

# “Show us the Father. . .”

John 14:8

## Why are Christians Still Asking Philip’s Question – 2,000 Years Later?

What was Jesus’ response to Philip’s question?

**9** Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

**10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

**11** Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. John 14:9-11

The disciples spent virtually every day with Jesus for 3½ years, yet they still didn’t really “know” Him.

Shortly after the disciples had watched Jesus feed at least TWELVE THOUSAND people with just seven loaves of bread and a few fish (4,000 PLUS women and children) (Mark 8:1-9), they completely misunderstood His comments about the “leaven” (yeast) of the Pharisees.

As they all got into a ship to depart to the other side of the lake:

**14** Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat.

**15** Then He charged them, saying, “Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”

**16** And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “*It is* because we have no bread.”

**17** But Jesus, being aware of *it*, said to them, “Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?”

**18** Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And

do you not remember?

**19** When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?”  
They said to Him, “Twelve.”

**20** “Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?”  
And they said, “Seven.”

**21** So He said to them, “How *is it* you do not understand?” Mark 8:14-21

Even though the disciples were with Jesus every day, they still had no ability to understand spiritual things. They took everything literally. When Jesus spoke of the “leaven” (sin) of the Pharisees, the disciples thought He was talking about physical Bread!

There were many similar episodes:

When Jesus told His disciples He was going to be executed but that He would rise from the dead, they just didn’t “get it”:

Jesus’ coming death and resurrection:

**10** So they kept the matter to themselves, **questioning what this rising from the dead might mean.** Mark 9:10

The disciples didn’t understand Christ’s parables:

Then Jesus went into a house to get away from the crowd, and his disciples asked him what he meant by the parable he had just used.  
Mark 7:17

When Jesus was sleeping in the ship during a severe storm, the disciples were terrified. They woke Him and said, “Master, do you not care that we are going to perish? Jesus rose and rebuked the wind and told the sea to “Be still.” The wind immediately ceased and the sea became calm. Then Jesus turned to His disciples and said:

“Why are you so full of fear? How is it that you have NO faith?”  
Mark 4:39,40

Jesus told the disciples:

“You have eyes, but you don’t see. You have ears, but you don’t hear.”  
Mark 8:18

The disciples did not receive “spiritual eyesight” – the ability to discern spiritual things – until after Jesus’ death and resurrection – after they had been through the worse experience of their entire life.

Only when Jesus opened their eyes, were they able to discern Truth!

**12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit that is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.**

**13** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth (God’s Breath of Holiness); comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

**14** But the **natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.** 1 Cor 2:12-14

The unregenerated heart, the heart and mind that have not been opened by God, CANNOT understand spiritual things. It can only understand through the five senses – sense knowledge.

**“Christians” seem to desire a Hateful God**

The vast majority of Christians, virtually ALL denominations, believe in a literal hellfire, even though the Bible gives us overwhelming evidence that the “fire” is “spiritual fire”- “fiery trials” – to purge the sin out of our life.

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the **fiery trial** which is to try you.”  
1 Peter 4:12

**God purges the sin out of our life with fiery trials!**

A good example of the Christian’s LACK of understanding is in Malachi, Chapter 4:

For behold, the day cometh, **that shall BURN as an oven:** and all the proud, yea, and **all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up,** saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. Mal 4:1

Yet, in the previous chapter – Chapter 3 – in the same book of the Bible, Malachi, God tells us that the fire He is referring to is clearly “Spiritual fire” – **not** literal fire.

“Behold, I will send My messenger, and He shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? **For He is like a REFINER’S FIRE**, and like Fullers’ (washerman’s) soap:

And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and **He shall purify the sons of Levi, and refine them as gold and silver**, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in RIGHTEOUSNESS.” Mal 3:1-3

A “Refiner of silver and gold” does NOT discard the silver and gold. Only the dross (the sin) is purified in the fire. The symbolic “gold and silver” are then an “offering of Righteousness” to the Lord.

Another example:

Christians use the following text to “prove” that the wicked will be cast into a literal, burning hellfire.

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Rev 20:15

Yet, in the **previous sentence** – the previous text – Rev 20:14, it is clear that the “fire” is NOT literal fire – but Spiritual fire – the fiery trials through which God “burns” the sin out of our life.

“And death and the grave (correct literal translation: not “hell” – that has been changed by the translators. Besides, how can one cast “hell” into “hell”?) were cast into the lake of fire.” Rev 20:14

It is clear that it is impossible to cast “death and the grave” into a LITERAL hellfire. This text is very obviously symbolic – **meaning that death and the grave will be abolished**, just as it says in 1 Cor 15:26

“The last enemy that shall be destroyed (literal: abolished) is death.” 1 Cor 15:26

Just as the information in Malachi, Chapter 4 is shown, in Chapter 3, to be

“symbolic” and not literal, Rev 20:15 is shown, in Rev 20:14, to be “spiritual” and not literal.

