

# *Introduction*

Is God real, or is He just an imaginary friend for grown ups? I think this is a very good question and it all depends on who you ask. Some people believe that God does not exist; some believe in some kind of a higher power, and some believe in the God of Abraham.

There are 3.8 billion people in the world that believe in the God of Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Moses. The 3 primary religions are Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Followers of Islam number 1.2 billion and make up 19.6% of the world's population. Muslims believe that the Jewish god is the same as their god and that Jesus is a divinely inspired prophet, but not God. Muslims revere the Qur'an as the final uncorrupted word of God or the last testament brought through the last prophet, Muhammad. Muhammad is regarded as the "Seal of the Prophets" and Islam is viewed as the final monotheist faith for all of humanity (Wikipedia, 2008). Islamic beliefs are segregated into 4 major denominations.

Judaism followers total 14.5 million and make up 0.2% of the world's population. Jewish theology is based on the Hebrew Bible, where the nature and commandments of God are revealed through the writings of Moses, the Torah, and the writings of the prophets, psalmists and other ancient canonized scriptures, together with the Torah known as the Tanakh. Additionally, it usually has a basis in its Oral Law, as recorded in the Mishnah and Gemora which form the Talmud (Wikipedia, 2008). Jewish theology does not revere Jesus as God or an inspired prophet, but believes that someday the Messiah will return. Judaism has separated into 5 main branches or denominations.

Christianity followers number 2.03 billion and make up 33% of the world's population. Christians believe that the god worshipped by the faithful Hebrew people of the pre-Christian era has always revealed Himself as He did through Jesus; but this was never obvious until the Word of the Lord, the revelation of God, became flesh and dwelt among us (see John 1). Also, despite the fact that the Angel of the Lord spoke to the Patriarchs revealing God to them, it has always been only by the Spirit of God granting them understanding, that men have been able to perceive afterward that they had been visited by God Himself. After Jesus was raised from the dead—according to Christian scriptures—this ancient Hebrew witness of how God reveals Himself as *Messiah* came to be seen in a very different light. It was then that Jesus' followers began to speak widely of Him as God himself (see John 20:28; Wikipedia, 2008). Christianity has divided into 300 branches making up 38,000 denominations.

Is the God of Abraham the same God that sent His son Jesus Christ? If He is, then why don't the Jews and the Muslims believe in Him? Is Christ the only way to heaven? Is there any way of truly knowing who is right and who has the answers? If Christianity is right, and there are 38,000 different denominations that claim to follow Christ, which one of them has the answers? If Christianity is right, does God want His church divided into 38,000 different denominations?

**“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers, some from the Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels (debates) among you. What I mean is this: One says,**

**“I follow Paul”; another “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).**

There are 38,000 denominations that believe different things and claim that Christ is the head of the Church. It looks to me like Christ is divided among the Christians. I am not talking about God’s children meeting in different places to be taught by the teacher (Holy Spirit – John 14:26) and follow the priest of the New Covenant, Jesus Christ (Hebrew 9:11). No, it would be hard to fit 2.03 billion people in the same building. I am talking about 2.03 billion people segregated into 38,000 different denominations all believing different things, following different doctrines. If all 38,000 denominations follow Jesus, then why do they all believe different things and teach different doctrines? Is it even possible to think that all of God’s children could believe the same thing and become united in Christ Jesus?

Who do you belong to? Who do you follow? Do you believe in the God of Abraham? Do you believe that there is a higher power? Do you follow the beliefs of the atheists? Do you follow the religious beliefs of the big bang theory? Where do you put your faith? Whose teachings do you follow? Do you follow the beliefs of the Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists, Presbyterians, Mormons, or Quakers? There are 38,000 different denominations, and if you believe in God you more than likely belong to one of them.

Is it possible to have answers for our questions about God, or will we never really know until we die? Is it possible in this life for our beliefs to become reality? Is there any way of truly knowing? If there is a higher power, can He speak to His people? If He can speak to His people, does He want to? If He can speak to His people and He wants to speak to His people, why can’t His people hear Him and why is there confusion and division among His children? Hopefully this book will help answer some of these questions.

