! It's the exact same with God. He tells us that He is a spirit (which, interestingly is the same word in Hebrew as the word for 'wind'). You can't see a spirit any more than you can see wind, but you know that God is there because of the effect He has on things (us)!

This need to be reminded that God really is part of our everyday lives - in spite of the fact we can't see Him - is part of the reason we begin each worship service with the question, "How have you seen God working in your life this past week?"

A couple weeks ago in confirmation class we studied the book of Esther. The book of Esther is unique among books of the Bible in that it is the only one that does not mention God. In other words, God is not 'visible' in the book. But you cannot read Esther without quickly coming to the conclusion that God is constantly working 'behind the scenes'. He's always there even though He's not seen or mentioned. We know it by the effect that He has on us. Things that happen that just cannot be mere coincidences.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net