Liberty University
DigitalCommons@Liberty University

What You Need to Know About... | Willmington School of the Bible

10-1-2011

What You Need to Know about ... Him (Part Seven)

Harold Willmington
Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/will_know

Part of the Religion Commons

Willmington, Harold, "What You Need to Know about ... Him (Part Seven)" (2011). *What You Need to Know About...*. Paper 85.
http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/will_know/85

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Willmington School of the Bible at DigitalCommons@Liberty University. It has been accepted for inclusion in What You Need to Know About... by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Liberty University. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunication@liberty.edu.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT …. HIM

Dr. H. L. Willmington

(http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/will_know/

This is the **seventh** in a series in regard to basic facts about the God of the Bible!

GOD IS A PERSON (continued)

- **He promotes:**

  "You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you" (Psa. 5:6, 7).

- **He cares**

  Consider the following two passages:
  "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6, 7).

  "Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward" (Heb. 10:35).

Thomas Baird once wrote:

It is His will that I should cast
My cares on him each day.
He also bids me not to cast
My confidence away;
But oh! How foolishly I act
When taken unaware,
I cast away my confidence
And carry all my care.

There is a story concerning a very rich man but in spite of his wealth, was a perpetual worry wart! In fact there was so much to worry about, that he became hopelessly behind in spending the necessary time to worry about each issue and that in itself greatly worried him! So then, deciding to solve this problem, he sat down and made a long list of those worries and then hired someone to do his worrying for him. Thus:

1. The rich man: "Here's what your job is all about. I want you to take this list and spend at least 30 minutes worrying over each worry. Any questions?"
2. The employee: "Yes, we've talked about what you want me to do, why you want me to do it, and the hours involved, but here's my question: When do I get paid?"
3. The rich man: "That's your first worry!"

I once had a little wooden sign on my desk which read:

> *Why pray when you can worry?* (or) *Why worry when you can pray?*
>
> (Choose one of the above)

Some 20 centuries ago, the apostle Paul counseled the Church at Philippi to select the second one:

> *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 4:4-7).

- **He hears**

  One of the saddest accounts in regard to pagans seeking help from their false gods is recorded in the Old Testament book of Second Kings. You may remember Elijah the prophet had challenged the prophets of Baal to a contest on Mt. Carmel in Israel. He proposed each build an altar, place an animal sacrifice on it, and call upon the respective deity to answer by sending fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice. He then said, "You guys go first." Here is what happened next:

  > *"And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, O Baal, answer us! But there was no voice. And no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made . . . And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention"* (1 Kings 18:26, 28, 29).

  Then it was Elijah's turn:

  > *"And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back. Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench"* (1 Kings 18:36-38).

The fact that God hears is mentioned nearly 70 times in the Psalms alone. In almost all cases this fact is connected to hearing our prayers. For example, in Psa. 6:8, God says that He hears in time of sorrow. Then in Psa. 34:6 we are told God hears in time of trouble. Perhaps the greatest passage is found in Psa. 55:17, where we are told that God hears anytime we pray. David says: *"Evening and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."*

Some will recall the "God is Dead" movement in the 1960s. At that time I was pastoring a church in Minnesota. Responding to this, a Christian penned a letter to the *Minneapolis Star* newspaper which read:

> "God is dead! How strange, for I just talked to Him this morning!'

Later that same week, a skeptic wrote to the editor –

> "Allah is dead? How strange, for I just talked to him this morning!"

The believer then responded –

> "Really, tell us, what did he say?"

- **He hates**

  "There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers" (Prov. 6:16-19).

Especially does God hate the act of sowing discord among the brethren.

George and Ethel were members of the same local church. He was a low-keyed, quiet, hard-working handyman who could always be seen driving an old battered pickup truck. She was the town gossip with a tongue longer than a Minnesota winter!

One Sunday morning, following the preaching service she confronted him in the parking lot. Pointing an accusing finger at him, she began, 'I just want you to know your old disgusting truck has been seen parked in front of the town's most notorious tavern! Shame, shame on you! We all know what goes on in a terrible place like that!"

Without pausing, she continued to run her mouth for another ten minutes, loudly berating him in front of those leaving the church. But through all this, George said not a word and finally, turned and left. That night, around 10:00 p.m. he parked his truck in front of her house and quietly walked home!

- **He grieves**

  "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30)

Here it should be said the word *grieve* is in reality directly associated with the word *love.* To explain: a person might (hopefully not) *hate* his or her enemies, to be *fond* of their friends, but can only be *grieved* by someone they love dearly, like a wayward son, daughter, etc.

- **He loves**

  God's love, or, indeed, human love may be described as that act of one person seeking the highest good for another person! See Rom. 5:8; 8:35; Eph. 2:4; 1 John 3:1, 16; 4;10, 16.

Perhaps the greatest song ever written is a song that we sometimes limit to the singing of little children. It is the song that, as small children, we learned in Sunday school:

Jesus loves me, this I know;
For the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.

Prepared by:
Dr. H. L. Willmington
Dean, Willmington School of the Bible
Dean, Liberty Home Bible Institute
Liberty University
http://digitalcommons.libert.edu/will_know/