For eighteen years I believed in the God of Abraham and I believed in Christ. I thanked Him for the past and looked forward to the future. I thanked God for sending His son to die for my sins and I looked forward to the day when I would get to meet Him face to face. I knew God in the past and I looked forward to knowing Him in the future. However, I never knew we could *know* Him in the present. This book is what I have learned regarding God in the present. I never knew that God could be so real in the present. Below are some words that I heard as I was riding a colt one day. I wrote down the words the Lord had given me and was amazed at how real He could be, even while I was riding a colt. These are the words that He gave me that day:

### Simplicity-

Those who seek answers often never find solutions,  
For the solution comes to those who wait patiently upon the Lord.

If you are hungry do not leave the table until you are fed,  
Lest you leave discontented and die from starvation.

Turn to man with a problem and receive numerous answers,

Turn to God and receive the solution.

Do not cheat off your neighbor or you may get caught in a lie,  
Raise your hand and the Teacher will help.

If the road to take seems unclear in your mind,  
Open your eyes before you get lost.

Confusion leads the blind into destruction,  
But, simplicity is for they who find peace in the Shepherd.

Another time as I was praying, I tried to think about God from the different perspectives of the people around the world. God showed me that there were basically 3 kinds of people; those who do not believe in God, those who believe in God, and those who know God. As I started to write, God began to speak through my pen and I began to feel the emotions of God. To the first group I felt God's pain and suffering and I started to cry. To the second group I could feel God's anger and disappointment; and to the last group, I could feel the overflowing love and excitement God had towards them.

#### GOD speaks to His children-

Am I real? Do I exist? Am I just a fairy tale passed down through the generations?

It depends on who you ask.

Some say that I am not real. They say, "I can not see you. Therefore you do not exist."

-To them I say, "Open your eyes my child, I am right in front of you. Open your heart and you will see me. I swear to you by the blood of my only begotten son, I do exist. He is the way, the truth, and the life; no one can come to me, but through Him. If you would only open your heart, you could see Him and you would know I am real."

Some say they know I am real. They say, "We know you are real, because we believe in the promise of our fathers. Our fathers said you are real and we have faith in our fathers."

-To them I say, "Get away from me, you that love sin. You do not know me; if you knew me you would know my son and I would see Him in you. When I look at you, I see the son of perdition not the son of righteousness. I do not exist in the promise of your fathers, I exist in my son. He is the priest of the New Covenant. If the Spirit of my son lives in you, then I exist in you. He in Me and you in Him and we are all in one. How do you not know this? Who has taught you? I told you I would send you the Teacher (Holy Spirit). Whose pupil are you? If you knew me, you would know my son. Return to your first love and I will return to you. I do not dwell in temples made with hands, I dwell in you."

Yet some say, "I want to know you. Show me that you are real, show me your glory."

-To them I say, "Take the keys to the kingdom of heaven. I look for such as you. I will show myself to you. I will teach you. Oh my precious child come to me, the door is open. You know the door, you have the key, come unto me and I will make my abode in you."

Am I real? Do I exist? Am I a fairy tale passed down through the generations?

It depends on who you ask.

Some say no, because they cannot see me. They are blind.

Some say yes, because they have faith in someone who saw me. Yet they are still blind.

However, some say, I want to know you.

They shall see me, they will know me, they shall see in a new light.

Am I real? Do I exist?

Ask me! I will always tell you the truth. I will show you I am real, and that you may believe and not be deceived. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Ask and you shall receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened. -----

More than likely there will probably be things in this book, which will not line up with what you have been taught, or what you believe. That is ok; my goal for this book is not to have you adopt my beliefs. My goal for this book is to help you realize that God can speak to His people and inspire you to go to Him. Then, that you will learn to hear Him speak, and have *Him* tell you what to believe. I have believed in God my whole life and I never doubted He was real. I always believed in His omnipresence - "God is everywhere, whether we can sense Him or not" (Nori, His Manifest Presence, 1988). However, I never knew we could constantly experience His manifest presence in our life. "His manifest presence is revealed whenever He makes Himself real to you, personally *in your spirit* and you know without a shadow of a doubt God has spoken to your heart" (Nori, His Manifest Presence, 1988). The God of Abraham is a real and living God and His presence can guide His children today, in the same real way He led the Israelites out of Egypt.

