

The God of Israel Cannot be Captured
January 11th 2015

How do you approach (and seek) God?

1) **As a magic genie or a wishing well?** (1 Samuel 4)

The Israelites treated the Ark like a pagan might; they were looking unto the Ark not unto the **God** of the Ark!

They took plans into their own hands and didn't seek God before attacking the Philistines! They figured if they just took the Ark with them God would give them victory. There was no seeking the Lord in **prayer!** Pray before you **act!**

The elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies."
1 Samuel 4:3 (NKJV)

The Ark represented God's presence but the Israelites were more focused on the form (Ark) than the God of the Ark. They substituted the form for the real thing- hype!

Are you approaching God as a genie, wishing well or rabbit's foot! God won't be boxed in by our desires and wishes; rather He wants us to **seek** Him and His heart. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

2) **As a "part" of your life or just another God?** (1 Samuel 5-6)

For the Philistines, God (for a moment) was a part of their life. God (Ark in their mind) was a **PART** of their life just like the other gods.

Idolatry is putting anything in the place of God. It can even be something good.

Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon.
1 Samuel 5:1-2 (NKJV)

If we make God just "a part" and not "all," we will end up confused and lost. Is God just "**another part**" of your life or is He your life?

He has shown you, o man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

3) **A desire for God Himself?** (1 Samuel 7:1-11)

This is what was intended from the beginning- A **love** relationship with God Almighty.

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."
Matthew 22:37 (NKJV)

When we seek to put God off, put Him in the back seat, or treat Him as "just a part of our life," we miss the boat.

"Nobody can truly enjoy the gifts of God apart from the God who gives the gifts. To enjoy the gifts without the Giver is idolatry, and this can never satisfy the human heart. Enjoyment without God is merely entertainment, and it doesn't satisfy. But enjoyment with God is enrichment and it brings true joy and satisfaction". Chuck Missler

How do you approach and seek God?