

Mythbusters - 1

On Demand God

Today we are going to begin a series called Mythbusters.

This will be a great series to invite your friends and family to that may not believe in God because they have certain excuses...

Things like: I want to believe in God but he doesn't answer my prayers, I want to believe in God but I can't feel him...

Even those who have grown up in church who maybe grew up in believing but they had a crisis of faith somewhere, something happened, something did something, they were hurt, they were disappointed, and they say, "I want to believe but I just can't."

I would argue that so many people that live in that zone, they are not really rejecting the **TRUE** God. Let me say this again. There are so many people that are saying, "I can't believe," they're not really rejecting the God that we're going to look at, the God of scripture.

Instead, they're rejecting what I would call a **distorted view of God**. They're rejecting a distorted view of who they wrongly think God is. For example, let me just tell you where we're going.

Next week, we're going to talk about what I call goose bump God. This would be for the people who say, "I want to believe in God, but I just don't feel him."

I tried to read the Bible. I didn't feel anything. I came to church. I didn't feel anything.

How do you believe in a God that you can't see and can't really hear and you can't feel him any way?" Goose bump God. "I want to believe in God but I don't feel him."

Part three, we're going to talk about what I call heartless God. "I would love to believe in God, but have you seen all the horrible things going on in the world?"

How can I believe in a God who would allow shooting where innocent people die in an airport? How can I believe in a God that lets hungry children all over the world die when something simple could actually help them to live?

I prayed for something and the worst thing happened.
How can I believe in a God that doesn't seem to care?"

The last week of the Month Jim Bradley will be our guest speaker... I'm not exactly sure what he will be speaking about but the next 3 weeks are Mythbusters...

So lets dive in...

How many of you binge - watched a show this week?

You can watch your five favorite episodes of Law and Order or Criminal Minds or whatever it is you want to watch.

We live now in what some are calling the **On Demand Generation**.

Here is my thought process. Because everything we want now is on demand, get it to me in two days or less, I even want Amazon one day delivery but it's not to my city yet, but it's going to be, I'm really excited about it. Everything is on demand, I believe that there are many people that want an on demand God.

"I prayed about it. God didn't do it. Therefore, I don't believe in God. God should do exactly what I want."

Are you following me?

Everything in our lives have become on-demand... TV is on demand, our food is on demand and so we want a God that is on demand.

And when it doesn't happen that way we get disillusioned and give up our hopes on God being real.

And if He is real... at the very least he's not good. So i can't believe in Him.

Listen:

On demand God is great until on demand God doesn't do what you ask him to do on demand.

This may be your story. You might have been a teenager praying and begging for God to save your parents' marriage and you believed he would and it didn't happen.

"Where are you, God?"

You might be the person that you're giving to others and you're doing good works and you're still struggling financially.

You're like, "What's up with that, God?"

You may be happily married and your dream is to have a kid and there are tons of people who get pregnant and don't want to get pregnant and you want to get pregnant and you can't, "God, where are you in this?"

So often when God doesn't do what we think that he should do, know that he could do, a lot of people get frustrated and decide God must either not be real, isn't powerful, isn't good, or doesn't care.

Where is my on demand God?

The answer is on demand God does not exist. Let me say it again. On demand God does not exist.

You see there's this Myth... Just because I want something bad enough, I pray enough for it... It's going to happen...

Well, Not exactly

A very common thought that I hear over and over again in conversations I'll have with people as a pastor is, "I want to believe in God but I prayed that he'd get rid of my depression, didn't happen, so I can't believe in God."

"I want to believe in God but he didn't save my marriage so I can't believe in God."

"I want to believe in God but he didn't do exactly what I wanted him to do so either he's not real, he's not there, he's not good, or he doesn't care."

On demand God does not exist

Don't get upset with me... But just because you ask God for something one time... even if you really want it doesn't mean its going to happen.

I believe we need to refocus on who we are in relation to God. Who are we in the wide scope of eternity...

Are you ready?

God doesn't exist to serve us, We exist to serve Him

I think church can get confused on that point because Jesus said that "He did not come to be served but to serve us."

But Jesus was giving us an example to live by with each other.

Jesus also said "It is my mission to do the will of the Father who sent me" ...

We are not the main character of Bible—God is main character...

He is not our Genie in the bottle, or our cosmic vending machine of goodies...

We have access to all His blessings through Faith... Our focus Must be in a place of serving God.