**"By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of the fire by night left its place in front of the people" (Exodus 13:21-22).** God is real and the kicker is *He wants to show us* He is real. However, we have to be willing to go to Him. If God's children would only pray the prayer of Moses, **"If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you" (Exodus 33:13).** If we would only ask for the heart and desire of Moses. **"If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" (Exodus 33:15-16).** **"Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory (manifest presence)" (Exodus 33:18).** Have you ever prayed that prayer? Once we begin to pray with the heart of Moses, our lives will never be the same again.

See what Rahab the spy had to say about the God of Abraham, **“We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below” (Joshua 2:10-11).**

Do people say that about your God? Do people fear your God? There undoubtedly is a lot of confusion about God in the world we live in today. People are confused because instead of praying Moses’ prayer, we are content sitting around talking about God. We discuss and interpret what our fathers had to say about God, instead of listening to what He has to say about Himself. As with anything in life, if we are confused by the interpretation, we should go to the source. I am here to tell you that my God is real! We can go to Him and He can speak to us. I serve the God of Elijah! In **1 Kings 18:22-39**, Elijah thought he was the only prophet of God left alive and there were 450 prophets serving Baal. Elijah told them to get 2 bulls and they would each put a bull on their altar. **“Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God” (1 Kings 18:24).** Elijah and the followers of Baal each prepared their sacrifice on the altar and the worshippers of Baal called out first to their god. They cried out constantly from morning till evening and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until blood flowed. But nothing happened.

Then Elijah told them to drench the altar of the Lord with water and fill the trench surrounding the altar with water. He then stepped up and prayed, **“O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” “Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried. “The Lord—He is God! The Lord—He is God!” (1 Kings 18:36-39).** God is unable to show Himself to His people if we are unwilling to look to Him. All it takes is one prayer, one prayer calling out to truly know God. God is waiting and looking for those people. Have you ever called out desperately wanting to know the God of Elijah?

As long as we are content sitting around talking about God, it is awfully hard to hear from God Himself. If everyone; Jews, Muslims, Christians, higher power believers, and the atheists, would only call out wanting to know God with an open heart, He would reveal Himself and there would be no more division. Division comes from man interpreting man and not softening our hearts to listen to God Himself. Division comes from trying to understand interpretations, instead of going to the source. Religious people say, “We have the answers, come join our church and we will help you.” True followers of God say, “He has the answers, come follow Him and He will help you.”

I always believed in a real God. However, it has been only through the past 7 years that I am beginning to know God. Is God real? Is He just an imaginary friend for grown ups? Well, you may think I am crazy, but my imaginary friend came to life 7 years ago. Although sometimes I

leave Him, He never leaves me. It is my choice every second of every day, to have Him by my side or to cast Him to the side. It is my choice, to experience Him like the men in the Bible, or to be content talking about the men in the Bible. If I let Him, He never leaves my presence; I can always feel His manifest presence in my midst. He never quits teaching and guiding, I just sometimes quit listening and looking.

If you are unsure about God, or often wonder if there may be more. I hope this book will help you come to know God in a deeper and greater way, and HE will be able to answer all your questions. If there is one thing I know, it is that *I have absolutely no answers*, but I know of someone who does. If you come to me for the answers, I will save you the suspense; you will ultimately be disappointed. However, if you will take what the Lord has given me and go to Him, I guarantee you will never be disappointed again.

When we go to man to learn about God, it should not stop at the man. We should go through the man and ultimately stop in the manifest presence of God, for that is the only place that our needs will always be met. That is the only place that we are guaranteed peace and contentment, in this life. If you receive anything from this book, if anything speaks to your heart, it did not come from me, but by the grace of God. Grace comes from a Greek word meaning *graciousness (gratifying)* and means: *the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life*. We often do not need more teaching from men, just a little grace from above. Hopefully you are able to receive the latter through the former.