

Does God Know Everything?

Sermon Topic: Does God know everything?

Bible Verse: Mark 9:21 Jesus asked the boy's Father, "How long has the boy been like this?"

Sermon Theme: Understand the concept of man's portion of responsibility and the suffering of the heart of God.

Main idea: In Mark 9:21 Jesus asks a question. But doesn't Jesus, as the son of the almighty, already know everything, as God the Father knows everything? The assumed understanding has always been that knowing everything, even before the fact, was a very important qualification of the Almighty's nature. But does this really need to be so? Some people think that even before the creation God knew through precognition that Adam and Eve would disobey him. But the scripture gives us a different view.

1. Genesis 6:6-7. God grieved in his heart that he had made man on earth. Why? Because man did not live up to God's expectation. God did not expect, therefore, the disobedience of his children.
2. 1 Samuel 15:11. God repented that he had made Saul King. Again, God had an expectation and it was not realized.

(There are other scriptures as well; see green book, Predestination chapter. But we focus here on these.)

If God knew that Adam and Eve were going to disobey him, would he have created? No! Then is God almighty? Yes. But we need to understand what constitutes almightiness.

1. Almightyness is a matter of heart, not intellect.
2. God, as a parent, 100% by heart expects man to have faith. In his heart, God never anticipates man's faithlessness.

3. God created man in order to engage in a perfect love relationship. The basis of love is trust and responsibility. God gave man responsibility, or, rather, entrusted man with responsibility to obey and have faith in His word.
4. Entrusting man with the responsibility of faith, God believes innocently that man will fulfill his responsibility.

Without trust and responsibility, there can be no true love.

Summary: God always believes in the original goodness of man and chooses to relate to that part of us, even in the face of real evidence that we are not trustworthy. In spite of our history of sin and faithlessness, God bestows his trust in us, not because the odds are in his favor but because he is a trusting being by nature and never changes. As a result, God's real situation is that man is constantly receiving God's trust but abusing and taking advantage of that trust. God is a grieving God because of the sin and faithlessness of man.

Therefore we are compelled to be the same way. Do we change our hearts when we are betrayed? Do we become untrusting and cynical? The greatness of Rev. Moon is not merely that he endured suffering, but that, in the suffering, his idealism and his belief in the goodness of man remained intact. Jesus on the cross: "Father, forgive them..."