Faith gives us access to God... Too many times our focus is on Goods, not God.

Now that we've established that, some of you say, "But then what's his role? Who is he? What does he do exactly in my life?"

What I want to do is kind of unpack who he is and that's really my secret goal of this message series is to help us all get to know him better by recognizing who he's not.

Again, I believe with all my heart that people all over the world today are **not rejecting who God really is**, they're rejecting a distorted

view, an inaccurate view of God. On demand God, where is he? He doesn't exist.

I want to talk about three qualities of the heart of God.

If God is not on demand God, then who is he?

The first one, if you're taking notes, I hope will minister to you, is this.

To recognize that God's heart is always loving.

Point #1

His heart is always loving

For example, those of you that are parents, let me tell you two things that I know about you if you're a parent.

Number one, there's never a time when you don't love your children.

Right?

There are times when you don't like them.

There are times when you want to trade them in.

There are times you might want to knock them into the middle of next week, but you wouldn't do that because you're better than that.

You always love them.

The second thing I know about you is that there are times when you do not do what they want you to do even though you have the power to do it.

Right?

You always love them but there are times when you do not do what they want you to do even if you have the power to do it.

My son is on this candy kick... Daddy... Can I have just ONE piece of candy...

I have the power to say yes, or to say no...

I normally say yes... Next thing I know this kid has an entire 2 foot tall chocolate bunny that he is chewing on...

WHY... Would I say no to something He wants so bad...

ONE... I know its not good for him

TWO... I already have plans for a better meal

I love my son... why would I NOT give him what he's asking for... Because I have knowledge of the situation He doesn't have yet..

I Believe this is the case many times with God...

Here's another scenario:

You tell your kids whom you love dearly... Do your homework, do your homework, do your homework...

And they wait until mid-night to start their homework... then they ask... at mid-night... can you help me with my homework...

I would... Really I would... If you didn't wait until mid-night to start it...

It's not that I don't love my children... Its not that I wouldn't do anything in the world for them...

It's actually because I love you that I'm not always going to do exactly what you want.

Sometimes I'm trying to develop something in you rather than do something for you.

You always love them but you don't always do what they want.

If God always does everything FOR you... You will not develop the gifting that he has already placed within you.

We need to understand that when God doesn't do exactly what we want, even if we know he could and believe he should, it doesn't mean that he doesn't love us.

He's always loving. He always has our best interest at heart.

Let's look at an amazingly powerful passage of scripture today:

Romans 8:35,37-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Let me update this a little bit because chances are pretty good most of you won't be naked this week with a sword in your face. If you are, I want to hear all about that story because that must be some story, right? I mean, let's update it to kind of where we all live. Who shall separate you? What shall separate you from the love of Christ? Shall financial trouble? Shall relational breakdowns? Shall unemployment? Shall cancer? Shall depression?

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors Through what? Through our own power? No through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's heart is always loving. We need to understand that God doesn't prove his love when he answers our prayers.

God proved his love when he sent his son.

Let me say it again. He didn't prove it when he does what we want.

God proves his love for us when we while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God's heart is always loving.

There's never at time that he doesn't love you, but he will not always do what we think that he should do.

What shall separate us from the love of Christ?

In all these things, we are more than conquerors.

Nothing could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

His heart is always loving.

So if God is NOT... On-demand then who is He...? #1 remember He is always Loving.

Point #2 - then is this

God is good the Devil is Bad

The Bible says in:

James 1:16-18

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **18** He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Why does this passage start out don't be deceived...?

Because its so easy to believe that God could be part of something bad...

No God is Good the Devil is bad...

Do you know the devil's greatest trick or his greatest lie...

Its that he doesn't exist...!! God is in control of everything... It wasn't me it was God...

Why doesn't God over through everyones choices and fix everything... because God is good...

And taking away free choice is not good.

Why do bad things happen... there is an enemy who bowls like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

No God is not on-demand... But he is always loving and He is always good.

Here's what I know and closing today with this...

there are some questions that I will never have the answer to.

Isaiah 55:8,9 says this

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the Lord.

9

"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Its OK for me to tell you today I don't always have an answer... But here is a small demonstration of Gods thoughts and His ways if we keep reading.

As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,

and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

11

so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

12

You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

13

Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever."

Thats the good God... All the other evil things happening...

Thats not my Loving God.

Pray