

Stop Giving God Credit For Something He Didn't Do

I. Introduction: What I mean by "credit" is saying that God did something.

A. I am not saying we should not give God the glory [praise] (**Isaiah 40:26-28**).
God gets the glory as the Creator not a puppet master (**Revelation 4:11**).

1. I am not saying don't thank God for things (**I Thessalonians 5:17-18**).
2. God gets the glory and thanks because He is the origin of the things we have and/or the means by which we can obtain them if we choose to do so (**Genesis 9:1-3** and **I Timothy 4:4-5**).
3. Do you understand that He set things in motion that benefits us without His direct involvement in our affairs today (**Genesis 8:22, Psalms 104:20-24, Matthew 5:45, and Acts 14:17**)?
 - a. What did God's direct involvement look like (**James 5:17-18; cf. I Kings 17:1-18:45**)?
 - b. When He was directly involved, He clearly indicated it so there was no confusion (**Psalms 103:6-7, Psalms 145:9-13, Isaiah 42:8, Isaiah 44:28-45:1, and Isaiah 45:18-19**).
 - c. When prayers were answered by God's direct involvement, that too was very clearly Him at work beyond natural means (**Acts 12:1-17**).

B. There is much confusion because of statements such as "*If the Lord will...*"

1. **James 4:13-16** is about whether tomorrow comes or not. That is entirely in God's hand as it relates to the continuation of the earth (**Mark 13:31-32**). The point is to not boast about tomorrow (**Proverbs 27:1**).
2. When Paul used the phrase "*if the Lord will*" (**I Corinthians 4:19**), consider how that where and when he went was directly guided by the Lord (**Acts 16:1-10, Acts 19:21, Acts 20:22, Acts 23:11, and Acts 27:9-26**).
3. So, let's think about handling Scriptures properly (**II Timothy 2:14-18**).

II. Body: Do You Realize Man's Place In Things (**Genesis 1:26-28** and **Psalms 8:4-8**)?

A. Consider this, there is a progression even when it comes to revelation wherein God basically says to man, take this over (**Hebrews 1:1-2**).

1. When Jesus left this world, He gave MEN the commission to go and teach (**Matthew 28:16-20**).
2. They miraculously had help (**Matthew 10:19-20** and **John 16:1-13**).
3. Those men held a temporary office (**Ephesians 4:7-16**) and the Spirit being given was limited (**Acts 8:12-17**).
 - a. An Apostle had to see the resurrected Christ (**Acts 1:15-26**).
 - b. Paul was the last the last of all (**I Corinthians 15:1-11**).
4. After the Apostles died... (**II Timothy 2:2**).

5. Now with the once delivered faith (**Jude 1:3**), what do we have to guide us (**Luke 4:4**, **Romans 15:4**, **II Timothy 3:15-17**, and **II Peter 1:3-15**).
 6. Confirmation is no longer needed as it once was (**Acts 2:22** and **Hebrews 2:1-4**).
- B. God put some rules in place you must not overrun with thoughtless remarks...
1. He is not a respecter of persons, meaning He doesn't discriminate (**Acts 10:34-35**). Ex. All sinners have to repent to be saved (**Acts 17:30**).
 2. The age of spiritual gifts and miracles through such have ceased long ago (**I Corinthians 13:8-13**).
 - a. That is why you don't see **Matthew 10:8** happening today.
 - b. That is why conversions today look different than **Acts 19:1-7**.
 3. He has given man freewill (**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**, **I Samuel 8:1-8**, **Acts 2:40-41**, and **Revelation 22:14-17**).
 4. By God's design, there is the rule of time and chance (**Ecclesiastes 9:11-12**). *I.E. God doesn't choose your time of death, give you time!
- C. Scriptures get twisted to suggest God is currently directly involved in everyone's lives and that is wrong. We must be careful (**II Peter 3:15-17**).
1. What is **Jeremiah 29:11** really about (**Jeremiah 29:1-23**)?
 2. What is **James 5:14** really about (**Mark 6:13** and **Mark 16:14-20**)?
 3. What is **Romans 8:28** really talking about (**Romans 8:17** and **Romans 8:31-39**)?
 4. What is **James 1:5-6** really talking about (**I Corinthians 12:3-11** and **Ephesians 1:17**)?
 5. What is **Matthew 21:22** really teaching and to whom was it taught (**Matthew 21:18-22**; cf. **Matthew 17:14-21**)?
 6. If one is going to say we pray today the same way they did in the first century, during the age of miracles, I challenge you to do what they did with prayer (**Acts 9:36-42** and **Acts 28:8-9**).
 7. Though God directly involved Himself in judgment of earthly matters in the past (**Isaiah 3:13-26**), now He has given that authority to man in carnal and spiritual matters (**Romans 12:17-13:7** and **I Corinthians 6:1-8**).
- D. Consider the Lord's answer to Paul (**II Corinthians 12:1-10**).
1. Is His grace enough for you (**Ephesians 2:5**)?
 2. The written word of God, not miracles, is what God designed to last (**Matthew 24:35** and **I Peter 1:23-25**).
 3. The reason His word will last is because of what it does (**Acts 20:32**).

III. Conclusion: Don't be ignorant and verbally state that God did something when He did not. He is very much hands off today! I have proven that. To state otherwise is to state something false. What are the consequences of that (**Revelation 21:8**)?

*Tuesday's Podcast is on the "Parable of the Fireman." After this lesson, I strongly suggest you listen to that one!