

God Doesn't Depend On Worship

One idea that's common in paganism is that gods depend on worship. The idea is that if a god is worshiped by more people then he will grow stronger. However, if a god's worship declines then his power will fade, and he may cease existing altogether if no one worships him at all.

The basic concept is that gods somehow benefit from the worship they receive. It does something that improves or strengthens them in some way. Likewise, if the gods lose worshipers then they're harmed and suffer some type of loss.

It's important for Christians to understand that these are *pagan* concepts, not Biblical ones. The God of the Bible is *not* like that! Some Christians have embraced these pagan ideas and believe that our worship somehow helps God, or that our sin hinders or lessens Him. However, neither of those things are true.

The Bible tells us that God is eternal. He has always existed and He will always exist:

Revelation 22:13 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

John 1:1-3: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

There was never a time when God didn't exist (and there will never be such a time either). God is an eternal being. He's actually the *only* eternal being, since He's the only being who didn't have a beginning.

God is the one who created all things:

Ephesians 3:9: "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:"

Colossians 1:16: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:"

Revelation 4:11: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Since God is the one who created literally *everything*, that means there was a time when only God existed. When God is the only one who existed, there was no one around who believed in Him, or served Him, or worshiped Him, or who gave Him gifts, because there was literally *no one else in existence except for God*. The Lord was utterly alone for all of eternity until He created the universe.

During the infinitely long time before God created the universe, He was perfectly fine. His lack of worshipers didn't weaken Him or make Him any less. God wasn't lonely, or sad, or in despair. When God finally did create the universe, that didn't make Him any greater than He already was (even though He now had millions of worshipers). The reason we know this is because God *never* changes:

Malachi 3:6: "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

If God never changes then that means He's exactly the same now (when millions of people worship Him) as He was

before He created the world (when no one worshiped Him). His many worshipers haven't made Him greater because His greatness *doesn't depend on us*.

It also means the introduction of sin into this universe hasn't changed God either. The Lord is exactly the same now, when the world is full of sin, as He was back when the first sin hadn't happened yet.

It's certainly true that sin has a tremendous impact on us. However, it has no ability to lessen God in any way:

Job 35:5-8: "Look unto the heavens, and see; and behold the clouds which are higher than thou. If thou sinnest, what doest thou against him? or if thy transgressions be multiplied, what doest thou unto him? If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand? Thy wickedness may hurt a man as thou art; and thy righteousness may profit the son of man."

Does God become angry when the wicked sin? Absolutely. Is the Holy Spirit grieved when Christians sin? Yes. Both of those reactions are entirely appropriate responses to wickedness. However, sin can't damage God the way it damages us.

Our actions (either good or bad) can't change God because *God doesn't change*. No amount of righteous acts performed by His saints can make Him more glorious, and no amount of vile deeds performed by the wicked can make Him less. The power and magnificence of God doesn't wax and wane based on the actions of mankind.

If no one worshiped God (which was the case before He created the universe), He would be just as glorious, perfect, powerful, and wise as He is now. When the day finally comes when *everyone* will bow down before God and confesses that He is Lord (which Isaiah 45:23 and Romans 14:11 says will one day happen), He will still be exactly as powerful and glorious as He

was before He created anything at all.

Why should we worship God? Because He is worthy of *all* of our worship. Why should we praise Him? Because He deserves it. Why should we give to Him? Because we owe Him everything. It's not because He needs it (for God has no needs of any kind), but because *we owe it to Him*.

If we think that our worship makes God greater then we've completely misunderstood who He is and who we are. It's a tremendous privilege and honor to worship, praise, and glorify God. It's also a great joy to give offerings to Him. Those who think they're doing God a favor by worshiping Him are missing the mark.