

Deepening our Relationship with God

Day 1

"I have MANIFESTED your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world". John 17:6

Key Thought: God manifests HIMSELF to us

Most of us growing up enjoyed playing the game of hide and seek. One person closes their eyes and counts to 100 while the others find a place to hide. Much of the fun was trying to stay hidden and unfindable for as long as possible. It was especially exciting (and kind of cruel), to be hiding in the room where the seeker was looking and not be found. And every once in a while, we accidentally gave away our location if we giggled when the seeker was in the room.

There are many who think that evidence does not support the existence of God at all. Or at best, He exists, but is playing a cruel game of hide and seek. He might exist, but if He does, He has hidden Himself way off in the far distant universe somewhere. Uninvolved. Unfindable. Unknowable. In reality, the exact opposite is true . . .

How has God manifested Himself to us? According to Romans 1:19, "**what can be known about God** is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been **clearly perceived** ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse". God intends for what can be seen and experienced in the universe to shout His existence loud and clear. From the intricate detail of DNA to the infinite size of the universe, there is undeniable evidence of an intelligent designer in our observable world.

According to Jesus, in John 17:6, in His high priestly prayer to the Father, He "**manifested** God's name to the people whom (He) gave (Him) out of the world". The word manifested means to "reveal" something clearly or "make known" to the senses. If God was too hidden in His creation, He pulled back the curtain and fully revealed Himself through the person of Jesus Christ! Hebrews 1:2-3 says, "in these last days **(God) has spoken to us by His Son . . .** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature". Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us to personally make Himself known. He unveiled Himself completely to us so that we could know Him intimately and personally.

The apostle John, who was an eye-witness of Jesus Christ wrote in 1 John 1:1-3, "that (Jesus Christ) which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we look upon and have **touched** with our hands, concerning the word of life—the **life was made manifest**, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was **made manifest to us**—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you". We are without excuse, humanity has heard, seen, and touched God Himself in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was born as a baby, He lived a sinless life, He performed miraculous signs, He was crucified and died on the cross, He was buried in a tomb for 3 days, He resurrected back to life, and He ascended into heaven. These are all historical things that were seen and experienced and all those who witnessed them were willing to die proclaiming that they were true.

1 Peter 1:20 says Jesus Christ, "was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was **made MANIFEST in the last times for the sake of YOU**"!!! Read the next sentence slowly and carefully: You are the reason that God manifested Himself in the person of Jesus Christ!

Make no mistake, God is not hiding. The question is, have you found him?

Questions to Ponder

1. Do you struggle with the existence of God? Do you ever find yourself wanting more "proof" for the existence of God?
2. What areas of your life are you most frustrated with God's "hiddenness"?
3. What aspects of creation make it hard to deny the existence of God?
4. What characteristics of Jesus Christ are most attractive to you? Why?
5. How has God manifested Himself in your life personally?

Possible Prayer Points

1. Thank God for His creation and how it reveals Him to you.
2. Ask God that He would manifest Himself to you through Jesus Christ.
3. Ask God to help you see His existence in creation as well as through the person of Jesus Christ.

How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way?