

Knowing God

Part 2

The Foreknowledge and Omniscience of God

We cannot understand the words of God until
we begin to know God

To know God is the first goal of scripture study.

The scriptures are 'they which testify of Christ'

Once God is known then His word can be understood
because:

God is known

God's work is known

God's plan is known

God's love is known

Eternal Truths must have Eternal Sources

The quality of scholarship is reflected in the sources that are used.

The intelligence of the student is manifested in the ability to recognize what he does not know and from whom he can learn more

Eternal Truths must have Eternal Sources

The 'authority of scripture' can be accepted once
we know the author

It is not:

our conscience, our emotion, our education, or our
tradition that qualifies eternal truths

The Scriptures are the End of Authority

The Foreknowledge and Omniscience of God

What are the Omniscient Attributes of God?

There are over 75 separate passages of Scriptures that talk about the Foreknowledge and Omniscience of God.

6. Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

7. But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:6-7

Not a bird falls to the ground without the notice of God

Birds and Brains



The bird reads no books on how to relax, work harder, dispel guilt, or gather wealth. The bird doesn't go to seminars or conferences to learn how to increase the harvest with the least amount of time and work. The bird belongs to no MLM, nor does it lay awake at night worrying about where it will find the next meal.

The bird doesn't work hard to store up more worms or grain in the bird-bank in order to have a larger nest-egg so that it can afford to build a bigger nest, buy bigger and faster wings, or take a longer vacation. The bird is content with what it has, and confident in the responsibilities of life that have been set and provided by God.



Without worry the bird lives day by day recognizing that the responsibility of survival 'day by day' rests upon themselves not the Aviary Government.

It is estimated by scientists (and National Geographic) that There are about *500 billion birds* at any one time in the world compared to 8 billion people. That's over 70 living birds for every living person. The average life span of a bird, without diminishing numbers, is 2-5 years. That would mean, (on a best-case scenario), there would be *about 300 billion birds die each year.*



There are about 400,000 human births each day in the world, and 155,000 human deaths per day. About 575 million birds die each day, and yet not a bird falls to the ground without the notice of God. **Every bird eventually dies, as does every human.**

How many dead birds have you seen today?
Of course, we don't see many because the FBAA.
The "Feline Bird Abatement Agency"
—on call 24/7—



If no bird falls to the ground without the knowledge of God, and the bird “takes no thought of tomorrow” because of its contentment and faith in life itself without worry; How much more aware would a loving and watchful God be, to provide, protect, and notice those who are created in His image?

When you look at the all the hard work and worry of man for the pursuit of money, status, pride, and power, spending money we don't have to buy things we don't need, to impress people we don't like, one question should be asked:



Who really has the bird-brain?



Few doctrines, save those pertaining to the reality of the existence of God, are more basic than the truth that God is omniscient. "O how great the holiness of our God! For he knoweth all things, and there is not anything save he knows it." (2 Nephi. 9:20.)

Unfortunately, this truth is sometimes only passively assented to by individuals who avoid exploring it and coming to understand its implications. Later on, such believers sometimes have difficulty with the implications of this core doctrine—which connects with other powerful doctrines such as the *foreknowledge* of God, *foreordination*, and *foreassignment*. The all-loving God who shapes our individual growing and sanctifying experiences—and then sees us through them—could not do so if He were not omniscient.



The word *omniscient* has, at times, been used carelessly, unnecessarily blurring our understanding of this very fundamental attribute of God. We read in the Prophet Joseph Smith's *Lectures on Faith* that God is perfect in the attributes of divinity, and one of these is knowledge:

"... seeing that without the knowledge of all things, God would not be able to save any portion of his creatures; for it is by reason of the knowledge which he has of all things, from the beginning to the end, that enables him to give that understanding to his creatures by which they are made partakers of eternal life; and if it were not for the idea existing in the minds of men that God had all knowledge it would be impossible for them to exercise faith in him." (Lecture 4, paragraph 11.)

(Neal A. Maxwell, *All These Things Shall Give Thee Experience* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1979], 26.)

Our cousin Esther was told by uncle Mordecai, that she was placed at that time in history, placed in that family, and given those experiences and opportunities to make a difference in the lives of those in her world for the

Work and Glory of God

Have you discovered:

Who you are
Why you are
Where you are
When you are

To help in *The Work and Glory of God*





God knows more about your tomorrow and the
rest of your life, than you can remember about
your yesterday

If God doesn't know the end from the beginning
there is:
no prophecy,
no need for prophets
no purpose for revelation.

