

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Psalm 84:8-12**.
- B. The question received, says, "What is God's role today?"
- C. On the surface it would seem that God is not involved with mankind today.
 - 1. We read of the tremendous miracles found in the OT & NT.
 - 2. The signs that Jesus performed, and the wonders wrought by the apostles.
 - 3. The "age of inspiration" is no longer as God's word is completed.
 - 4. Then, we begin to ponder as to what God is doing or not doing!
- D. The answer to the question is that **God is very active in the world today**, maybe more so than we presently think! Let's take a look at the "role" He plays.

I. GOD IS NOT LIMITED.

- A. We believe that the age of miracles ceased in the first century. But this does not mean that God is somehow limited in what He can do, and is doing for mankind.
- B. Remember these important facets of God:
 - 1. He is all-powerful; nothing is impossible for Him (Mk. 10:27; Lk. 1:37).
(Mk 10:27) Looking upon them, Jesus said^, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."
(Lk 1:37) "For nothing will be impossible with God."
 - 2. He is all knowing (Isa. 40:13-14, 28). See Psalms 139:1-6.
Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? 14 With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge, And informed Him of the way of understanding? 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.
 - 3. He is ever-present (Psalms 139:7-10).
Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
9 If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
10 Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
 - 4. He is all good (Mk. 10:18).
And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone."
 - 5. He is not a God of the past (Ex. 3:14; Rev. 1:4).
(Ex 3:14) And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
(Rev 1:4) John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne;
 - 6. He still rewards those who diligently seek after Him (Heb. 11:6).
And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- C. You pray to, serve, and worship the same God that did Moses, Abraham, David, etc.

II. GOD CONTINUES TO WORK TODAY.

- A. There are four ways that God continues to work in the world today:
 - 1. God works through material law (Col. 1:17).
This effect is produced without special acts of God (i.e., reproduction, science, etc.)
And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

2. God works through providence (Hab. 1:5; Mt. 6:33; Rom. 8:28).
These are special acts of God in harmony with the natural laws. Miracles were used to confirm the word, not provide daily needs. Providence becomes the "greater miracle."
(Hab. 1:5) "Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days-- You would not believe if you were told."
(Mt 6:33) "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."
(Rom 8:28) And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
3. God works through His people (Phil. 1:5-6; 2:12-13; Eph. 3:20-21). Xians are instruments of God's handiwork in the world today.
(Phil 1:5-6) in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. **6** For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
(Phil 2:12-13) So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is **God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.**
(Eph 3:20-21) Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, **21** to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.
- B. God continues to do all of these things according to His timing. We must believe that God will do something, that He is doing something, and will do it at the proper time (Gal. 4:4; 6:9; 1Pet. 5:6).
(Gal 4:4) But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,
(Gal 6:9) And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.
(1Pet 5:6) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,
- C. We must learn to wait on God (Isa. 40:31).
Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

III. **GOD CONTINUES TO WORK IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.**

- A. The times in our life when we need God the most, can also be the times that He seems aloof and apathetic. God is not aloof or apathetic; we just have a more difficult time seeing how He is working in our lives.
- B. In times of crisis, remember three things:
 1. Trust God's providential control.
He has been running the world for centuries, so He can take care of your problem(s). When you have more questions than answers, He has more answers than you have questions (Psa. 13:1-6).
How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?
2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
Having sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?
3 Consider *and* answer me, O LORD my God;
Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the *sleep of death*,
4 And my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
And my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.
5 But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness;
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
6 I will sing to the LORD,
Because He has dealt bountifully with me.
 2. Maintain a proper perspective throughout the crisis.
Discipline makes us stronger. Pain teaches lessons. Experience instructs us for the future. Paul talked of our works being refined by fire (1Cor. 3:13-15). We should not think it strange to be disciplined by God (Heb. 12:10-11).

(1Cor 3:13-15) each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. **14** If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. **15** If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

(Heb 12:10-11) For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. **11** All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

3. God is always faithful to His promises.

You will never be tempted beyond what you can bear (1Cor. 10:13). The trials of life produce joy in that the end result is a greater faith and spiritual maturity (Jas. 1:2-4).

(1Cor 10:13) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

(Jas 1:2-4) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **4** And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

C. God's role is to help you become all you can be in X (Rom. 8:29).

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son,

IV. **GOD IS AT WORK IN YOUR LIFE.**

A. The last point tonight comes from our scripture text (Psa. 84:11).

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

B. God is two things, and gives three:

C. God is:

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| 1. <u>A sun.</u> | He is One of great power! |
| 2. <u>A shield.</u> | He is One of great protection! |

D. God gives:

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| 1. <u>Grace.</u> | He is the Savior by His unmerited favor toward us! |
| 2. <u>Glory.</u> | He will eternally save the church in magnificent splendor! |
| 3. <u>Every good thing.</u> | He supplies every need, if we will allow Him. |

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. What is God's role in the world today? PLENTY!

B. God is:

1. Not limited in what He can do.
2. Working providentially today in the world, and in His people.
3. Working during times of trouble and distress.
4. Working in your life with grace, glory, and every good thing.

B. Make yourself available to all these spiritual blessings by becoming a Xian.

C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.