Again, why do Christians prefer to worship a God who DESTROYS His enemies, when Jesus Christ tells us to:

“Love your enemies; do Good to those who Hate you.” Matt 5:44

**We are strongly warned by God NOT to confuse Evil with Good**

**Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Isa 5:20**

When sin first entered the Garden of Eden, the problem was that Satan appeared to be a beautiful being. The Tree in the midst of the Garden was NOT the “Tree of the knowledge of Evil” – it was the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good AND Evil”: Good mixed together with Evil.

Without spiritual discernment, Adam and Eve were unable to tell the difference between Good and Evil. They did not have that spiritual discernment, even though the Bible tells us that they “walked with God in the cool of the day” – apparently every day – just like the disciples “walked with Jesus Christ – every day, and still were unable to understand “spiritual things.”

**The Christian churches Today have the SAME Problem**

The Christian churches of today are not able to understand Spiritual things. **They have put the character of Satan on the face of God, and do not realize whom they are worshiping!**

**Everything about God is “GOOD NEWS”**

God promises to “Heal ALL our diseases” if we follow HIS way. Psalm 103:3

God promises to “keep us FREE from EVERY disease if we follow His laws, commandments and decrees.” Deut 7:11-15

God promises to be the Savior of ALL mankind. 1 Tim 4:10

God promises to Reconcile ALL to Himself. Col 1:20

God promises that ALL have been given into His hand, and that (the same) ALL WILL eventually come to Him John 3:35; John 6:37-39

God promises to “save our children.” Isa 49:25

God promises to “wipe away all our tears” Rev 21:4

God promises to “take away the sin OF THE WORLD.” John 1:29

God promises “NEVER to leave us or forsake us.” Deut 31:6

Jesus said, “You don’t choose Me, I choose you.” John 15:16

The word “Gospel” means Good News!

## **Yet the churches make everything about God - BAD News – but with a “Christian” spin**

### **The churches answer:**

God has given us doctors. We should go to doctors!

We are “saved by grace” so “changing our lifestyle” to live God’s way is “works.” We shouldn’t have to make ANY changes in our life in order to be well. God will heal us miraculously – if we just keep “claiming it.” If we have to “do” anything – such as “Obey God’s laws, commandments and decrees” - that is Legalism! (The churches are producing profoundly LAZY “Christians”).cr

God promises to be the Savior of ALL mankind, but that doesn’t mean He will SAVE all mankind.

God promises to Reconcile ALL to Him, but that means that He WISHES to do that – not that He really will!

God WILL save all those - - - who make the right choice!

God WILL save our children – if THEY “make the right choice.”

God WILL “wipe away all our tears” either by wiping our memory clean of those loved ones of ours who are NOT saved, or possibly by giving us some kind of lobotomy

Jesus would “like” to take away the sin from everyone in the world, but THEY must first “make the right choice.” There are some people who “don’t want to be in heaven” anyway, so hell fire is a “loving” way to destroy them! (Christians actually SAY this!)

Yes, God DOES promise, “NEVER to leave us nor forsake us” but since it is OUR fault when WE make the WRONG choice and we “choose” to go to hell rather than loving God, that’s OUR problem – not God’s!

Yes, the Gospel IS Good News – for those who have made the “right choice.” The others deserve what they get because they did NOT make the “right choice.”

**The Churches have put Satan’s character on the face of God – and worship Satan thinking they’re worshipping God.**

The churches have embraced the False doctrine of the Trinity because they must separate God and Jesus. Why? Because they would not be able to convince those they are trying to bring into the church that Jesus Christ would throw people into hellfire. They know the life Jesus lived when He was on earth.

So, they must have a “God” of “justice” who is a HARSH God, a God who cares little for His children who will be burning in hellfire –either forever – or for “as long as they deserve.” Even when His children are burning in hellfire, He will not only wipe away the tears of the “saved” but He will not have any tears of His own for those who are “Lost.”

**Christians believe that Faith means WE can tell God what to do!**

Recently I was contacted by a woman who said she has trouble trusting God because several years ago, she decided to leave her grown son, who was very ill, and run off with her new boyfriend. She said that she asked God to “take care of her son, but her son died. So, it’s God’s “fault” that her son died, because she TOLD God to “take care of him – and God didn’t.”