Accidents

For an event to be considered an accident, it would mean that some type of a mistake was made that resulted in an uncontrolled consequence.

An accident, cannot be known, controlled, or stopped beforehand, otherwise it is not an accident.

There are no accidents to God, only to mankind. God knows the end from the beginning and there are no surprise events or deaths that He has not prepared for.

Accidents & Acts of God

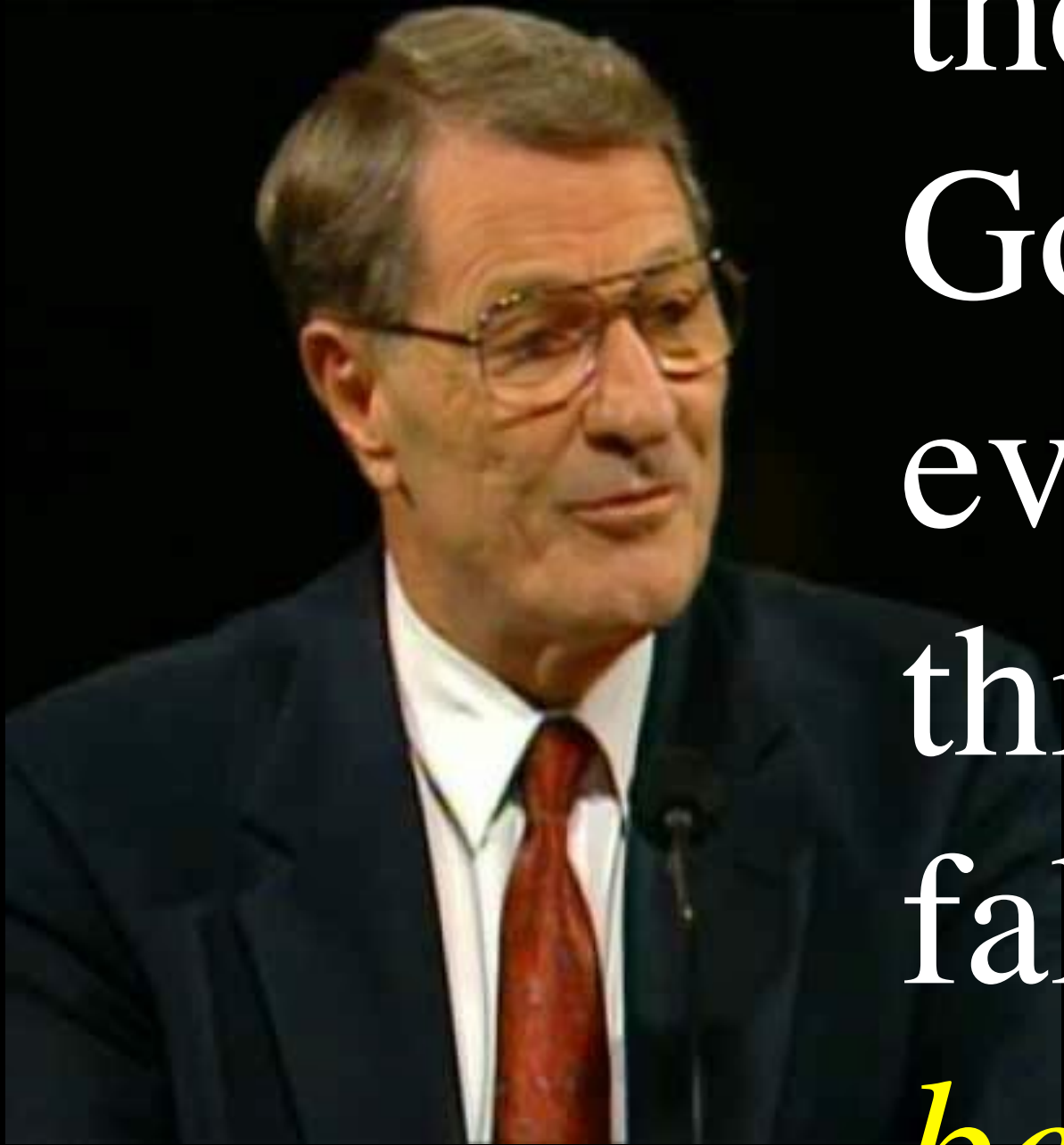
Death, no matter how it comes or when it happens, is no more of an accident than our birth. Our departure from the pre-earth existence was planned beforehand, just like our return to the spirit world.

