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In an article entitled "Spain: Atheism and Agnosticism on the Rise in Pandemic Times" (published by Evangelical Focus Europe; April 18, 2022), the following statistics were mentioned:

"Roman Catholicism continues to be the predominant religion (about 59%), although far from the figures of previous years. The second largest groups are atheists (14.6%), agnostics (11.6%) and non-religious (10.8%), which together account for 37%. Minority denominations represent 2.5% of the population and just over 1.5% are undecided."

One of the questions posed by atheists and agnostics to explain, or justify, their position is: "If God exists, why can't He be seen or why does He not manifest Himself in clear and undeniable ways?" This is a fair question, and there is a Biblical explanation for those who make this claim. However, before examining these scriptures, Jesus Christ stated that if he manifested himself to everyone in Judea, following his resurrection, there would still be many people who would reason around this "miracle", by providing various "rational explanations", and then deny that he was even resurrected (cf. 1Cor. 15:12-19).

*But he (the rich man) said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead (referring to Christ after his resurrection), they will repent (change their mind).'³¹ But he said to him (the rich man), 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets (who explained Christ's role in his Father's plan of salvation), **neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead**' (Lk. 16:30-31; NKJV used*

throughout; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

No doubt, this is one of the reasons that Christ only manifested himself to his disciples after his resurrection.

*Him (Christ) God (the Father) raised up on the third day, and showed him openly,⁴¹ **not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God** (the Father; cf. Jn. 6:44; 65), **even to us who ate and drank with him after he arose from the dead** (Acts 10:40-41; cf. Jn. 15:15; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added. KJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).*

So being able to see Christ, or his heavenly Father, does not automatically endow anyone with belief that these two distinct and separate "Spirit-Beings" exist. In addition, no one has heard a message directly from God the Father. Instead, any message from Almighty God (the Father) has come through angels (cf. Acts 7:53).

*And the Father Himself, who sent me (Christ), has testified of me. **You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form** (Jn. 5:37; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

*.....He (God the Father) who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords (one of the titles carried by Christ as his Father's representative; Rev. 19:16 cf. Isa. 9:6-7),¹⁶ Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, **Whom no man has seen or can see, to Whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen** (1Tim. 6:15b-16; cf. 1Tim. 1:17; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added)*

Therefore, when Adam was communicating with "God" in the opening pages of the book of Genesis, it was not with God the Father.

Instead, it was with another member of the God-family; specifically, the individual that later became known as Jesus Christ. So, any “one-on-one” interaction with “God”, and Adam’s descendants, would involve Christ or another loyal angel of Almighty God. However, any continued access is always contingent upon the pursuit of lawful behavior. Therefore, following Adam and Eve’s sin, they were denied this “direct access”.

*So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to **the tree of life*** (metaphor describing access to God the Father through Jesus Christ) (Gen. 3:24; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

However, because Adam’s children had not rebelled against God’s Word (cf. Rev. 19:13), they continued to have direct access with “the one” who was responsible for their physical well-being, and spiritual development. This is why Cain was “cautioned” to examine his attitude toward his brother Abel.

*So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And **if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.**”* (Gen. 4:6-7; emphasis added).

Sadly, Cain rejected this advice. Consequently, Cain’s jealousy and envy toward his brother Abel developed into full-blown rage. The result was the first premeditated murder recorded in the Bible.

Cain said to his brother Abel, ‘Let us go out’; and while they were in the open country, Cain set on his brother Abel and killed him (Gen. 4:8; The Jerusalem Bible).

Because of this sinful act, Cain was also separated from the spirit-being who had advised him to change his attitude, which would mean repenting of the evil he was planning against his brother.

*Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground (the only home he had known); **I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me*** (Gen. 4:14; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

This same principle applied to an entire nation of people who were chosen by Almighty God to proclaim His way of life to all the other nations on this planet. They too were denied access when they collectively rejected Him and His representative (who became known as Jesus Christ).

*And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves; and **the Lord will not hear you in that day*** (1Sam. 8:18; cf. 8:19-20; emphasis added).

So, anyone, or any nation, which refuses to follow the advice of Almighty God and His representative, will be denied direct access to the wisdom of their Creator. Consequently, they will remain ignorant of who He really is; and unaware of the most effective solutions to problems they encounter during their lives.