In many churches, Christian pastors teach their members that the way to be healed is to “name it and claim it.” If we just “BELIEVE” that God will heal us, He WILL heal us. This means that WE human beings can tell God what to do! Apparently, God MUST do what WE tell Him to do.

If we just BELIEVE that God will make us prosperous and rich – He will!

That is Blasphemy! We CANNOT tell God what to do!

## **But the Bible says the opposite**

We can't tell God what to do. He is the One in Charge.

“God is operating ALL according to the counsel of HIS OWN WILL (not ours)” Eph 1:11

God says, “I am the Potter, you are the clay.” Jer 18:6

**Faith means that we BELIEVE that God WILL do what HE has promised to do** – which are ALL the things mentioned above under “Everything About God is Good News.”

## **The Only Way to KNOW the Father**

The only way to “know” the Father, is to understand the sufferings of Jesus Christ, and to go through sorrow and suffering ourselves.

“We say there ought to be no sorrow, but there is sorrow, and we have to accept and receive ourselves in its fires. Sorrow is one of the biggest facts in life, and there is no use in saying it should not be. Sin, sorrow, and suffering **are**, and it is not for us to say that God has made a mistake in allowing them.

“Sorrow removes a great deal of a person’s shallowness, but it does not always make that person better. Suffering either gives me to myself or it destroys me. You cannot find or receive yourself through success, because you lose your head over pride. And you cannot receive yourself through the monotony of your daily life, because you give in to complaining. The only way to find yourself is in the fires of sorrow.

“You can always recognize who has been through the fires of sorrow and received himself, and you know that you can go to him in your moment of trouble and find that he has plenty of time for you. But if a person has not been through the fires of sorrow, he is apt to be contemptuous, having no respect or time for you, only turning you away. If you will receive yourself in the fires of sorrow, God will make you nourishment for other people.” Oswald Chambers, June 25, My Utmost for His Highest.

The only way we can “know” the Lord is to understand how much we need Him to run our life.

“Without Me, you can do nothing.” John 15:5

“With God, ALL things are possible.” Matt 19:26

“Never try to live your life in any other way than His way. And His way means absolute devotion to Him – not to a church, and not to a doctrine – but absolute devotion to the Person of Jesus Christ. Showing no concern for the uncertainties that lie ahead is the secret of walking with Jesus.” Ibid., March 9

“Certainty is the mark of the commonsense life - gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways, not knowing what tomorrow may bring. We may be uncertain of the next step, but we are certain of God.

“If our certainty is only in our beliefs, rather than in the Person of Jesus Christ, we develop a sense of self-righteousness, become overly critical. But when we have the right relationship with God, life is full of spontaneous, joyful uncertainty and expectancy.” Ibid. April 29

Today we have substituted doctrinal belief for personal belief, and that is why so many people are devoted to causes and so few are devoted to Jesus Christ. That is why so few are able to understand “spiritual things” and can only understand God’s word through “sense knowledge” – what they can understand with their five senses.

That’s why Christians still don’t understand that Jesus Christ IS God – not just One “like God.” They are still saying, in essence, “Show us the Father. , ,”

There is ONLY ONE God – not “one God in three parts.”

“They shall call His name Immanuel, which means “GOD with us.” (Not “one like God” with us) Matt 1:23

God is invisible (because God is LOVE.) And Jesus is the Visible form of the Invisible God. 1 Tim 1:17; Col 1:15

“I and the Father are One.” John 10:30

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word (Jesus Christ) WAS God.” And the Word (God) was made flesh and dwelt among us (as Jesus Christ). John 1:1,14

Jesus said, “If you’ve seen ME – you have (already) SEEN the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father.’” John 14:9

Christians are still, in essence, saying, “Show us the Father” because they will not accept that Jesus and God are the same Person. God is Invisible - - and Jesus is the VISIBLE form of the Invisible God.

The Christian churches must separate God from Jesus to rationalize their false doctrine of Hellfire. They believe Jesus is the “loving” part God, and God, the Father, is the “justice” part. The Christian churches are determined to have a God – or a “portion” of the supposed Godhead, who will torture His enemies in Hellfire. They know for certain that Jesus Christ would never do that.

Nor would God – because - - - Jesus Christ IS God!

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is ONE Lord.” Deut 6:4

Those in the Christian churches still do NOT know God. They are still, in essence, asking, “Show us the Father. . .” because they worship a Killer God.

Christians have put the character of Satan on the face of God. They think they are worshiping God, when they are really worshiping Satan!

“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

“And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you**; depart from Me, you workers of iniquity!’” Matt 7:22,23