

How Do You Treat God?

I recently saw a cartoon showing a dialogue between two adults. The first said, “My spouse treats me like I’m a god.” The friend says, “So, your spouse worships, honors and obeys you?” The reply came back, “Oh, no. My spouse ignores me until they want something.” That doesn’t sound like a healthy relationship.



How healthy is your relationship with God? Do you only talk to God when you want something, and ignore Him the rest of the time? Or, do you regularly communicate with Him, thanking Him for all He has done for you? Do you share with God the issues of life you are facing, and then listen for His guidance? Do you read His Word, seeking His wisdom? Do you realize that He is working to provide what you need, just when you need it? God wants to be intimately involved in your life – not just when you need something. That kind of relationship is a two-way conversation, not a request line.

One of the recent trendy gifts is the Amazon Echo. It sits on your countertop ready to answer your questions and respond to requests. You can ask it to play a particular kind of music or adjust your house thermostats and lights. You can have it compile your grocery list. TV commercials show it can order items for delivery from a store. Amazing! Technology has brought us to the point where this device is at “your beck and call.” All you have to do is speak its name, Alexia, and it springs to life. Once it hears its name you make your request. Is this what you want God to do for you, responding to every whim and request? Just sit back in your easy chair and make your demands. It is even better than a “genie” who only grants three wishes and calls you “master.”

Who is playing God in this kind of relationship? Having an Alexia in the house is another way of trying to be in control. We like the power of merely asking Alexia a question and then receiving an immediate response. It fits the culture of our time. But, it is not how God works.

As amazing as it is, Alexia didn’t create the universe nor can it create life. Alexia can’t heal people nor does it forgive people who repent of their sins. Alexia can only look up information available on the internet. Alexia can recite the dictionary’s definition of love but has none to give. Alexia is all business. It is just a computer that responds to voice commands and verbalizes answers to us.

Now compare that to God’s love for you. There is no comparison. The popular Christian writer, Max Lucado, describes how God loves you because He knows you intimately. Max Lucado wrote: “He saw you cast into a river of life you didn't request. He saw you betrayed by those you love. He saw you with a body that gets sick and a heart that grows weak. He saw you in your own garden of gnarled trees and sleeping friends. He saw you staring into the pit of your own failures and the mouth of your own grave. He saw you in your own garden of Gethsemane and he didn't want you to be alone ... He would rather go to hell for you than to heaven without you.” Alexia can do none of this. But, God is aware of our struggles and needs. He responds to us in a loving way.

God isn’t limited by programmed computer searches. He understands what you are going through in life and He takes action. He sends people in your path to help you when you need it the most. God answers prayers, and provides what you need. *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you (John 15:7).* He knows you inside and out, even when you don’t communicate with Him. But, if you invite Him into your life you can have a great two-way relationship. That is a whole lot better than ignoring Him until you want something.

Scripture: *Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments (Deuteronomy 7:9).*

Question: How do you structure your spiritual life so that you seek God’s direction and are not just continually asking God to meet your requests?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We are tempted to continually request that you do things for us. Help us to focus on how we can better serve you and, because of our relationship with you, become aware of what You want us to do. Amen.