Before we were born, the date and time was set and perhaps the assignments made for those that would escort our spirit into and out of mortality.

“God is never surprised by unexpected arrivals in the spirit world because of unforeseen deaths. But we must always distinguish between God's being able to foresee and His causing or desiring something to happen, a very important distinction! God foresaw the fall of His beloved David but did not cause it. (See D&C 132:39.)”



(Neal A. Maxwell, *All These Things Shall Give Thee Experience* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1979], 26.)



“Traditional discussions of omniscience ignore the fact that this attribute is much more than God's simply noticing and observing everything as it happens. It is a remarkable thing for God to notice every sparrow that falls... Yet the living God is aware of all things *before* they unfold. This supernal dimension of knowledge is a part of omniscience!”

(Neal A. Maxwell, *All These Things Shall Give Thee Experience* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1979], 26.)

‘I didn’t see that coming’

There are no surprises to God, He is aware of, and a witness to every birth, every life and every death.



God leaves nothing to chance,
nothing to fate, folly, or fortune.

God knows everything, has planned for everything, and has prepared for everything.

Knowing this we should realize that every catastrophe, disaster, disease or death including COVID has changed nothing. God is still in control and He has always been in control.

It is not a good thing if the God you believe in has “oops” in his vocabulary.

God has never said
'I didn't see that coming'

Some Food 4 Thought about The Anger of God

Will an all knowing God be angry because of your choices, if he knows everything you're going to do, choose or think before you were able to think.

He knows every thought, every spiritual weaknesses you will have and every mark you will miss before you were ever born?

God knew before you were born, the temptations that you would have before you are tempted and what choice and path you would choose.

The Anger of God

‘Satan knows not the mind of God’ (Moses 4:6) however, God knows what Satan and those that followed him are thinking and planning, He knows what they are going to do before they do it. (WoM). God has prepared all things, for all things. For this reason; God is able say that there is ‘no temptation that is not common to man’ and that you will be faced with ‘no temptation that you are not able to overcome’.

God has already seen your show before you ever entered the stage. If God knows all and knows the end from the beginning, He would have no regrets, no anger, no frustrations, maybe sadness. All things that happen are expected and planned for by God (Small Plates). .

God knows what we
need before we ask

The word “sin” means to “miss the mark” which can be by choice or by ignorance. Missing the mark (sin) does not demand an immediate judgment, although there may be an immediate consequence. ‘Without agency there is no existence’ (D&C 93). Christ did not and could not condemn the woman taken in adultery because it was her choice. Should God condemn one who uses the agency he guaranteed to mankind?



When you read the word “sin” in scriptures you should understand it means “*to Miss the mark*”. There are two type of targets or marks for which we should strive. **Minor and Major**. The “minor” marks are given as aids to hit the ‘major’ mark. The Major mark is always the Celestial Kingdom and Glory and the Presence of God. The *minor marks or targets* are really *gifts and blessings* (commandments, scriptures, church prophets etc.) provided by God to help each person develop the character required to hit and obtain the *major mark*.



