

## **AGNOSTICS**

Ephesians 1:13 ... 'In him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy spirit of promise.'

In our previous devotional we discussed atheists, who are people who absolutely deny the existence of God. Today, we look at another group of unbelievers, agnostics, who feel that God's existence cannot be proven, but who do not deny the possibility that God exists.

If you talk to persons who claim to be atheists, you will often find that they are not really atheists; they are agnostics. They do not want to believe that God exists, but they admit it is a possibility. They simply have decided to ignore God and live as if he does not exist. I firmly believe that very few people die as agnostics, because over their long lifetimes and as they near death, God's existence becomes more apparent to them.

An agnostic is not much different than the average person who wants no part of God. A person who rejects God is rejecting the evidence of God in every part of his or her life. While he cannot see God's Copyright or Trademark stamped on tree leaves, soil, animals, stars, and the air he breathes, he also cannot offer any other explanation for the existence of those things. An unbeliever may not want to acknowledge God's existence, but he cannot explain his own humanity, love, or joy. Even if he believes in evolution, he has no answer for the existence of compassion, generosity, emotions, and brilliant minds.

As we did in our previous devotional, we encourage you to think of agnostics and atheists as needy, hurting persons, just like anyone else trying to live their lives without a personal relationship with Christ, and without the power of the Holy Spirit to guide them. Minister to them as you would anyone else. Help them through difficult times, offer them assistance when they are sick, and empathize with their anger and depression. You must also understand that they will often be irritable or feel intimidated by the followers of Christ who surround them.

As they brood their way through life they may eventually realize that their most dependable and generous friends are the people they disagree with. They may compare their lives to their Christian friends and ask themselves why they are not as blessed, happy, or at peace as their friends. I've known several agnostics who changed their minds when making that comparison. Your mission is to assure them that they have the same opportunity to fall in love with Jesus and spend eternity in paradise as you did before you surrendered your own stubborn will to God. But the clock does not stop and wait; decisions must be made before one dies.

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