*Then **they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.*** ²⁹*Because they hated knowledge and did not choose **the fear*** (deep respect) *of the Lord* ³⁰*They would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof* (Prov. 2:28-30; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

However, if anyone repents of their sins, their prayers will be heard. Unfortunately, we live at a time in history when people are not taking responsibility for their actions, including when they transgress God's law and commandments.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. ³*for your hands are defiled with bloodshed, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perversity.* ⁴*No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. (Instead), they trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity (Isa. 59:2-4; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

"Come now, and let us reason together", says the Lord, "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. ¹⁹***If you are willing and obedient...."*** (Isa. 1:18-19a; cf. Acts 5:32b; emphasis added)

Those who acknowledge their transgression of God's law and commandments, are on a positive path that will result in fellowship with God the Father and His son, Jesus Christ.

*He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and **I will love him and manifest** (reveal) **myself to him.*** ²²*Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?"* ²³*Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home (dwelling) with him (Jn. 14:21-23; cf. 1Jn. 5:3; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

The scenario described in John 14:21-23 occurs following repentance of sin, and baptism, when the Father's Holy Spirit enters an individual. This is the point of spiritual impregnation and the beginning of a new life with the potential for limitless growth in understanding who God the Father really is, as well as His son Jesus Christ (cf. Rom. 6:4).

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God (the Father), and Jesus Christ whom You have sent (Jn. 17:3; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Even though Christ's disciples saw him on a regular basis before his death, they did not realize that Christ's possession of his Father's Holy Spirit made him of "one mind and purpose with his heavenly Father". This is interesting because even in the physical realm there are couples who have been married for so long that some people believe they look similar to each other (see article entitled: "Think Married People Look Alike? Science Explains Why; Reader's Digest; by Lauren Rearick; April 1, 2022, or <https://www.rd.com/why-married-people-look-alike>).

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (Jn. 14:9).

Those who strive to obey God the Father will also be a reflection of Him in the eyes of those who witness their good works.

*Most assuredly, I (Christ) say to you, he who believes in me, **the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do,** because I go to my Father (Jn.*

14:12; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The Father's Holy Spirit also acts as a comforter during troubled times to strengthen and encourage His servants.

But the helper (comforter), the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in my name, it will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you (Jn. 14:26; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Again, this is the impregnating power of the Father to His spiritual children who are now able to grow in understanding, as did His son Jesus Christ.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ... (2Pet. 3:18a).

Though he (Christ) was a Son, yet he learned obedience by the things which he suffered (Heb. 5:8; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Anyone with the Father's Holy Spirit has direct access to Him because they have been cleansed of their sins through Christ's shed blood. Therefore, they can come boldly to Him and make their requests/petitions known.

*Most assuredly, I (Christ) say to you, **whatever you ask the Father in my name He will give you.** ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full (Jn. 16:23-24; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace (forgiveness), that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16; Ed. note in parenthesis).

According to scripture, many servants of Almighty God have seen Christ, as well as other

loyal angels, even though they may not have recognized them at the time.

*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing **some have unwittingly entertained angels** (Heb. 13:2; emphasis added).*

So the woman (Samson's mother) came and told her husband saying, "A Man of God came to me, and his countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name." (Judges 13:6; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Those faithful and obedient servants, who have not entertained angels, are still blessed in knowing that Almighty God and His son Jesus Christ do exist, and reward those who trust and obey God's word.

*Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed. **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed** (Jn. 20:29; emphasis added).*

So, atheists and agnostics could also be blessed by receiving the many gifts associated with the Father's Holy Spirit, even if they cannot see Him or Jesus Christ at this time (cf. 1Cor. 12:1-31). But first, they have to admit that they have transgressed God's law and commandments; then repent and be baptized.

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Until genuine repentance occurs, everyone remains in their sins and, as a consequence, cannot have direct access to God the Father or Jesus Christ. Consequently, they are incapable

of correctly understanding who God is, or that He even exists. Metaphorically speaking, there is a veil over their heads preventing them from seeing and hearing the truth of God. However, the good news is that this veil will eventually be removed from all people and nations. The following prophecy confirms this.

*And He will destroy on this mountain (symbol of governing authority) the surface of **the covering cast over all people, and the veil** (multiple forms of deception; cf. Rev, 12:9) **that is spread over all nations** (Isa. 25:7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

This truth is an integral part of God's plan of salvation and helps explain why there are agnostics and atheists who simply cannot fathom, or believe, that God our Creator exists at this time in their lives. Instead, they take the position that if God can't be easily seen, or heard from, He simply doesn't exist.

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