

## THE COMFORTING DELUSIONS

Opening Questions:

- Is it wrong to apply logic to God belief claims? (Please remember the proper definition of “faith”)
- Is it right to believe something that is false?
- Is it okay to have faith in something that is false?
- Is it healthy or in a person’s best interest to be delusional?
- Why does God have to be “all-powerful” to save an individual from him/her self?
- Is it wrong to expect the reality that we experience each day to line up with God claims that would manifest in that reality?

Most religious people who take the label Christian, Muslim or Jew or other such theists state that God is all-powerful or all-mighty. Anyone who thinks a bit about this claim can see the attraction of this claim. Wouldn't it be great to have “Superman” protecting your back at all times? Who would not want that? Thus, human beings created a god that assuages their fears of being hurt or killed. Also, you have the competitive tribal mentality of “our God is greater than your god.” Thus each group's god is “more powerful” than the others!

The thinking goes like this, “if God is for me, who can be against me” to quote the Christians beloved Paul. That saying of Paul is wrong from two perspectives. First, it completely contradicts Joshua of Nazareth's experience and teachings. Was God for Joshua? Yes. Were people against him? Yes, most, that is why they publically killed him. Thus Paul's statement is proved false. Furthermore, Joshua teaches that “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.” John 15:18ff. Thus the people of the world are very much against the followers of The Light.

Second, even Paul's saying does not address physical protection. But religious people often don't let facts or sound reason get in the way of their imaginary comfort blanket! So, most Christians and Muslims and Jews go about quoting their beloved scripture which assures them that their God – being all-powerful – will protect them in this world even with evidence and proof countering that claim coming in daily by the hundreds of millions of times!

My question, as a disciple, is where does Joshua say that his Father is all-powerful?

Another objection to the fact that God is not all-powerful is, “well, if God is not all-powerful, then he is not worthy of placing my faith in.” In other words, “if God is not the way I want him to be, then I will not place my faith in him.” *That is a statement that supports the point in this book that most religious people make up a god who serves them instead of letting the teachings of Joshua, sound reason and observations guide them to know God.* What the religious person is saying or objecting to if they are to believe that God is not all-powerful, is their erroneous belief that “IF God is not all-powerful, He cannot save me (or those I believe I need in my life).” Two questions to that objection are:

1. Save you from what?
2. Why does he have to be all powerful to save you?

Regarding the first question, most Christians would say, “save me from hell” or “save me from horrible things happening to me in this life” or “save my loved ones from harm.” The “save me from hell” fear is irrational if you know the teachings of Joshua of Nazareth regarding the Father's character as we saw in an earlier chapter. Our Father does not send us to hell (a place of destruction, not of eternal torment), rather, we send ourselves either to Life or justice and destruction – it is completely up to us. God does not force us to love Him or each other. Therefore, it is irrational to fear God not being all-powerful regarding “going to hell” since He does not send us there. So, in truth, we should be afraid of ourselves if we are going to be fearful of hell at all!

Regarding the, “save me from horrible things happening to me in this life” or “save my loved ones from harm” fear, *God cannot intervene in this realm or He would.* His power is constrained to His realm unless He has an agent like Joshua of Nazareth to work in this realm and then it is localized to that agent. There are no guarantees in this life regarding what will happen to our bodies. Thankfully, as followers of the Light, we do have his promises that our Father will receive us when our body dies.

Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going. (John 14)

The “I will come again and receive you to myself?” does not necessarily refer to a physical coming.

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word, and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. (John 5)

Please note he says, “my word,” *not*, “the Bible,” or Paul's or Moses's or popular preacher or author or Bible scholar or Greek expert, etc.

What we can know for sure, without error, is that there are thousands of people – from small children to people of faith to the relatively innocent (those who are not doing something wrong to other people) – who are both treated unjustly each day, and who are suffering from various things in this world each day. And yet, God is not intervening to help them. To conclude otherwise is to be deluded.