Cauliflower and Cake

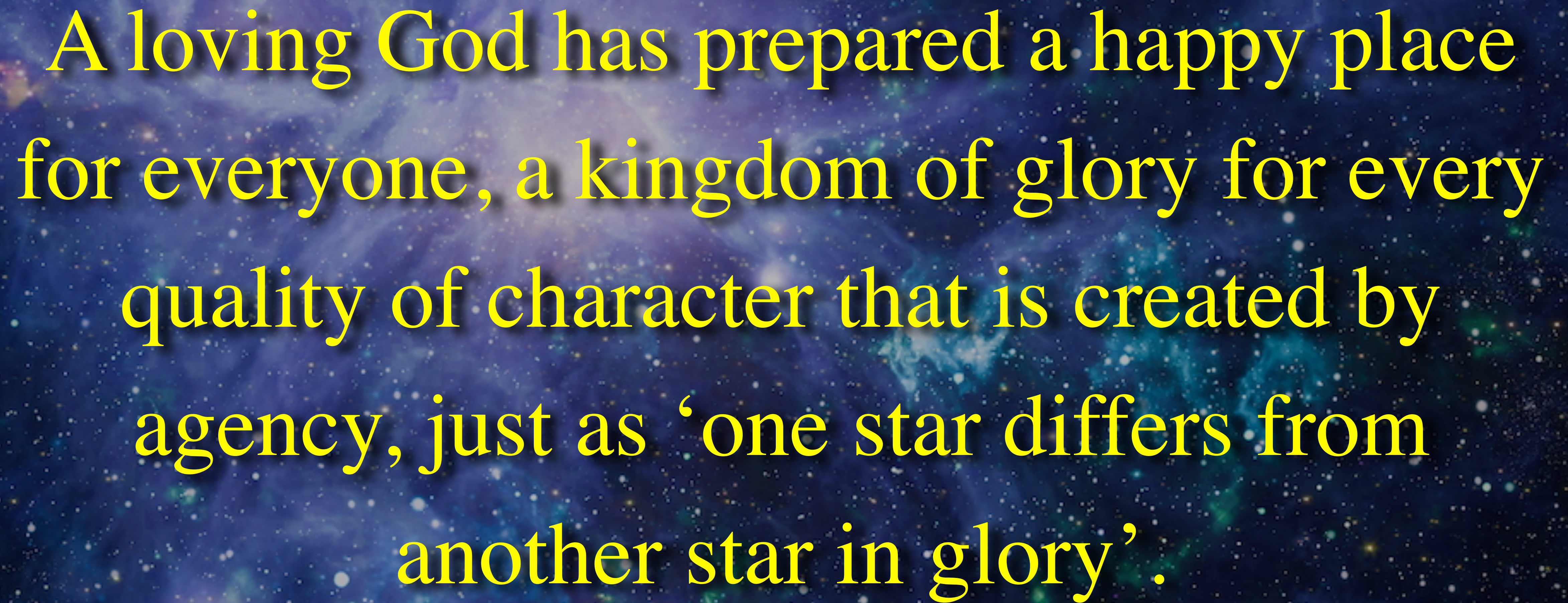


When you tell your children “eat your cauliflower and you can have a piece of cake” the choice becomes theirs. The major goal is the cake, the minor goal that makes one worthy to receive the cake, is devouring the cauliflower. Nevertheless, they may choose for themselves without any wrath, anger, or judgement from the loving parent. A person that chooses to miss the mark of the cake, knowing and understanding full well the consequences of their choice, has also chosen to reap the reward of their choice.

Knowing the rules, and consequences beforehand makes the outcome just. The real mark or goal is to get the cake and eat it too. Joseph Smith was questioned about the obedience of members and stated: we “teach them the correct principles and they govern themselves”. Missing the mark, is a freedom of choice guaranteed to us by God (nevertheless thou may choose for thyself, for it is given to thee) ’but if you want to stay here don’t eat the fruit’. The individual character and future reward and glory is an individual choice, not a judgment of God.

The war in heaven was about agency and the individual rewards of choice. A third part of the hosts of heaven were cast out of the presence of God, because they sought to take away our 'ability' to choose to eat, or not to eat the cauliflower... Satan, the first socialist, had a plan to make sure everyone was forced to eat the cake, but to do so, everyone must be forced to eat the cauliflower





A loving God has prepared a happy place
for everyone, a kingdom of glory for every
quality of character that is created by
agency, just as 'one star differs from
another star in glory'.

Agency Reigns Supreme!

Exaltation in the celestial kingdom is a choice,
as are the telestial or terrestrial kingdoms.

Each kingdom of glory is a chosen glory for
which we have willfully prepared and
willingly receive.

D&C 88 states that “we will receive that which we are willing to receive because we would not receive that which we might have received.”

God cannot hate or condemn a person for using their agency to choose the kingdom they desire.

