

Introduction:

"I don't need you. I don't need anyone." How many characters in television shows, movies, books and stories have we heard make this claim to someone? Everyone wants to assert their independence. Especially the young branching out from the protecting wings of Mom and Dad. Sadly, it too often develops into a habit with which we face all of life. It too often impacts even our relationship with God. We must never face God with this attitude. Instead, we must constantly recognize we need God.

Discussion:

- I. God doesn't need us.
 - A. People imagine God in numerous ways, even if they will not consciously put into words their image. Some view God as a kind of Santa Claus, doling out gifts to good little boys and girls but not so much with the naughty ones. Some view Him as a grandpa who threatens, blusters and talks big, but in the end tells all the grandkids just to come and sit in his lap for a big hug. Some see a vending machine to whom they can place all the orders of our desires and then complain He is broken if they don't get what they want. Some view Him as a vindictive despot who cannot stand it when things don't go His way, waiting to wreak havoc in the lives of anyone who steps out of line. One of the most common views is a lonely God. Some, believing they have struck on a means to get us to worship and pray, have imagined God was a lonely wanderer in need of relationship and fellowship and therefore, created us to fill the void in His heart.
 - B. That, however, is not remotely the God we serve. God did not create us because He needed us to fill or accomplish anything. In fact, this view of God is merely a projection of our own nature upon Him. We need relationship. We need fellowship. However, there is nothing we can offer God that He needs. Paul made this abundantly clear in **Acts 17:24-25**, saying God is not served by human hands. He is the creator of the world, what do we possibly have to offer Him to fill any need He might have? **Psalm 50:12** says if He were hungry, He wouldn't ask us. He can feed Himself. He can care for Himself. He can entertain Himself.
 - C. We must understand this because if we believe God created us to fill His needs, we will eventually believe God owes us because we provide a need for Him. We can become like the Pharisee in **Luke 18:11-12**. As you hear him pray, you can sense the self-satisfaction. The Pharisee didn't need God. Oh no, it was the other way around, God needed the Pharisee and was lucky to have such a wonderful servant on His side. The Pharisee was wrong and left his prayers unjustified. God Himself said in **Job 41:11** no one has ever remotely given Him anything for which He is indebted.
 - D. Please, do not misunderstand. God wants our service, fellowship and relationship. But the amazing thing is in wanting that, it is not to fill a void in His existence. Rather, He wants it because He knows we need it. How amazing that God, without any need on His part, wants to let us have a relationship with Him and wants it so much that He sent His Son to die so we could (**Colossians 1:18-20**).
- II. Why do we need God?
 - A. According to **Acts 17:28**, we are the offspring of God. Without Him we could neither live, move or have being. I think at times we take existence for granted. We are here and give little thought to the power that brought us here. Beyond the creation of all things by the unfathomable power of God, we are individually here because God formed us (**Psalm 139:13-14**). Without God we would not even exist. Further, now that we exist, without God we could not survive. Consider **Matthew 5:45-46**, what would happen to our existence if the sun ceased to rise and the rain ceased to fall? God is the creator and sustainer of those processes. Marita recently informed me of a quote: "Remember, it is His air we breathe." If we want life, we need God.

