

Why Should I Trust God?

Pastor Duane Lawrence

CFCL Bible Study June 13, 2023

John 4:24 – “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

This verse represents the classical statement on the nature of God as Spirit. The phrase means that God is invisible as opposed to the physical or material nature of man.

Colossians 1:15 – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” The Greek word for “image” is *eikon*, from which the English word “icon” comes from. It means, “copy” or “likeness.” Jesus Christ is the perfect image – the exact likeness – of God and is in the very form of God. And has been so from all eternity. By describing Jesus in this manner, Paul is emphasizing that He is both the representation and manifestation of God. Thus, He is fully God in every way.

The Greek word for “firstborn” can refer to one who has first chronologically, but most often refers to preeminence in position, or rank. In both Greek and Jewish culture, the firstborn was the ranking son who had received the right of inheritance from his father, whether he was born first or not. It is used of Israel who, not being the first nation, was however the preeminent nation (Exodus 4:22). Firstborn in this context clearly means highest in rank, not first created.

Philippians 2:6 – “who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,”

Paul affirms that Jesus eternally has been God. The usual Greek word for “existed” or “being” is not used here. Paul chose another term that stresses the essence of a person’s nature – his continuous state of condition. Paul also could have chosen one of two Greek words for “form,” but he chose the one that specifically denotes the essential, unchanging character of something – what it is in and of itself.

The Greek word for “grasped” originally meant “a thing seized by robbery.” It eventually came to mean anything clutched, embraced, or prized, and thus is sometimes translated “held onto.” Though Jesus had all the rights, privileges, and honors of deity – which He was worth of and could never be

2 – Why Should I Trust God?

disqualified from – His attitude was not to cling to those things or His position but to be willing to give them up for a season.

The phrase in John 4:24 which says, “God is spirit,” puts an emphasis on “spirit,” and the statement is essentially emphatic. Man could never comprehend the invisible God unless He revealed Himself as He did in Scripture and the Incarnation.

The words “in spirit and truth” also is a reminder that Paul is not referring to the Holy Spirit but to the human spirit. Jesus’ point here is that a person must worship not simply by external conformity to religious rituals and places (outwardly) but inwardly (“in spirit”) with the proper heart attitude. The reference to “truth” refers to worship of God consistent with the revealed Scripture and centered on the “Word made flesh” who ultimately revealed His Father.

John 14:6 – “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

This is the sixth “I am” statement of Jesus in John (see 6:35; 8:12; 10:7,9; 10:11, 14; 11:25; 15:1,5). In response to the statement made by Thomas, Jesus declared that He is the way to God because He is the truth of God (1:14) and the life of God (1:4; 3:15; 11:25). In this verse, the exclusiveness of Jesus as the only approach to the Father is emphatic. Only one way, not many ways, exist to God.

God has always existed –

Exodus 3:13-15 – “Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”

14 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’” 15 God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.”

3 – Why Should I Trust God?

The name of God points to His self-existence and eternity; it denotes “I am the One who is/will be,” which is decidedly the best and most contextually suitable option from a number of theories about its meaning and etymological source. The significance in relation to “God of your fathers” is immediately discernible: He is the same God throughout the ages!

So, back to the question – Why should I trust God?

I could give you many reasons why you and I should trust God but I am only going to give you three.

The first reason that you should trust God is that He is omnipotent.

Revelation 19:6 – “Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.”

The great praise of the multitude sounds like a massive crashing of waves.

The Greek word translated as “Omnipotent” here means “All-ruling” or as it is more frequently translated, “Almighty.” When we say that God is “Almighty,” we are stating our belief in His authority and rulership over all creation, and the Bible is firm in declaring this fact.

It is God Who ultimately reigns in the universe, and all legitimate authority must derive from Him. If we let Scripture tell us of God’s authority, we must agree that

He has all authority to do all His pleasure, and to see to the fulfillment of His plans without fail. If we accept the Biblical definition of “almighty” – and we accept no other! – we can rightly call God omnipotent!

There is no limit to the power of God –

Psalm 135:5-7 – “For I know that the LORD is great And that our Lord is above all gods. 6 Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps, 7 He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; Who makes lightnings for the rain, Who brings forth the wind from His treasures.”

4 – Why Should Trust God?

Yes, Our God is Omnipotent and you and I should trust Him because there is no limit to His power!

The second reason that you should trust God is that He is omnipresent.

Our Great God is present everywhere at the same time. Is there anywhere in this universe where you can hide from the presence of God? The answer, according to Scripture, is a resounding “NO!”

Psalm 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.”

It is futile to search for a place to hide from the presence of God (and it is unwise to try – just ask Jonah!) God’s infallible word shows that He is omnipresent – within His vast creation, there is no place where you or I can hide from the presence of God.

Yes, Our Great God is Omnipresent – everywhere, in the known, and unknown universe.

You and I can trust Him –

The third and final reason that you should trust God is that He is omniscient.

The Bible tells us that God does perceive all things, which means that no fact can be hidden from His knowledge. As King David recognized: “Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You.” Psalm 139:12

God sees all things, and nothing can be hidden from His knowledge – not even the secret intentions of the heart.

Psalm 44:21 – “Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.”

5 – Why Should I Trust God?

He understands our own intentions better than we do.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 – “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it? 10 “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.”

For the sin of man, the barren man, or the blessed man, God is the final Judge and renders His judgment for their works.

Human beings perceive through the senses, but there are limits to what the senses let us perceive and understand. But God’s senses are not limited like ours. His Spirit searches all things (I Corinthians 2:10), and nothing is beyond God’s ability to perceive it.

Yes, we can say with confidence that God is Omniscient, He knows all, sees all, understands all, and we can trust Him!

Why not trust Him to save you today? You can trust Him to do it because He is true to His Word.

God was speaking to the children of Israel in regards to this verse, but the Biblical principle of God sustaining Israel in His strength through every circumstance, can be applied to us as well –

“Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you.”

Isaiah 46:4 (NKJV)

Yes, we can trust God to take care of us when as we grow older, navigating health challenges and any circumstance that comes our way.

**Duane M. Lawrence, Associate Pastor
Living Word Fellowship Church
Houston, Texas 77088**