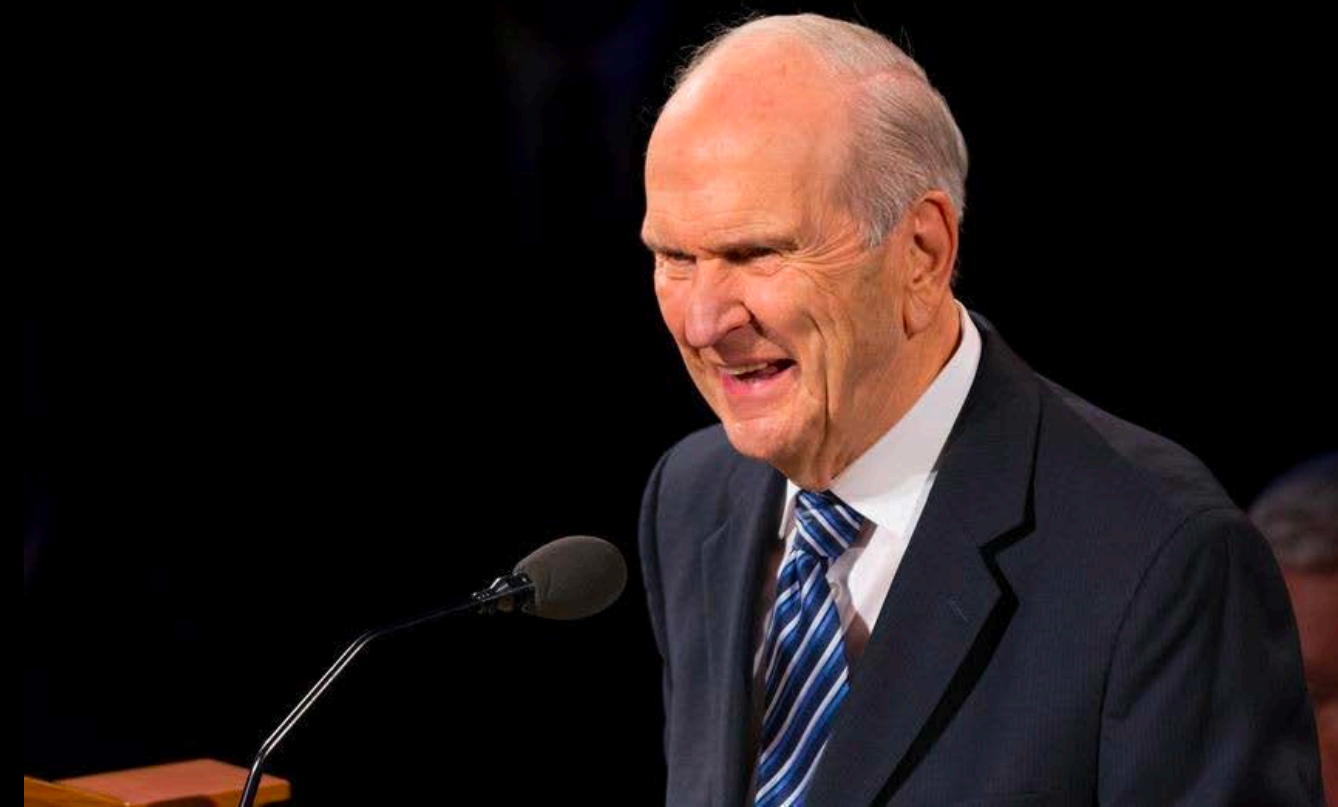
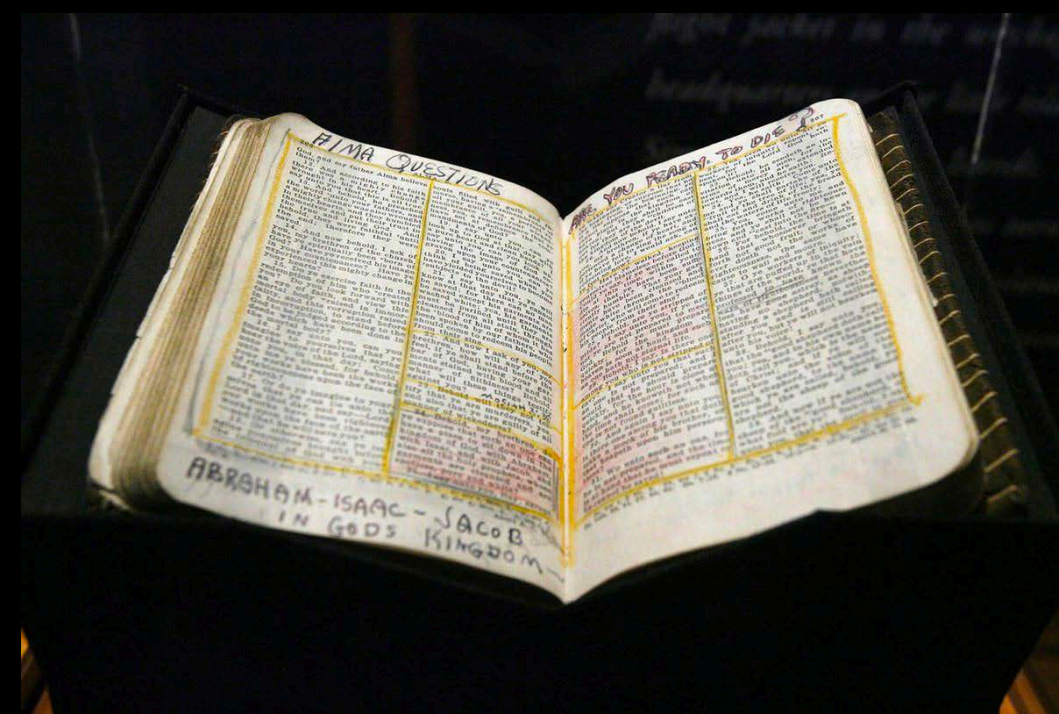
God has prepared a sweet desert for every
choice of character,