Here are the dictionary definitions of “delusion”:

“Something a person believes and wants to be true, when it is actually not true.”<sup>51</sup>

“a: Something that is falsely or erroneously believed or propagated.”<sup>52</sup>

“b: A persistent false psychotic belief regarding the self or persons or objects outside the self that is maintained despite indisputable evidence to the contrary.”<sup>52</sup>

Such delusionary religious beliefs are yet another reason why non-theist people reject believing that God exists, let alone trying to get to know God or placing their faith in him. The average person reasons that since religious people have some delusional beliefs, that all their beliefs are questionable if not delusional. That is faulty reasoning, but you should be able to see how the delusional beliefs of religious people make an easy excuse for people who don't believe God exists to throw the baby (Joshua of Nazareth) away with the dirty bathwater (Christian/Bible religion and its false beliefs in his name).

Unfortunately, a primary purpose of religion is to put so many false and silly and wrong and foolish and harmful and delusional beliefs about God out amongst the human race that people who are willing to use their mind and thus reason well, will reject God's existence. (Really the one Joshua calls the father of lies assists in propagating those falsehoods among religious people.)

Of course, the religious people don't believe they are doing that, but that is precisely the nature of deception or of being deluded. Religious people are deceived and deluded on some essential things regarding God. In their delusion, they mislead others and ask them to join them in their delusion. Finally, this delusion work serves to keep non-religious people away from God. They have a powerful natural motivation to assist with this process since people want to feel secure and want to believe that a god will save them – will preserve their life in this world - when they need it. And this, in spite of Joshua saying:

He who loves his life (in this world) loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. (John 12:25)

Let us review this widely held religious belief about God in more detail. Here are some key claims/doctrine of the Christians regarding the nature and character of God.

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<sup>51</sup> Cambridge Dictionary, [www.dictionary.cambridge.org](http://www.dictionary.cambridge.org), May 2018

<sup>52</sup> Merriam-Webster Dictionary, [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com), May 2018

- God is all-knowing or omniscient;
- God is all-seeing or everywhere at once or omnipresent;
- God is all-powerful or omnipotent;
- God is all-loving and cares about each person on the earth;

OK, let's use reason and logic well here to evaluate these claims, for these claims are in the realm of precepts or beliefs, not faith (faith means extending trust to something not physically verifiable) and thus tested by observation and logic.

If God can see all things (omnipresent), then he can see all the evil acts that are committed each day on this planet against children and innocent people. Is this not correct?

Those who are offended at the possibility that God is not all-powerful will sometimes offer the argument, "What does "innocent" really mean?" What they are getting at is their belief that all people are guilty of sin - there are no innocent adults - thus all people deserve punishment for their sins.

Let us respond to this argument by first defining the term/concept of "innocent."

Cambridge dictionary says, "not guilty of a particular crime, or having no knowledge of the unpleasant and evil things in life, or (of words or action) not intended to cause harm."<sup>53</sup>

If you search the other dictionaries, you should agree this is a pretty good, comprehensive definition of the term/concept.

Please note that there are three definitions of "innocent" in Cambridge's single definition. Here they are separated.

1. Not guilty of a particular crime;
2. Not knowing the unpleasant and evil things in life;
3. (of words or action) not intended to cause harm.

So, let us take a look at my statement that uses the concept of "innocent."

I said, "If God can see all things (omnipresent), then he can see all the evil acts that are committed each day on this planet against children and innocent people."

Placing children aside for a moment, clearly many adults exist who meet definitions one and three above. These people are not guilty of crimes nor are they walking around looking to harm people. When those people are treated unjustly, cruelly or are wrongly-harmed, are they deserving of that treatment? I would ask for a teaching from the Light of the world to back up those who claim they are worthy of that treatment. Since God teaches us to even, "love our enemies" even as He does, they will come up empty.

Even as adults, if we have lost our internal, pure, spiritual innocence due to our experiencing or understanding evil or that which is wrong, how would that make us deserving of unjust treatment? Only a very distorted view of God

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<sup>53</sup> Cambridge Dictionary, [www.dictionary.cambridge.org](http://www.dictionary.cambridge.org), May 2018

would have a person answer that due to our understandings (lack of innocence) in our minds, we deserve unjust treatment by evil people while on this earth.

Finally, let's look at the children. There are many, many young children – as well as older disabled people like Downs Syndrome people – who are innocent by all three definitions, and yet are unjustly treated and wrongfully suffering each day. In fact, young children and disabled people like Down's Syndrome people are disproportionately treated unjustly, wrongly, abused, neglected and harmed each day on this planet. The weaker and innocent are shamefully treated and preyed upon regularly each day by the millions. To deny this is irrational.

