

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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~ All articles are written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

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Does God Meet Us Where We Are?

This seems to be a popular statement among religious people today. It is difficult to answer such a question without clarifying the meaning of "meet us where we are".

Frankly, I am not sure what people really mean when they say such a thing. It may be that different people mean different things by such a statement. You may need the context of it to know what is meant by it.

It would certainly be helpful if people would use Biblical language instead of clichés that are thrown around carelessly.

So, with that being said, let me try to answer the question. In one sense, God can only meet us where we are. After all, He can't meet us where we are not. That is logically impossible. Nobody, not even God, can do what is logically impossible.

In that sense, if God is going to meet us at all, He must meet us where we are. However, I don't think the above tautology (a statement that is true by virtue of its logical form) is what most people have in mind when they make this statement. Therefore, we must look at other possible meanings.

Whenever two people meet, they have to be at the same place at the same time. If those two are not at the same place, one or both of them must travel so that they can meet. Of

course, God is omnipresent (everywhere present). That is, God is everywhere simultaneously.

Thus, in terms of where we are located in space, God is already there to meet us, even before we have arrived ourselves. Paul addresses this while on Mars Hill.

"26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though **He is not far from each one of us;**" **Acts 17:26-27 (NKJV)**

This means that we do not need to travel to any special place to meet God. He is just as much present with you wherever you happen to be at this moment as He would be in some "holy" place. No need to go on a pilgrimage to find and meet God. He is not far from each of us.

It also means that He is not a tribal or national God. He is available to all men everywhere. Furthermore, God does not need to travel to our location to meet us. When we talk about God meeting us, we are really talking about a spiritual meeting, not a physical meeting because God is spirit.

"**God is Spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." **John 4:24 (NKJV)**

We are obviously not where God is spiritually no matter what we do or how righteous we try to be. This is why we need a Savior.

Jesus is the Savior that bridges the gap between God and man spiritually. But even this is probably not what people mean when they say, "God meets us where we are".

The real question is who needs to move spiritually for God to meet us spiritually? The truth is that God has already moved in providing us with Jesus as our Savior. He also moves in convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come through the work of the Holy Spirit.

"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." **John 16:8 (NKJV)**

God has made Himself available to all men if they will reach out for Him. He has done this with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, the witness of the Scripture, the preaching of the Church, and the conviction of the Holy Spirit, just to name a few ways.

If it were entirely up to God, He would have met us all already. He is not willing that any should perish.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish** but that all should come to repentance." **II Pet. 3:9 (NKJV)**

So, what is left for us to meet God? We need to respond to Him and the truth of the Gospel. God has already made His move. Now we must make ours. We must respond to His Gospel call.

“To which **He called you by our gospel**, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” **II Thess. 2:14 (NKJV)**

Those who respond to the Gospel call, obtain the glory of Jesus. Those who do not obey the Gospel face the wrath of God at the return of Jesus.

“In flaming fire **taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the Gospel.**” **II Thess. 1:8 (NKJV)**

God has already made His move in providing a means of salvation and making it known to man. Now it is up to us to make our move in response.

Perhaps the bottom line here is the following: **God is not going to change for us. However, we must change (repent) for Him.**

“I tell you, no; but **unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**” **Luke 13:1 (NKJV)**