

THE UNTAMABLE GOD

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Text: Acts 13:38-41

"Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you: " `Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.' " NIV

The Gospel of Jesus Christ promises more than just forgiveness of sins and hope for heaven—it promises power for living NOW! It promises a relationship with the God of the Bible and the power of God that goes beyond all human reason and explanation.

In *Leadership* magazine Benjamin Reaves writes, “Living expectantly means more than just believing in church doctrines; it means more than trusting my life to God. Living expectantly is faith on tiptoe. Living expectantly means believing with God that life is worth living....I live in the expectancy that in my life God will do a new thing that will transcend the past.” -- Benjamin Reaves, *Leadership*, Vol. 10, no. 2.

But for the human mind there is always the danger failing to live “expectantly” of limiting God to the confines of our thinking and our understanding. We dare not get comfortable or complacent with God or attempt to make Him fit our imperfect expectations of what can be.

God will always defy our human wisdom, logic, and our desire to place Him in a “box” and domesticate or tame Him.

The truth is that God is either truly at work in our lives or we are missing out on the work He wants accomplish in us. We may be saved, but we will never see His glory until we allow Him to be the God in our lives that He is in the universe.

Note 3 **facts** the human mind must accept about the untamable God we serve in order to get beyond our limited expectations.

I. TO THE HUMAN MIND GOD – AT TIMES GOD SOUNDS IRRATIONAL.

A. God speaks contrary to human wisdom.

1 Corinthians 2:14 “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.” NIV

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 “But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.” NIV

B. Through the Spirit, God speaks the language of faith to the believer’s heart.

God said in Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

C. God speaks the language of the Kingdom—where everything is turned upside down.

Matthew 20:26-28 “....whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Luke 9:48 “For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest.”

II. TO THE HUMAN MIND – AT TIMES GOD SEEMS OUT OF CONTROL.

A. Job’s friends tried to make God’s behavior logical.

“It stands to reason that you must have done something wrong Job.” “It’s your fault.” “It only makes sense Job”

B. Job tried to rein God in and advise Him that things had gotten out of hand.

In Job 40:1- The LORD said to Job: "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!" Then Job answered the LORD: "I am unworthy--how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer—twice, but I will say no more."

Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm: "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. "Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself? Do you have an arm like God's, and can your voice thunder like his? Then adorn yourself with glory and splendor, and clothe yourself in honor and majesty.

III. TO THE HUMAN MIND – AT TIMES GOD HAS A STRANGE PERSPECTIVE.

A. God sees things *that have never been.*

God told Israel in Isaiah 43:18-19 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." NIV

B. God sees things that are *beyond the scope of our reality.*

In Isaiah 55:8-9 He tells us that He cannot be confined by our way of thinking. He is totally “out of the box” in His thinking. God says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." NIV

C. God sees things that *will bless and enrich our lives.*

In Jeremiah 29:11-13 the Lord says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

CONCLUSION

Richard J. Foster wrote, “God has to help us let go of our tiny vision in order to release the greater good he has in store for us.

■ Richard J. Foster, *Christian Reader*, Vol. 31.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ promises more than just forgiveness of sins and hope for heaven—it promises power for living NOW! It promises a relationship with the God of the Bible and the power of God that goes beyond all human reason and explanation.

What does God want to do in your life through Jesus Christ?
We might not believe it if someone told us! But then again we might!