So, now that we have shown the error of trying to use the concept of "innocence" to justify an all-knowing and all-loving and all-powerful God *not* intervening in this realm let's take a closer look at this delusional belief.

Here is the "trilemma" or argument or syllogism that Christian's attempt to reconcile as stated earlier in the book:

- Premise 1: God is All-Powerful (meaning he can do anything he wants in any realm...nothing or nobody can stop his will and work)
- Premise 2: God is All-Loving (meaning he cares deeply about the welfare of people and would not want them to come to – at a minimum – unjust harm or suffering)
- Conclusion: God prevents unjust harm and suffering in this world.

Let us now test this argument using reason, logic, and observation.

#### Verifiable, Undeniable Facts:

Fact 1: Many thousands of relatively innocent people are unjustly harmed or treated wrongly each day on this planet, including Christians and others who say they believe in God. From emotional pain to being treated wrongfully or shamefully, to physical death and everything in between - harm, pain, and suffering happen each day on this planet countless times. The reader should know the causes by now! In fact and ironically, the real and historical person of Joshua of Nazareth was tortured and killed, and he was genuinely innocent! Yes, he said he could have saved himself, but that is not the point. The point is that it is usual in this world for innocent people to be harmed, mistreated, abused and used *and* it is normal for God *not* to intervene.

Fact 2: Most of the innocent people harmed (used, abused, mistreated, hurt, injured or killed) are women, children, and the different or disabled—the weak and vulnerable.

Fact 3: Of the many thousands of people harmed each day on this planet, there are no reliable, verifiable reports of miracles delivering people from harm or death. There are billions of cell phones spread across the earth at this point, most of which have cameras and yet nothing – no evidence that an all-powerful God is saving or protecting innocent children or people from harm.

No, the testimony of religious people claiming that God does miracles (acts that defy physical laws) does not change the facts. If God did miracles, there would be evidence of that work.

So, those are the facts that observation and reason provide. Many thousands of vulnerable or weaker people are unjustly treated, harmed, killed, or left to die each day. So the question is where is the all-powerful God to intervene and protect them?

And yet the religious people continue in their delusional chant, “God is in control—God is in control”. Well, logic tells us that if God is in control of a world filled with evil, then God is responsible for that evil. See any problems with that reasoning? If not, why not submit to the truth of it and start down the road of finding real freedom instead of staying in religious delusion?

People should value reason for it is the means to determine what is real from what is false. When religious people proclaim false beliefs – beliefs which do not meet the test of observation, reason or logic – they do great harm, not the least of which is encouraging people to believe that **all** God-beliefs are false. In so doing, they turn people away from the One who can indeed save us from ourselves and spiritual death.

The “God is in control” belief is very popular and powerful because it provides two things. First, it provides a false sense of security by believing that God is going to help me physically in my hour of need. Second, it alleviates or removes the personal responsibility to take any action associated with god-beliefs. Why? Well, if God is in control...if god is running things and orchestrating all the events around me, then I cannot change anything, therefore, why try? Or, “if I try to change something it might go against what God is doing, and I don't want to go against what God is doing.” As we have seen, since religious people don't claim to know God's will, they might offer a slightly different version of excuse like, “I am not going to mess with God's will even though I don't understand that person's suffering.”

This belief does an outstanding job at justifying religious people's lack of behavior that would otherwise be consistent with their god claims. Along with Paul's grace doctrine, this belief works very well in preventing religious people from working to try and fix the problems they encounter each day...it provides an excellent justification for being cowards and ignoring all the wrong around them. Instead of rolling up their sleeves and addressing the wrongs and evils, many hide in their god beliefs and in their “sanctuaries” and do nothing or very little.

If God, in fact, is all-powerful and all-knowing and can see all things that happen on this earth;

*And* he acted based on love for people (and a person who loves another person certainly acts to protect them from unjust harm);

Then surely he would intervene to prevent the unjust-caused pain and suffering of innocent people.

Again, does the reader find fault with my reason or logic? Finding fault does not mean quoting some “scripture” to contradict that argument. Instead, it means using reason and logic to point out an error in the discussion.

