



2. IS THERE A GOD?

And if so, where is He and what is He up to?

God is where He has always been, and He is doing what He has always done. He is looking for you. God has been trying to connect with you long before you pondered the question of His existence. The truth is, you have been experiencing the negative consequences of alienation from God all your life. Every person who exists outside of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is suffering from the "absence of God syndrome," which displays itself in fear, guilt, and loneliness. Those who have not experienced the forgiveness of God are doomed to wander through time cut off from the vital life that only God can give.

Where is God? He is nearer to you than you can possibly imagine. You and I are no different than Adam and Eve, who, after disobeying God in the Garden of Eden, experienced fear, guilt, and alienation from God -- for the first time in their lives. They ran and hid themselves from the presence of the Lord (Genesis 3:1-13). God came looking for them, but they were

hiding in the trees, afraid to speak to Him. However, God loved His creation and knew that something must be done if the fellowship between them was to be restored. God looked for them; they certainly were not looking for God. In the same way, God has been searching for you all your life to love you and have a relationship with you. The Bible teaches us that God is very near to each of us. In the book of Acts it is recorded that He is "not far from each one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:27-28).

What is God doing? He is extending His grace (loving favor) to every man who will receive it through His Son Jesus Christ. The Bible records these words, "since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). God is looking for people, like you, who are seeking the meaning of life. He is willing to extend His love to you for all of eternity if you will look to Him by faith and allow Him to forgive you of your sin. The Bible says it this way, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). God does exist, and He is pursuing you. He loves you and His desire is for you to know Him and experience the joy of His presence.