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# Will God Leave Us in Doubt?

*"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).*

That God is almighty in power and strength is one truth that is announced over and over throughout the Scriptures. An angel asked Abraham, "Is anything too difficult for the LORD?" (Genesis 18:14a). The writer of Psalm 104 said, "He makes the clouds His chariot; He walks upon the wings of the wind; He makes the winds His messengers, flaming fire His ministers" (vv. 3b, 4). Jesus told His disciples who had become astonished at His teachings concerning money, ". . . with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

It is supremely important that we accept, understand, and believe this profound truth about God; for this truth undergirds and buttresses other significant truths. For example, when we grasp this truth, we will not need to argue whether or not God created the earth and everything in it in six days. If He is almighty and can do anything, would He have any trouble bringing everything into existence in six days? Would it be any problem for Him to fashion a mature earth that would appear older than it really is? This is the underlying question: "Is He really all-powerful?" Since He is, the question of creation is automatically settled, and we can move on to other questions.

This truth that God is omnipotent also provides a solution to another question, namely, "Will God leave us in doubt about how we are to come to Him and serve Him?" Is He almighty? Can He do anything? Since the answer to these two questions is a resounding "yes," it follows that those who listen to His plan and follow it can have confidence and assurance in His love and in the reality of salvation.

Can God communicate His will to all people

in every age? Can He give guidance for our lives that can be understood, followed, and easily shared with others? Once we come to believe that He is omnipotent and that He holds the universe in the palm of His hand, we have gone a long way toward resolving these important questions.

God not only wants us to have peace, but He has made provisions for us to have it. He has made peace available and can continue to make it available without any difficulty or strain on His part. He is almighty, so we need not question His ability to provide for us. Therefore, when we are inclined to ask, "Will God leave us in doubt?" we must quickly turn our minds to His incomprehensible power to answer our questions. Our almighty God has no intention of leaving us in doubt! Would the God who sacrificed His Son to forgive our sins leave us in doubt about how to receive the Savior's cleansing blood?

*Will God leave us in doubt about the way of salvation?* No, our almighty God has told us what we must do to accept His salvation. His instructions are clear and understandable. The New Testament sets forth four unimpeachable truths regarding how God saves a person. He has put these requirements within the reach of every person.

First, He made belief in His Son essential. Jesus said, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). Second, He requires repentance of all who would be saved. Paul stated this condition on Mars' Hill in Athens, using these words: "God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent" (Acts 17:30b).

Third, God demands that our faith in His Son be expressed. He had His servant John write, "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God" (1 John 4:15). Paul wrote, "For with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation" (Romans 10:10). Fourth, God has made it mandatory that each believer be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. Saul was told, "Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name" (Acts 22:16).

God has made these truths so clear in His Word that we cannot reject any one of them without rejecting God's divinely planned way of salvation. When a person rejects any part of God's plan, he puts himself in the same condition that the Pharisees and lawyers put themselves in when they rejected the baptism of John (see Luke 7:30).

Would God send His Son into the world, allow Him to suffer so horribly on the cross and die in shame for our sins, and then leave us in doubt about how we can receive the benefits of this blood sacrifice? Certainly not! Part of His great plan was to make clear what must be done to receive the salvation His Son provided.

*Will God leave us in doubt about the way of worship?* No, God has communicated to us how He is to be worshiped. Would the God who created the seas and said to them, "Stay where I have put you!" have any problems doing this?

After the church, the kingdom, was brought into being, the early Christians worshiped God according to the guidance of the apostles. They sang (Ephesians 5:19), prayed (Acts 2:42), meditated upon God's Word (Acts 20:7), partook of the Lord's Supper on Sunday (Acts 20:7), and gave of their means in order to support the work of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2). The list is short and to the point. God left nothing in doubt about His way.

As we come to the New Testament, we do not so much ask, "What has God forbidden?" Instead, we should ask, "What has God commanded?" In the Old Testament, He spelled out His requirements, giving His people several lists of commandments to keep. He has ever been a God of specifics. The New Testament portrays the apostles as guiding the church in its worship. Any New Testament scholar is constrained by the

clarity of the text to say that singing, meditating on the Word, praying, observing the Lord's Supper on Sunday, and giving of one's means comprise the pattern for worship of God in the Christian Era.

As a God of love and grace, He would surely not leave us in doubt about how to come before Him in worship on a regular basis. He is the highest One in power, might, and wisdom. He is able to tell us what He wants, and He would not forget to tell us what He wants from us.

*Will God leave us in doubt about the church?* God is not confused about what to do concerning the church, nor has He left us in confusion. We can be confident that He does not look down upon the religiously divided world and say, "I simply do not know what to do about this. This problem is too big for Me to handle."

After a thorough reading of the New Testament, one can honestly say, "The clearest teaching of the New Testament is what the church is and what it means for a person to be in it." Standing out in the Scriptures are four truths as bright as the morning sun. First, we are told that there is one body, the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:4). Second, the Word says that the body is the church (Ephesians 1:22, 23). Third, we are told that one can only be saved in the body of Christ (2 Timothy 2:10). Fourth, we are charged not to divide the body (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Would God have His Son die on the cross, purchase the church—the redeemed—with His blood, and then not tell us what the church is, how to enter it, or how it appears before us in the world? It is unthinkable even to ask such a question.

*Will God leave us in doubt about the way of Christian living?* God is powerful enough to give us peace. He does not need to say to us, "I'm sorry about this situation that is troubling you. I just do not have any way of bringing you confidence and assurance regarding salvation. You will just have to wander through life, confused and in the dark about how to please Me and whether or not you have eternal life." Dealing with His children in this fashion would be as foreign to God as a prayer service would be to the devil.

God has asked us to stand in His grace by walking daily in the light. We are saved by grace through faith. Walking in the light means lov-

ing God (1 John 2:15), loving our brothers and sisters (1 John 3:11), believing in Jesus (1 John 4:15), obeying God (1 John 5:3), and acknowledging that we are sinners in need of God's grace (1 John 1:8–10). How much plainer could God make it? Since we are saved by grace, we can relax and give ourselves completely to obeying His commands. John wrote, "But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). In these words, we see the conditions, cleansing, continuance, and community associated with our salvation. We have been saved from our past sins, we are being cleansed daily from sin, and our walk reaches out into a future with God.

Jesus did not come into this world to create puzzled, confused disciples. He entered our world to bring abundant life to those who would receive it (John 10:10b). While here, He offered to make us His friends. He said, "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you

friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15). His mission involved spreading joy, not hatred, sorrow, and confusion. He said, "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (John 15:11).

Did God plan to leave us in doubt? No, He intends to leave us with the highest hope, the clearest understanding, and the sweetest peace.

Eddie Cloer



*"Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:19–22).*