No, the objection to the above facts of, "but God's ways are higher than our ways" does not make the truth go away...it is merely a parroted religious response which seeks to avoid or deny what is true. And the religious people respond, “No, that saying about God's ways is Scripture, the Word of God!” Yes that is “scripture”, but no, scripture is not the word of God, and if it was, why do you look to a God who has the power to stop children's suffering and abuse yet does not? Back to the delusional denial, “oh, but God's ways are not our ways.” Well, THAT god's ways are cowardly and evil, dear person. How would you describe the three-hundred pound strongman watching a sniveling one-hundred fifty pound pervert abuse a young child and do nothing about it?

Some religious people will argue that God purposely hides His deeds from people and that is why there is no evidence. The reasonable question to that assertion is why? Why would this all-powerful God conceal his kind acts and thus select one suffering child to save (who was hidden) over another, who was not? An omnipotent being who also cared about His creations and that could keep, for example, young children from unjust suffering would do so because his love would drive him to do that.

Furthermore, didn't the real God say?

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matt. 6)

Would God not be a hypocrite to teach us not to hide our good works, but He would?

The truth is that no such help is forthcoming as the factual evidence of each day proves. God does **not** intervene in the affairs of humankind as any non-deluded individual can easily judge. So, why not consider coming out from the delusion and instead listening to the One who says, "I am the truth"? Why not give up your Bible religion and reliance on contradictory “scripture” and instead put your faith in the Light of the world? Why not put away what *you* want God to be, and instead accept who He is as revealed by The Light and truth?

The same objection repeated many times does not mean it is a valid objection, “but we cannot know God or his ways...” The Light says, "And this is eternal Life, that you may know God."! In fact, it is critical that we "know God" as best as possible because God created us to love others including Him and He does love us and does *not* want us to destroy ourselves. The best way to know God is to study and know the teachings of His Messenger, the One about whom God said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased – listen to *him!*"

As previously discussed, religious people hanging onto the "God is all-powerful" belief generally do so because they are afraid that if God is not all-

powerful, then He will not be able to “save” them from difficulties in this life, or at the end of their lives. The question is, is that fear reasonable? As we have seen, fear and reason are enemies, and when fear influences a person's heart, they cannot usually reason well. My question in return is to ask, “do you have god beliefs just so you can get something from God?” If you do, then you are not listening to the greatest commandment that The Light validated.

And this is the first and greatest commandment, that you love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. (Matt. 22:36-38)

Love does not act on “what do I get out of it.” Rather, love is a metaphysical “attitude” which includes, valuing someone or something higher than I value myself. I don't deny that wanting to continue one's existence after physical death is a reasonable desire for all those who believe that our life does not end after our body dies. However, if our motivation is purely selfish because we never entered into a faith relationship with our Father and our Master, then a strictly selfish motive will not prevent us from destroying our souls.

If we have even a little bit of real faith, then our love for our Father will be our principal motivation and self-preservation will be secondary. Joshua addressed this motivation in part when he taught:

All those who seek to keep their life will lose it; while those who seek to lose their life for my sake, shall find life. (Luke 9:24)

Therefore, if we have a little bit of faith, we will not need some false security blanket belief about God being "all-powerful" so that He can physically save us in this life. If we truly love our Father with all that is in us, then we will very much look forward to being with Him in fullness once we leave our bodies when we physically die. We are grieved, angry and frustrated at how the people of this world run the world and all the injustice and suffering and wrongness in this world, and we would rather be away from such darkness. We know that God does not have to be “all powerful” to save us from destroying ourselves, nor does He have to be all powerful to receive us to Himself when our bodies die.

The Creator set things up so that when all people physically die, they transition to his realm/dimension to receive the consequences of their life choices. This process is not an "all-powerful" issue, any more than whether gravity exists or will work the next moment. God is powerful enough to have set the rules up and to maintain the rules system, which “system” rewards those who love and who care about what is true and right, and which rules brings consequences to those who refuse to love and who care primarily for themselves instead of others.



## Miraculous Healing

The above truth, that God does not intervene in the affairs of people, addresses this sub-category as well. God does NOT heal one person and leave others suffering. He is not a respecter of persons and loves ALL people, not just some. Yes, He is pleased more by the children who listen to Him and endeavor to do what He says is right; and yes, those who are more faithful to Him in this life will gain greater things in the Life to come; *but*, that does not change his love for all. For God so loved all the people of the earth that He gave His Special Messenger, yes, His very Son...