The real love of God is to prepare the whole meal, and every thing we need to receive the cake and reach the “major” goal. God provides cauliflower and everything else we need to be introduced into his presence, and receive not only His glory, but 'all that He hath.'



A loving God has provided the roadmap or manual in the scriptures, provided prophetic teachers and councilors. God has given us targets or 'marks' to help us set goals, which targets we call commandments.

These commandments are the *minor marks* of which we should obediently aim. Eating the cauliflower commandments, no matter how distasteful, exist to help us in the 'major' quest of the angel food cake found only in the celestial kingdom.



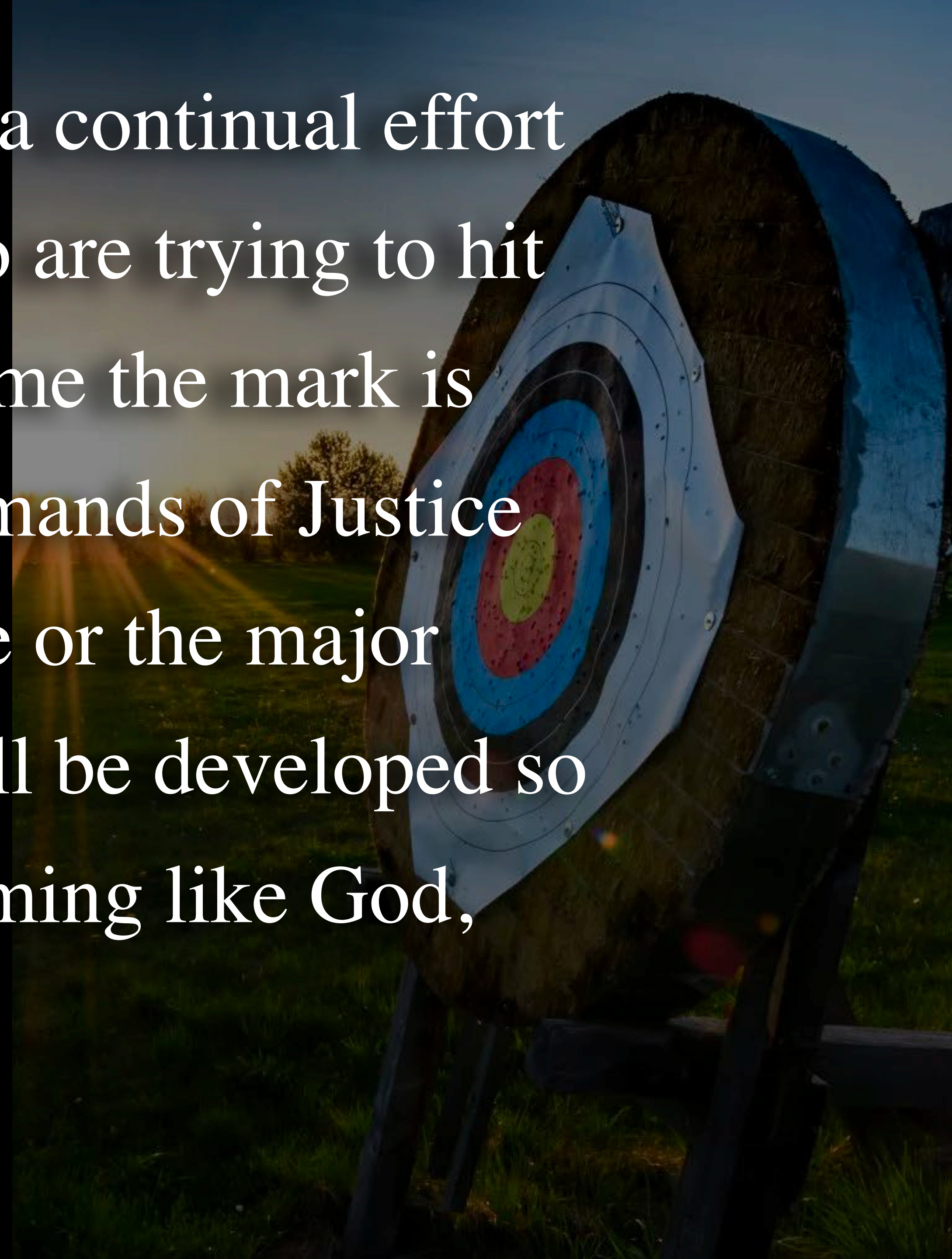
Despite all that God has provided, the choice is all ours.

