

Dear Friend of **Abiding Above**,

September 2012

I have been asked this question many times by people who are hurting or somehow disillusioned with life, "How can we really know there is a God?"

My friend, nature alone is proof enough there is a God. God's Holy Word tells us what God is like in:

**Psalm 19:1&3** – *"The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. There is no speech nor language...where their voice is not heard."*

We also see in **Romans 1:19-20** – *"... because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For **since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse ..."*

Yes, it's true, we cannot see God, but we can see the activity of God all about us. We cannot see the wind, but we can feel it and we can see the way it blows the branches on the trees.

Again, the Bible says, *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."* **John 4:24**

A spirit is a person; and a person is a spirit. God is not merely an influence of the mind or subconscious. He is a living Person having knowledge, feeling, will, righteousness, love, and all of the qualifications that distinguish a person from the animal world.

Even though God is a Spirit, that does not mean we cannot relate to Him or that we must live a life feeling emotionally distant from Him.

You see...God made you and me in such a way that He could live inside of our human spirits. This is what the Apostle Paul meant when he said.

*"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"*  
**1 Corinthians 3:16**

My friend, Christ lives in you! It's like a sweater. A sweater is made in such a way that a person can be inside of it. God has made you and me in such a way that He can live inside of us, living the Christian life through us because we cannot do it. God is real and as you open yourself up to His Spirit and His Word we call the Bible, you will find an ongoing intimate relationship and fellowship with Him.

I had the honor and privilege to host a retreat where I was able to teach young men "Who They are in Christ."

We met together at the lake house of my dear friend, Terry Brimhall. I was able to further the understanding of these men about their identity in Christ. We enjoyed one another and learned from each other. It was a total success.

I also encouraged these young men to begin to be a discipler of other men. Most Christians have never discipled anyone, not even their children and grandchildren. The reason is that they never had anyone disciple them and they do not know how or what it looks like.

I encourage you, my friend, be a person that helps others grow spiritually. It is not really something to consider, it is a command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

**Matthew 28:18-20**

If you would like more information on how you can be a discipler of others, please write to us at the address on the newsletter. If you have never been discipled, please consider our Bible Study Lessons. We offer these lessons for free and you can do them in the comfort of your home. They will give you a great foundation in the principles found in God's Holy Word. You simply read your lesson, answer about 10 questions, mail your answer sheet to our Abiding Above Discipleship School, where one of our friendly volunteers will grade the lesson and send you the next lesson in the series. When you have completed one series, we will send you the next series along with a certificate of completion suitable for framing.

May God continue to richly bless you and your family. Please consider us in your year-end giving. We need you to continue reaching others with the Word of God.

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges  
President  
Abiding Above Ministries  
Colossians 3:1-3