Yes, the Light did heal people – both physically and spiritually – but he did so to reveal his and his Father's character and primarily as a witness to his message. If he did not do the works of healing, then people would not have paid any attention to him – he would have been just another of the many thousands of people in history-making fantastic God-claims - and the Creator's Message would not have been preserved and propagated. Joshua of Nazareth, the Light of the world, had greater faith than any person in history AND the window for miraculous works closed after his return to the Father. Please listen to him in that respect:

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Teacher, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" Joshua answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent me as long as it is day; ***night is coming when no one can work***. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world. (John 9:1-5)

Are you willing to receive this truth? The Light left this world and night came, dear reader, and thus "*no one can work*" miracles.

The simple truth, dear reader, is that God – the Creator of the human race – is not all-powerful in this realm of the face of the earth or the third dimension in which we exist. He is all-powerful in his realm/dimension of existence, but not ours. The Creator has limitations, and He needed what Joshua of Nazareth - His Son - had to accomplish those miracles. So, when Joshua left, the window was closed and "no one can work" wonders. It is that clear and straightforward, and that also best fits our factual observations and experience in this world.

Some non-theists and agnostics state that both premises are false – that God is neither all-powerful nor a Being whose core characteristic is love. The reason this author rejects the dismissal of the proposition that God is not a being of love is twofold. First, the first cause argument. The Designer made human beings capable of love; thus, the Designer must at a minimum know what love is to have created human beings to be capable of expressing love.

Second, the Messenger of God was very clear about the importance of love as well having lived love out well to validate his teachings on love.

Don't be afraid, dear reader, God is real, and He does love you, but you only have one thing to concern yourself with...and that is to love your Father back, and thus get to know Him and start doing what His appointed Messenger said, the primary of which is love one another. We are given a body for a short time; our body is merely our means to express ourselves while we exist in this realm of the surface of the earth. But our bodies will inevitably fail and die, and then *our window* of choices will close.

Those who make Joshua their Leader are not afraid to lose our bodies because we know who we are and where we are going. We know that we only have these bodies for a relatively short time and that where we send our spirit/soul is *far more important* than what happens to our bodies while on this earth.

Therefore, listen to the Light as he says:

Those who seek to keep their life in this world will lose Life, while those who seek to lose their lives in this world for my sake will find Life everlasting! (Luke 9:24)

Don't let fear run your life. Don't allow self-pride prevent you from learning. Don't have false views of God—don't make Him into a selfish “security blanket” for that is not what He is and that is not what He wants to be to you. Trust that he will receive your soul/spirit when your body dies IF you have placed your faith IN HIM and His Messenger, Joshua of Nazareth and thus have committed to living for love, truth, and rightness. Let go of the silly false religious beliefs which bind you and are entirely selfish, and will cause the opposite behavior from what God wants. Find the freedom not to be afraid to have your body die because you will come to know your Father in fullness and thus you will truly know where you are going and that to be with Him is FAR better than what this world has to offer. Find the freedom that only comes from the Father's Freedom Giver:

If you continue in **my** words/teachings/truths (*not* Moses” or Paul's or Isaiah's or John's or preacher so-and-so or “the Bible,” etc.) *then* you are MY disciple/pupil/student; and *then* you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you **free!** (John 8)

...the freedom to become part of the solution instead of remaining part of the problem. The freedom that comes when we walk out of our cage after we asked the Freedom Giver to unlock it for us!

## Prayer

Joshua teaches his disciples to pray. He even provides an example prayer. Prayer is the child of God's way of talking to our Father, expressing our thoughts to Him, perhaps of our seeking to understand Him, and asking him to help us with the things we think we need. Prayer is good and necessary. However, like most God-things, religious people fail to recognize some critical ways that prayer is both misunderstood and abused.

Many religious people use prayer like the guy in the genie story who rubs the genie bottle to get what he wants. How many people each day pray a prayer in the form of, "Oh, God, please give me these material things so my life will be better" or "God, please bless me"? Billions? Asking for daily bread – sustenance for this day – is far different than asking for more than what I truly need.

This topic is also the best example of misrepresented teachings of Joshua in the four gospels. For example, the gospel author of John has Joshua saying, "In that day you will not question me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in my name, He will give it to you. Until now you have asked for nothing in my name; ask, and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full."