God provides all things necessary that we cannot provide, do, or choose in order to receive the cake.

We cannot redeem ourselves from the fall of Adam. The resurrection of our physical body we cannot do, but Christ has provided a 'power of resurrection.' Only Christ can satisfy the demands of Justice for us.

Having our confidence wax strong in the presence of God requires an advocate that provides a Protection from the Demands of Justice (Atonement and Mercy) until we become like God. The only way to receive that protection is by choice. Choosing to exercise faith in the Savior, faith in the advocate to such an extent that we choose to become like him through ‘**the process of character change**’. This is the meaning of the word “**repentance**”.

Repentance or to “take aim again” is a continual effort in trying to ‘hit the mark’. Those who are trying to hit the mark and ‘take aim again’ each time the mark is missed will be protected from the demands of Justice until they are able to hit the bull’s eye or the major mark by their nature. A perfection will be developed so that they will never miss again, becoming like God, ‘having no disposition to do evil’.





Those who chose not to hit the mark, are not required to do so. Thus, **we cannot sin against God**, who knows the past, present, and future, any more than we might sin against our parents if we chose not to eat the cauliflower and forfeit the cake.

We sin against ourselves:

against our exaltation, against being with an eternal spouse and family, against becoming like God, against a fullness of joy,

-Not Against God-

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only way back to the presence of God. Yet, many will *choose not to be in the presence of God, choosing to remain unable and unworthy to endure his glory.*

Not because a loving Heavenly Father does not want them to be with Him, but because the individual choice is made not to be in Celestial Glory. Therefore, all of the marks that are missed, and the character developed will be by the freedom of choice and agency which will be understood perfectly by the individual.

The Judgment of God is Always Just,

Individual agency and choice will not be compromised by God.

“it is necessary that there be space (time) between death and the resurrection” (Alma 40:9, 21) The spirit world is a time to *perfectly learn and understand* the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Plan of Salvation and happiness, to *know perfectly* the path to exaltation without any misunderstanding or misconception. All must understand perfectly without any-any reservation, restriction or restraint.

Without a perfect-perfect knowledge of eternal truths, agency would be compromised and any judgment would be unjust.

We will choose our kingdom of glory, our happy place for eternity. However, to dwell with God, we must become like Him.

The foreknowledge and power of God doesn't diminish
the personal responsibility or agency of man. The
individual character needs to be developed, and that can
only be done by the agency of the individual
— *exercising faith unto repentance* —

‘God will not, and Satan cannot control the agency of man’ (JS).

Joseph Smith said about the pre-earth

“At the first organization in heaven we were all present, and saw the Savior chosen and appointed and the plan of salvation made, and *we sanctioned it... We came to this earth that we might have a body and present it pure before God in the celestial kingdom.*”

(TPJS p. 181)

. . . because He [God] was more intelligent, *saw proper to institute laws whereby the rest could have a privilege to advance like himself . . . He has power to institute laws to instruct the weaker intelligences, that they may be exalted with himself,* so that they might have one glory upon another . . .

(TPJS p. 354)

The Big Issue

Which Mercy Cannot Rob and God Cannot Deny

JUSTICE

The Fundamental, Eternal Constant, and Law that lies at the foundation
of everything,

(life, scripture, commandments, Gospel, Atonement, Resurrection etc)

“No unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of God”

‘For God cannot deny Himself’

He cannot deny His Word or His Glory

NO UNCLEAN THING CAN INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Alma 11:37

37. And I say unto you again that he cannot save them in their sins; for I cannot deny his word, and he hath said that no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of heaven; therefore, how can ye be saved, except ye inherit the kingdom of heaven? Therefore, ye cannot be saved *in* your sins.

