

ACTS OF GOD

Introduction

When we use the term “act” it implies action. Action on the part of God. Thus, the “Acts of God” are in essence the actions that God took on behalf of His creation. We especially want to share with our readers the things God did on behalf of mankind. There are basically three traits of God. He is deliberate, diligent and determined in His actions. Each action of God has man in mind. God’s intent is to bring man closer to Him. For He desires that man spend eternity with Him in His home in Heaven. Thus, the acts of God that relate to man are designed with man in mind.

God Communicates

God, by His very nature, is an active God. His actions show His nature. By His nature, God communicates. Thus, God’s very nature is to inform, inspire, and instruct. God uses many ways to share with us the knowledge of Him. If we did not have the word written down, we still would have no excuse. If we did not have Christians sharing the truth of God, we still would have no excuse. For God makes himself known to all that will simply open their eyes. The apostle Paul wrote: “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20) God communicates to all. He leaves Himself witness to all generations.

God communicated His word and created the Heavens and the earth. It is through His spoken word that we live, move and have our continued being. When God communicates things happen. John shares this knowledge with us: He says that by His word all things exist. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.” (John 1:1-3)

God Delegates

When God communicates to us; He shares with us the way things are to be done. God will do some things for us, but He will not do all things for us. God gives man the opportunity to do some things for himself. God shows us the way. He lets us do what must be done.

As God delegates, He instructs us and inspires us in three important avenues. God instructs us in worship. He commands us to come together and worship Him. God is to be the object of our worship. He informs us of what we are to do in worship.

Cain and Abel

Cain, Cain
What’s the matter with you.
You had the chance to be pleasing too.

You tilled the soil the choice was your own.
And that you grew to you didn’t belong.
For God gave it a reward for your work.
Yet a little responsibility you so easily shirked.

Your little brother worked hard every day.
Deserving the blessings that came his way.
After he had given all that God required
He wanted to show he was worth his hire.

Cain, Cain
What's the matter with you.
You had the chance to be pleasing too.

Yet, you raised cane out in the field.
It with your brother cause he was real.
Now his blood is on your hand.
And you must answer unto the man.

God gave you a chance standing before His face.
Yet you denied, forced to leave disgraced.
Out on your own In a world of sin.
Tell me Cain where will it all end?

Cain, Cain
What's the matter with you.
You had the chance to be pleasing too.

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God delegates worship. He delegates the items of worship. As a child of God we want to please Him. In order to assist us in doing that, God gives us instructions in what we are to do. For example, singing pleases God and places us in the right frame of mind for worship. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3:16) "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:19) It goes without saying that congregational singing pleases God. These scriptures shed light on how we are to sing, as well as why we are to sing. This is not a suggestion, it is a command. In worship all involved are to sing. We are to sing spiritual songs. Songs that will speak to the mind, body and souls of a saint. There is no need for our songs to be accompanied by anything that is not vocal. "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." Hebrews 13:15) If it is mechanical, it is not from the heart. God desires our praise to Him. (Hebrews 2:12)

God dedicates the day of worship. That day is the first day of the week. "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread..." (Acts 20:7) It is the day that the family of God assemble themselves to worship Him. In their worship, they will sing unto the Lord. They also pray, and hear the word of God proclaimed. God authorizes and accepts our offerings during worship. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) As mentioned earlier in Acts 20:7 the church also partakes of unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine which represents the body and blood of the Lord. This is called communion.

We can look at our calendar and see that Sunday is the first day of the week. Every week has a first day. It is impossible to have a second or third day of the week without first having a first day. That day is Sunday. That is the day God wants His people to assemble themselves for worship. It is simply a matter

of who will you listen to-God or man. For those who say there is another day of the week other than Sunday that we are to worship, let us suggest the words of Jesus in Matthew 15:9, "In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the commandments of men."

God also determines the spirit of worship. "God is a spirit, and they that will worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24) In order to please God, we must believe that He is, and that He will reward them that diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6) Our worship is to celebrate God in spirit, and it must celebrate God in truth.

God also delegates work. In the garden of Eden God spoke to the very first man. "And the Lord God took the man, and put him in the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it." (Genesis 2:15) All throughout time God has encouraged each man to work. It is through hard work that men grow to appreciate what he has. Paul writes: "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." (Ephesians 4:28) That work ethic applies to both physical and spiritual work. We are to use our talents and abilities to the glory of God. Christians are to be found busy working, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Colossians 1:10)

God delegates waiting. He shows us the value of waiting. Man must wait on the spring showers and the summer sun to bring the fall fruits. So man needs to wait on age and maturity before engaging in grown-up things. He needs to know that good things come to those who wait. The best decisions are made through thought, preparation and hard work. Anything worth having is worth waiting for. Rome was not built in a day. Wait.

Isaiah 40:31 says: "They that wait on the Lord..." There are blessings attached to waiting. An expectant mother must wait nine months for a child to be born. A student must wait for years to complete his course of study and to graduate. But, in each case, the reward is worth the wait. Let us consider while we wait to work in the service of the Lord. Sometimes, it seems the only time we are willing to wait is on the things that need to be done. For we will wait for tomorrow to do the things we need to do today.

God Hesitates

Someone said: "Patience is a virtue." It is a trait of God. Having patience is having the ability to wait. God hesitates. God's hesitation is called longsuffering. "When once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water." (I Peter 3:20) Why did God wait? "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9) The hesitation of God is to give us time to come to ourselves and to repent.

Conclusion

The acts of God share with us the mind of God. We learn of God's intentions by the things He communicates. We learn of God's instruction by the things He asks us to do. And we are taught the intimate things of God when we learn to wait. Let us determine to be more like God as we study the acts of God.