**What Should I Believe About God?**

**God is good (**[**Psalm 119:68**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+119%3A68&version=HCSB)**)…**

The very first sin came with the idea that God is not good. Satan told Adam and Eve that God was withholding good things from them, and therefore, He could not be trusted. When we don’t believe in God’s goodness, we will not believe He can (or wants to) meet our needs. When we don’t trust Him to have our best interests in mind, we won’t want to have a close relationship with Him. God’s goodness is an essential truth for people to grasp. He sent His Son, Jesus, so we could see His goodness face-to-face. Then Jesus died on the cross as the ultimate demonstration of God’s goodness.

**God is God, and we are not (**[**Romans 1:21-23**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+1%3A21-23&version=HCSB)**)…**

Satan did not trust God; instead, he wanted *to be God.* Then he convinced Adam and Eve that they could “be like God” too ([Genesis 3:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+3%3A5&version=HCSB)). No person and no thing can ever be God, except for God Himself. When we disobey God, we are telling Him we don’t need Him. Whenever we try to control our own lives, we are putting ourselves on His throne. Rebellion always says, *I want to be God.* However, God is the only One who has the right to sit on His throne and on the throne of your life. Everything and everyone else will always come second to Him.

**God is always near (**[**Psalm 16:8**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+16%3A8&version=HCSB)**)…**

If we believe God is far away, we may pray, read our Bibles, or go to church, but we will still believe He does not care about us. You can be as close to God as you choose. He is a gentleman, meaning He will not force His way into your life or make your choices for you. Instead, He waits patiently for you to allow Him to move into the deepest places of your heart. This may seem scary at first because we all have hurts and wounds. You must trust God enough to let Him shine His light in those dark places. He is good, gentle, and patient, and His healing is available if you will receive it. God cares about everything you have experienced, and He will meet all your needs ([Philippians 4:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A19&version=HCSB); [1 Peter 5:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A7&version=HCSB)).

**God is powerful (**[**Hebrews 1:3**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hebrews+1%3A3&version=HCSB)**)…**

If we truly believe God is powerful, then we will know He can do the impossible. God is not limited by our small imaginations or by anything in the physical or spiritual universe. King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (three Hebrew slaves in Babylon) into the fiery furnace if they would not bow down and worship a statue of him. Still, these men chose to believe God was powerful enough to rescue them, and they refused to bow ([Daniel 3:16-18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+3%3A16-18&version=HCSB)). Nebuchadnezzar had them tossed into the furnace, but a miracle happened: God was with them in the fire, and He didn’t allow the fire to singe a single hair on their heads. Their clothing didn’t even smell like smoke! God is powerful. He can save, heal, and deliver all who call on Him.

**God speaks the truth in His Word (**[**Ephesians 6:17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+6%3A17&version=HCSB)**)…**

The Bible is God’s Word, and through it, He speaks personally to each of us. If you want to live a successful life in Christ and resist Satan’s tricks, you must know God’s Word.

“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:32 HCSB

**God is love (**[**1 John 4:7-8**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+4%3A7-8&version=HCSB)**)…**

God is love, and Jesus is the proof of how much He loves us ([John 3:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3%3A16&version=HCSB)). Jesus took your sins on Himself when He died in your place on the cross. Nothing and no one will ever again be able to separate you from God or His love ([Romans 8:31-39](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+8%3A31-39&version=HCSB)). He loves you unconditionally and more deeply than you can imagine.

**Questions to Consider**

1. Read [Daniel 3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+3&version=HCSB). What was the result of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s belief in God’s goodness, nearness, and power?
2. What do we have when we believe in Jesus, according to [John 20:31](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20%3A31&version=HCSB)?
3. Read [John 14:12-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A12-14&version=HCSB). What is Jesus’ promise to those who believe in Him?