

“In Search of God” by Zachary Stefaniuk

Psalm 139: 7-10 & Matthew 18:20

As children, many Christians are told that God is everywhere. As one can imagine, this is a very complicated concept for children to understand. Even as adults, it can be difficult to fully grasp the idea that God is everywhere at all times. However, there are resources for children and adults to use so that they may develop an understanding of this broad concept.

One resource that assisted me to comprehend God’s presence as a child is the 1993 short film known as “Where’s God When I’m S-scared?” This was the first episode of VeggieTales and taught me that God will always be with me. I especially appreciate the simple yet complex Bible verse upon which the episode was based. “Do not fear, for I am with you”- Isaiah 41:10.

Resources for adults could include intentional times of prayer and contemplation. For some adults, it also helps to look around the world they are in and find God in that. For me, nature is a place where God’s presence is most notable. Many parents can easily see God in their own children. An example is the first time you hold your baby child. Nowhere is this notion more apparent than in country music. One popular example is the George Strait song “I Saw God Today”.

But what else does the Bible say about where God is? How can someone in today's world find God in all the noise and business? How do people know that they are experiencing God in the moment?

When one reads the Bible it quickly becomes apparent that God is with everyone when they need God to be there. One of my favorite examples of this is the adventures the Israelites had in the desert. For almost 400 years the Israelite nation prayed that they may be set free from their slavery in Egypt. Then one day, God sent an answer to these prayers. The answer was Moses.

While on their trek to the Promised Land there were multiple other examples of God being among the Israelites. This is true in two ways. The first way is how God continued to supply food and water no matter how much the Israelites whined and crabbed. This proved that God does hear prayers and will give an answer. The answer may not be immediate, but it does come.

The second way God was with the Israelites was in a physical form. While at Mt. Sinai Moses instructed Aaron to build a tent and box that would be known as the Temple and the Ark of the Covenant. The Ten Commandments would be held in the Ark and it was through the Ark that God came down to earth. No one ever saw him, but priests could go into the tent which the Ark was in and listen to what the Lord had to say to them.

People can also see examples of both of these types of Godly presence in the modern world. In the mid 1800's there was a British man named George Müller. He ran orphanages in England and had a unique way of running the orphanages. He never asked for any money. He only accepted donations. Yet, he never went bankrupt. One of the more popular accounts of Müller's faith is when he had the children in an orphanage pray for breakfast, even though there was no food for them to eat. As soon as they finished the prayer a local baker came to the orphanage with freshly baked bread in hand. Shortly after that, the local milkman's milk cart broke down outside the orphanage and gave the orphans as much milk as they wanted. All this was achieved through George Müller's deep faith in God.

People today can find physical representations of God in multiple ways. As previously mentioned, many people find God in nature and children. While these are not literally God, they are as close as a person may get. Unless of course you count Morgan Freeman since he has played a physical form of God not once but twice.

God can be found in the little things that happen in daily life. Such as safely arriving at home after a bad thunderstorm or blizzard. Especially on the prairies it is a blessing that we get home safely through all the extreme weather we experience.

Sometimes it is extremely difficult to find God these days. With the invention of the cell phone, more and more people do not pay attention to what is around them. As a result, they can only see what is on a small screen. This and many other recent inventions have created a type of noise. A noise that creates a blockade between us and God. If you ask people where they find God in their lives, some will have no idea how to answer. This could be because of the noise that is in their lives.

How can a person overcome the barriers created by the noise in their lives? The simplest solution is to spend more intentional time with God. Going to church is not enough to cancel out the noise in your life. You must find ways to spend time with God daily.

One of my textbooks from this past school year was “Desiring the Kingdom” by James K. A. Smith. In the book Smith writes about the Christian Church and how he believes it should be formed. One point he emphasized was an urge for Christians to be “God’s image bearers” (pg.205). What he means by this is Christians should spread the word of God to those in the world. Christians should not be satisfied with just going to church every Sunday.

I believe what Smith said is true and when Christians spread God’s word in everyday life they find that all the noise in their lives has been turned down. That is because they do what God wants them to do.

In the early Church four practices were the cornerstones for the Christian faith. The four practices were teaching, fellowship, breaking of the bread, and prayer. These four practices should be and generally are key aspects in the modern church. Every week we as a congregation come together in this building to learn, pray, and have some coffee and squares while fellowshiping after the worship service.

There is another way that the noise in a Christian's life can be turned down. That is having direct contact with God. An example of this from the Bible is the conversion of the Apostle Paul. Saul was living a life that he was happy with. The noise in his life was overpowering the voice of God.

Then one day God decided that it was time to cancel out all the noise in Saul's life, by making him blind. This gave Saul time to contemplate his life and spend time in prayer. After a few days, the noise in his life had practically disappeared. As a result, he made some major changes to his life. Thus, he became one of the most noteworthy Apostles of the New Testament.

But sometimes it can be harder to find God in the noise of modern life. The thing is, God is everywhere. God is in the simplest things like happy memories with your family. God also is in things like nature and books that you read. The bottom line is there are traces of God everywhere you look.

This is best described through the Sunday School song “He’s Got the Whole World”. As a human being, it can be difficult to comprehend big concepts like God being everywhere. Yet this song describes it perfectly. He watches over the tiny little baby, the winds, the rains, you, me, and the entire world.

It can be difficult at times to distinguish God’s voice from everything else in your life. I know when I was younger I could never tell what was God’s voice and what was my voice. Now it begs the question, is there a difference? God lives on Earth through us and we have the responsibility to be God’s image bearers.

There are multiple ways for us as children of God to bear His image. Having the courage to do what is right is one example. For instance, say that you see a homeless person while driving down Idylwyld. You are a bearer of Gods image if you go up to them and give them something to eat, or money so that they can buy a full meal at a restaurant.

In today’s scripture we are reassured that God will be with us until the very end. No matter where we are, God is there. “For where two or three have gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst.” Matthew 18:20