- B. What is the purpose of life? Why am I here? What is the answer to the great questions of life, the universe and everything? Humans are naturally curious. Just ask any parent of toddlers and young children. “Why, Daddy, why?” or “Why, Mommy, why?” It is maddening. Eventually, unless the curiosity is squelched by insensitive parents, we all get around to wondering what is the meaning behind our existence. According to **Ecclesiastes**, Solomon landed on that question. In his search for meaning, he tested life with pleasure, wisdom, folly, stimulants, works, possessions, legacies and found only this: “I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind” (**Ecclesiastes 2:17**, ESV). However, this was only about life under the sun. This was an investigation of life without God, without the spiritual, without what is beyond the sun. When Solomon brought God and the spiritual realm beyond this life into the picture, he suddenly had meaning. “Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God” (**Ecclesiastes 8:12-13**, ESV). There is a purpose, there is a meaning and Solomon finally concluded, “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man” (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**, ESV). There is no meaning to life without God. Without God, we are mere blips in an accidental world that will be forgotten shortly after we are gone no matter how great we have been in life. If we want meaning, we need God.
- C. **Romans 3:23** says we have all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. **Ephesians 2:1-3** says we all have walked according to the passions of our flesh and were by nature children of wrath. According to **Romans 6:23**, the wages of those sins are death, that is, spiritual death, an eternal damnation away from God’s presence. We need forgiveness. Without God, we cannot gain it. According to **Romans 3:24**, God justifies us as a gift by His grace through the blood of Jesus. According to **Ephesians 2:4-5**, we have been saved by God’s mercy. We need forgiveness, but we cannot earn it. We can merit it. We cannot buck up and plow our way through the rest of this life achieving forgiveness. We can only gain forgiveness by the mercy and grace of God. **I John 1:8-9** is clear, if we want forgiveness, we need God.
- D. Regrettably, we often view forgiveness and righteousness as the same thing. They are connected, but they are not the same. We need forgiveness in order to be righteous, however, forgiveness does not equal righteousness. According to **Matthew 5:6**, only those who have a deep and abiding hunger for righteousness that will ever be satisfied in this life. If we hunger for money, fame, power, influence, pleasure, happiness we will always be disappointed. However, when we hunger for righteousness, we will be satisfied. However, that will not take place because we can accomplish our own righteousness if we want it badly enough. That will happen because if we want it badly enough to do anything God says to get it, He will give us righteousness. Paul’s main goal, according to **Philippians 3:8-11** was to know Jesus so he could have righteousness and thereby gain eternal life. But he understood, he could not have such righteousness on his own. That kind of righteousness only comes from God. If we want to overcome sin and live righteous lives, we can only do so through God and through the righteousness He gives by faith. If we want righteousness, we need God.
- E. As Americans, we pride ourselves on our independent strength and power. We can pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and make our own way. Every once in a while we may need a little nudge here and there, but we are even embarrassed to admit that. Sadly, because of this, American Christians are becoming, on the whole, spiritually weak and nominal. Most of us balk at challenges that go beyond attending assemblies and many fall away easily because we can’t handle Satan’s heat. Some have white knuckled their way through many hardships and then finally given up because they decide it is just not worth it or they just can’t take anymore. If we are relying on ourselves, I believe God will allow us to be pushed until we finally come face to face with our own weakness. In that moment, we will either give up or realize real strength only comes from God. Consider **II Corinthians 12:7-10**, isn’t that exactly what God did with Paul? As Paul said in **Philippians 4:13**, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” (ESV). If we want strength to face life and overcome, then we need God.
- F. Life is hectic. We face storm after storm after storm. Whether we are talking about childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, marriage, parenting, middle age or senior years something is

always hammering away at us. Whether it is in school, on the job, at home, in the neighborhood or among brethren strife is a common part of life. Perhaps that is why anxiety disorders are among the most common mental disorders in America, affecting 40 million of the U.S. adult population. That is more than one out of every six adults facing some kind of anxiety disorder. I have no doubt some of those are caused by true medical concerns that need medical diagnoses. However, how many have come about because people don't have God in their lives at all or have a wall between them and God such that they are not fully relying on Him? In **Philippians 4:6-9**, Paul explained if we cast our cares upon God and then think on God's things, the God of peace will be with us and His peace which passes all understanding will guard our hearts and minds. Satan is attacking us with anxiety. For many, our number one defense is not going to be medicine, but a relationship with God. If we want true inner peace, we need God.

- G. We are in a constant battle. Satan is attacking us at every turn (**Ephesians 6:12**). We are facing an enemy who is too strong for us. We are simply too weak to be victorious. If we try to face this battle on our own, we are destined for failure. That is why Paul urged us to "be strong in the Lord" and "take up the whole armor of God" (**Ephesians 6:10-11**, ESV). As **I Corinthians 15:57** says, we gain victory over sin, Satan and even death by God through Jesus Christ. According to **I John 5:4**, only those who are born of God can overcome the world and gain victory by faith. Without God, we lose the battle and the war. With God, we are victorious. No doubt, **Revelation** can be a very confusing book. If we get bogged down in any one of the pictures and symbols, we might spend years wallowing in confusion. However, when we back up and see the book as a whole, it has one unified message. God wins and those who stay on His side gain the victory. If we want victory, we need God.
- H. Finally, we began by pointing out that we need God to have physical life. Without Him, we could not exist. However, every other point we have made has actually been leading to our main goal. Without God, we cannot possibly have eternal life. **Romans 6:23** explained that the wages of sin is death, but God's gift is eternal life through Jesus Christ. Eternal life is God's gift. We read of Paul's goals in **Philippians 3:8-11** to know Jesus and gain righteousness from God. However, that wasn't his endgame. The reason for those goals was to attain resurrection from the dead. He wanted eternal life. In **John 5:28-29**, Jesus told of a coming hour in which everyone will hear the voice of Jesus and come forth from the grave. But only those who have done good will attain the resurrection of life. The rest will face the resurrection of judgment. We, however, cannot do that much good on our own. Only through the righteousness from God can we "do enough" to attain this resurrection to eternal life. If we want eternal life with God in heaven, then we need God in this physical life on the earth.

Conclusion:

We struggle to grasp this. However, there is nothing God has done or has asked us to do that is because He needs something from us. Rather, we need God. We are the dependent ones and He is the source of strength and power. No, He is power and we must come to Him to have power and life eternal. Are you relying on God?