



Running From God

Running away from God? What does that really mean? Some people reject God outright or at the very least religion itself. Are they running from God or embracing a worldly reality? The religious person would say to the unreligious they are rejecting God. I have lived on that worldly side. The unreligious are not rejecting God. This is a new reality to the church-ed believer. So many worldly people (actually) do not know who God is. I know a middle-aged north American white lady that asked me what religion does. Then she paused: what is it? She did not have a clue what God is or who Jesus really was. That is the real world. A forty something woman who had never encountered religion. Christian children grow up with some concept of God. Most of the world has no clue what Christians are talking about. Know your audience before you speak. You cannot run away from something you have never encountered.

Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

I get Paul. His world knew God. Atheists were not common in his day. Our current rendition of Christianity thinks people know what God is. They also think there is one line between religion and atheists. You are either one or the other. Yet, I contend the biggest group in the world are within another category: *people who do not know what religion really is*. What is this God concept? The idea that today’s culture knows God and is rejecting Him is misinformed. Yet, deep within each of us is a fingerprint of the maker. It does not matter if you are ignorant or

reject Him. The fingerprint of God is on your heart. I am betting that the marker of God calls us. It is why so many (worldly or religious) feel there is something missing in their lives.

How do I know that? It comes back to Romans 1. Why do we have scientists debunking the existence of God? Why are there people who waste their time fighting religion? Why create theories like the Big Bang to explain creation? It is the pursuit of the truth. How is it possible that we exist? The Greek culture and the Middle Ages era sought these answers. Humans are curious about how we began. Where does that drive come from? Do you really think you're born with it? This generation wonders if some are born as pedophiles or serial killers. Are we born gay? Yet, the drive to know why we exist remains. That drive is related to understanding the fingerprint of God within you. It is God's holiness conflicting with our human nature. We all have a drive to uncover what seems to be hidden.

1 Corinthians 2:14 *“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”*

That brings me to the natural human. Every single person (ever born) has naturally existed. 2 Corinthians 4:16 *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”* Natural means: *one born without the usual powers of reason and understanding.* Look at 1 Corinthians 10:13 *“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”* Naturally born is not an excuse. God is always giving us a way out of what we cannot understand. I am sure that even the atheists would admit we are inherently driven to know why we exist.

Naturally speaking, we want to run from God. Humans naturally want to figure life out ourselves. What if that fingerprint inside you wants you to run towards God instead? To let God help you figure things out? Look at these verses in Ephesians 4:17-20

“Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. 19 They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 That is not the way you learned Christ!”

How do you learn Christ Jesus if you are running away? What if turning around and running towards God was the way, the truth, and the life God wanted for us. People talk about the thorn Paul had in the Bible. I could be persuaded that our thorn is the fingerprint of God within us. You cannot take a pill or cut it out. It is always there calling us back to God. For the naturally human that would be a thorn. Jesus says He will take that thorn and help us know God the Father. We learn that way through Christ Jesus. Jesus makes running towards God easy and lite.

This series is two journeys. It is first and foremost my journey. I feel that I have been rejecting the blessings of God. Why? I know that what I have been experiencing is common among people. We tend to do things our way. A way that tends to be longer and harder than it need be. Is there a magical path to more blessings of God? It is a yes and no answer. Yes, moving your life closer to God will rub off on you. Probably you will see God and His blessings more clearly. The no part is a hard reality check. By nature, God loves to bless. Yet, he is not a blessing dispenser. God plan and will does not always line up with what we desire. My goal is to move us

closer to God. To chase His blessings by chasing a Spirit filled life. You could say chasing the blessings of God.