

Dependence On God

Today in Western culture we are taught that independence and self-reliance are the most important virtues that we can possess. Regarding our relationships in the world around us, this is usually true. In religious circles we are taught that we are dependent on God for our salvation because we are sinners and in need of the help that only He can provide. However, in the teaching of this we are so often left with the impression deep down in our beings that the dependence is because of our sin. This is not true.

Humans were originally designed to be dependent on God. Adam was given great power to be in charge of the entire natural world. But he had this power in dependence on God. He lost this power when he took his life into his own hands. Jesus said that he did not do anything that he did not see the Father doing. Jesus walked in total dependence on God the Father.

Dependence on God is good. We were never supposed to be free from God. He wants us to draw from him continually. He delights in meeting our every need. The life of faith is an adventure with God meeting every need, even anticipating our needs and arranging the supply before we ask. This is healthy.

Many earthly dependencies have unwanted side effects. Dependence on God has no unwanted side effects. The unwanted side effects of drugs, for example, are that they can in themselves be damaging to a person. Also, they will lead to a dependency which will take a person away from the good things in life. And, last but not least, the supply of the drug may be interrupted or stopped and painful withdrawal will result. A dependency on God will not lead to any of these consequences.

God is not damaging to the person. The ungodly are dangerous to themselves and others. God's goal is to free the person and help that person to realize all of his or her potential. A dependency on God will not take us away from the good things in life. Rather, it will bring us into a complete fulfillment of the good things in life like health and love and relationships and joy.

Finally, the prospect of not being able to receive the blessings of God at any time is not possible, at least not from God's side of the relationship. God is always available to us and always will be in this life and in eternity. This dependency does certainly imply relationship. We are to live in a relationship with a living God.

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