From our sins if we choose, but not **in** our sins

NO UNCLEAN THING CAN INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Alma 40:26

26. But behold, an awful death cometh upon the wicked; for they die as to things pertaining to things of righteousness; for they are unclean, and **no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of God**; but they are cast out, and consigned to partake of the fruits of their labors or their works, which have been evil; and they drink the dregs of a bitter cup.

From our sins if we choose, but not **in** our sins

Judgment

No unclean thing can be in the presence of God.

God does not set in judgment of our sin or interpret the demands or consequences of the broken law. We administer our own sentence at the judgment bar of God.

It's not the broken laws that condemns the sinner, but the character that is developed as a consequence of broken laws.

The scriptural meaning of the 'judgment bar of God' to which all **MUST** stand, is so that we can perfectly see, and know who and what God is. We then justly judge ourselves and our character compared to that of God.

Mormon 9:3-5

Hell is Where you Don't Belong Heaven is Where you Do

3. Then will ye longer deny the Christ, or can ye behold the Lamb of God? Do ye suppose that ye shall dwell with him under a consciousness of your guilt? Do ye suppose that ye could be happy to dwell with that holy Being, when your souls are racked with a consciousness of guilt that ye have ever abused his laws?

4. Behold, I say unto you that ye would be more miserable to dwell with a holy and just God, under a consciousness of your filthiness before him, than ye would to dwell with the damned souls in hell.

5. For behold, when ye shall be brought to **see your nakedness before God, and also the glory of God, and the holiness of Jesus Christ, it will kindle a flame of unquenchable fire upon you.**



38. Therefore if that man repenteth not,
and remaineth and dieth an enemy to
God, *the demands of divine justice* do

awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt,
which doth cause him to shrink from the presence of the Lord,
and doth fill his breast with guilt, and pain, and anguish,
which is like an unquenchable fire, whose flame ascendeth up
forever and ever.

(Mosiah 2:38)

46. Prepare your souls for that glorious day when *justice shall be administered* unto the righteous, even the day of judgment, *that ye may not shrink* with awful fear; that ye may not remember your awful guilt in perfectness, and be constrained to exclaim: Holy, holy are thy judgments, O Lord God Almighty—but *I know my guilt*; I transgressed thy law, and *my transgressions are mine*;

(2 Nephi 9:46)

The scriptures teach that,
The only power on earth and in heaven that is able to
separate a person from God and His Glory, is the
power of ‘free agency’

—EVERYONE WILL—

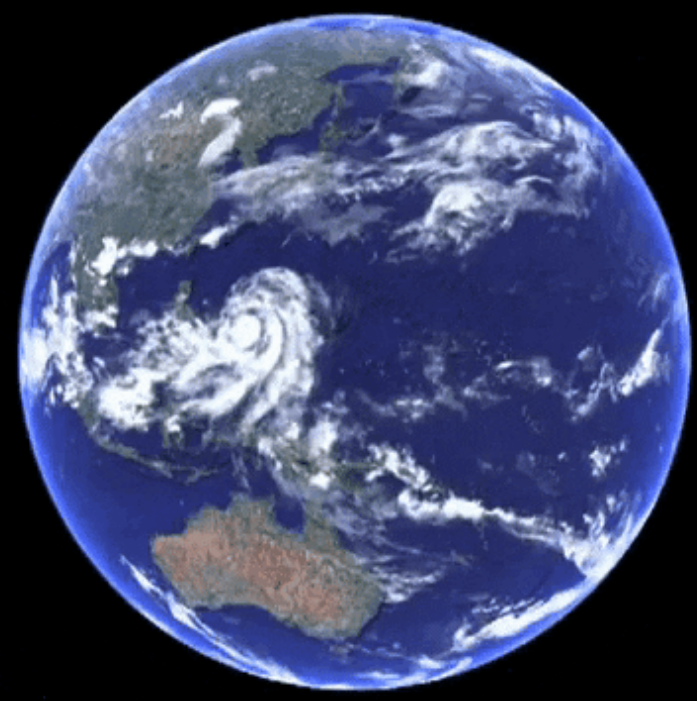
“...enjoy that which they are willing to receive,
because they were not willing to enjoy that which they
might have received.”

D&C88:32

If you Believe in God

The Next Terrible Question is:

Do you believe God?



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