The unqualified "anything in my name" clause is at best, difficult to process. Stated another way, it simply does not come to pass in people's lives; therefore, something about it is false. The possibilities are that Joshua did not say it at all. Or, he said something about prayer, but it was twisted into "anything in my name."

Some people will say that "if you just have enough faith, God will grant you your wishes." Let's look at the problem with that reasoning. First, Joshua says that if you have faith as great as a mustard seed, you will be able to do amazing things. He also said that people's faith played an important role in their receiving God's miraculous healing that Joshua performed while he was here on the earth. As we have seen, however, those miraculous powers were limited to when Joshua was here on the earth, and their primary function was to validate Joshua's Person and his Message about the Creator as well as reveal God's character.

So, the religious person who hears that a person is not having their prayers answered might say, "You are not getting from God what you want because you don't have enough faith"; or, "you must have sin in your life, and that is why God is not answering your prayers".

So, let's say I had a young niece, six years old, who was suffering from cancer and was in great pain. If I pray for her healing and she is not healed, according to the religious person who says, "oh, you don't have enough faith to get what you want" or "your sin is why God is not answering your prayer"; *God will not intervene because of something wrong with me*. In other words, because I have something wrong with me – perhaps my faith is not great enough, or I have a sin I am struggling with – he will not grant my prayer, and thus He will not

bring healing or pain reduction to that suffering six-year-old. Do you see the problem?

Again, the Christians will say that God is both all-powerful and all-loving, and *he could* intervene and heal my six-year-old niece's cancer, but He does not. Furthermore, when I ask Him in prayer to please have mercy on my six-year-old niece and stop her suffering, he will refuse to grant my request because he sees a fault in me. In other words, he refuses to heal a suffering child's cancer because He does not like something about **me**. That dear reader is messed up.

So, let's use another example to make this point clear. Let's say I have an uncle who is an excellent surgeon and he could operate on my six-year-old niece to possibly cure her cancer. I go over to his house one evening to beg for him to please perform surgery on my niece, but he says, "Me help you after the thing you did to me seven years ago? Hah, no way, you operate on her yourself!" Thus, my uncle throws me out. I ask the reader, what kind of a person would you say that surgeon is?

That dear reader is essentially the answer that most Christians give to the circumstance that happens probably millions of times each day. The Christian's say, "well, God will not help your daughter because of something wrong with *you*"; or "God will not help those people because of something wrong with *you*"; or, "God will not help because of something wrong with YOU," etc.

*The simple truth is that it is love-less and utterly lacking compassion to be able to help a needy person but to refuse to do so because you find fault with the person requesting help for the needy person!*

Of course, most Christians will respond with something like, "God can do what God wants" or "God's ways are higher than our ways" or "who are we to question God and his ways" or "how dare you question our most tightly held religious beliefs." In other words, "shut up and go away with your reasoning—you offend us with your logic." Or worse, they will attack the messenger just like the religious people some 2,000 years ago attacked The Messenger. Instead of fighting against truth, I ask you to consider embracing it, moving on and possibly finding more freedom in your life.

Next, we will look at the contrast between the average easy, American Christian's life and the sayings of Joshua about how it will be difficult to following him.

#### Chapter Summary:

- Reason, logic, and observation tell us that a being does not exist who is all-powerful, all-knowing and all-loving. In particular, he cannot be both all-powerful and all-loving. The Messenger tells us He is all-loving and he does not teach that He is omnipotent. Therefore, we throw out all-powerful;
- Just because the Creator is not all-powerful does not mean he did not create us; nor does it mean he cannot provide a superior existence for

us once we leave our bodies; nor does it mean that God cannot provide new bodies for us in the future (the resurrection);

- God does not intervene in the affairs of men today from the perspective that He does not cause physical things to happen or not happen. Therefore, He does not physically heal today nor do other physical miracles;
- Prayer is good, but its primary purpose is to encourage us to know God and to act as God wants. We certainly can ask for physical things from God, but He is not going to perform a miracle to get us what we ask. He gave us a fantastic earth from which we can produce our food, clothing, and shelter, and He expects us to work together to meet our physical needs;
- Having delusional beliefs about God is detrimental to all involved, particularly those who don't believe God exists. Holding or promoting delusional beliefs only strengthens the unbelief of those with no faith in the Father Joshua reveals.