



ELUSIVE GOD

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6-18 // PAGE 1647

Atonement

Confronting Pride

God confronts the spectator and offers forgiveness and a new way in Christ.

Repentance- a deep change of mind.

Faith- a reorientation of trust to one worthy of obeying.

Attunement

Teaching the Humble

God transforms the one who believes through **experiential revelation.**

This path is becoming a disciple of Jesus—to become a lover of God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

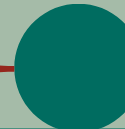
God's reveals his character

This assumes His existence. It tells us what and who exists.
(What, not if, is the question most humans have about God.)



2 Corinthians 4:6

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the **knowledge** of the **glory** of God in **the face** of Christ.”



Superstition

The god's are powerful and immoral, so we must appease them. This is idolatry.

“Those who make them will be like them, and so will all those who trust in them.”

Psalm 115:4-8, 135:15-18

Biblical Monotheism

The “WHO” of God's character

The Righteous God of Power

That is full of Mercy

Primal fear

Human primal fear and pride are expressed in religious and irreligious actions of narrowed self-interest or aggression toward others.

“There is no fear of God before their eyes.” **Romans 3:18 (Psalm 36)**

Progressively revealed in Judaism, completed in Christ, corrupted regressively in Islam.

Resistance is blindness

The problem is what we think we know,
not what God won't tell us.



Isaiah 6:9-13

“[God] said, ‘Go and tell this people: "Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.” Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.’ Then I [Isaiah] said, ‘For how long, O Lord?’ And he answered: ‘Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged, until the LORD has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken. And though a tenth remains in the land, it will again be laid waste. But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land.’”

Matthew 13:10-14

“The disciples came to him and asked, ‘Why do you speak to the people in parables?’ He replied, ‘The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.” In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving...””

NET Bible footnote: Matthew 13:16

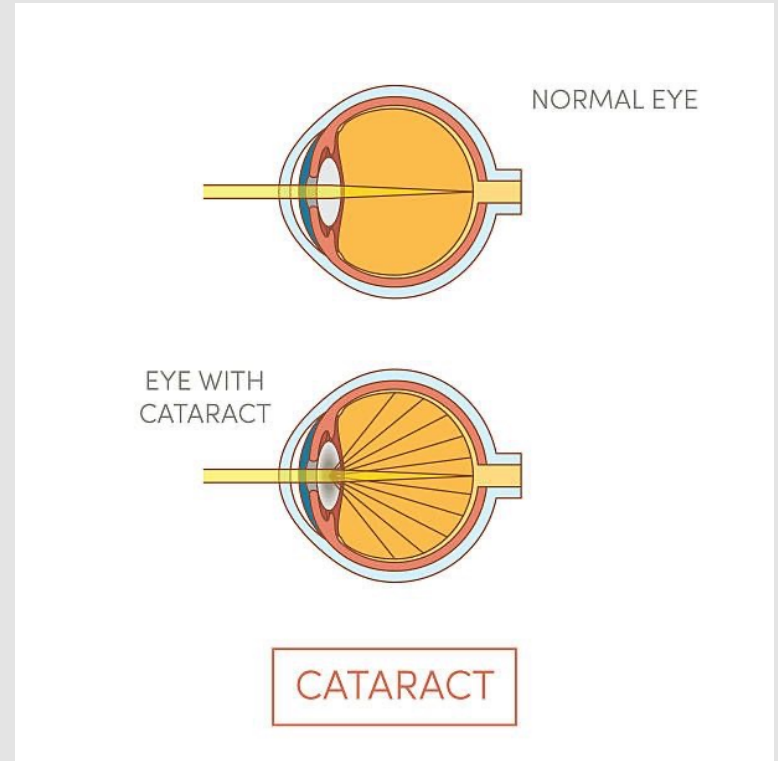
“A quotation from Isaiah 6:9–10. Thus, parables both conceal or reveal ***depending on whether one is open to hearing what they teach.***”

The Revelation Inhibitor

For every revelation of God's character, there are corresponding inhibitors in our self-knowledge.

The great obstacle in knowing God is not what he wants to tell us. It is what we think we know about ourselves.

Redeemed self-knowledge is the hardest knowledge to truly gain.

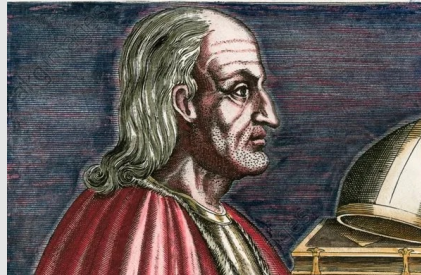


“Lewis, as well and many others, recognized that the lessons of Mortification (killing sin in ourselves) must precede real spiritual attunement. This must be, since sins are, by their nature, discord with God. Sin is sometimes called ‘missing the mark’. It may also be illustrated as ‘being out of tune’. Consequently, making demands of God on the basis of our own self-justifying perspective is the greatest and most decisive inhibitor of being attuned to God. Therefore, what Paul Moser calls ‘spectator evidence’ displays a decisive opposition to the realization needed to begin the attunement necessary to increasingly see God's self-revelation.”

- N. Gibson

St. Anselm: Proslogion (1078)

“I do not seek in order that I might believe.
I believe in order that I might understand.
For this also I believe,—that unless I
believed, I should not understand.”



**Attunement comes
through experiential
revelation**



1. Attunement requires action before insight.

John 7:16-17

“Jesus answered, ‘My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. **If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.**’”



Learn by doing

Some things only “click” when you do them.

They are both “simple” and “too complicated” to learn through explanation.

Righteousness/morality is like that to the “practically” minded because it is capacious, deeper and longer looking than we see.

2. Attunement involves forsaking and following

Mark 10:21

“Jesus looked at him and loved him. ‘One thing you lack,’ he said. ‘Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’”

3. Attunement is counterintuitive

Luke 9:23-24

“Then he said to them all: ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.’”

(Remember Ezekiel and the scroll.)

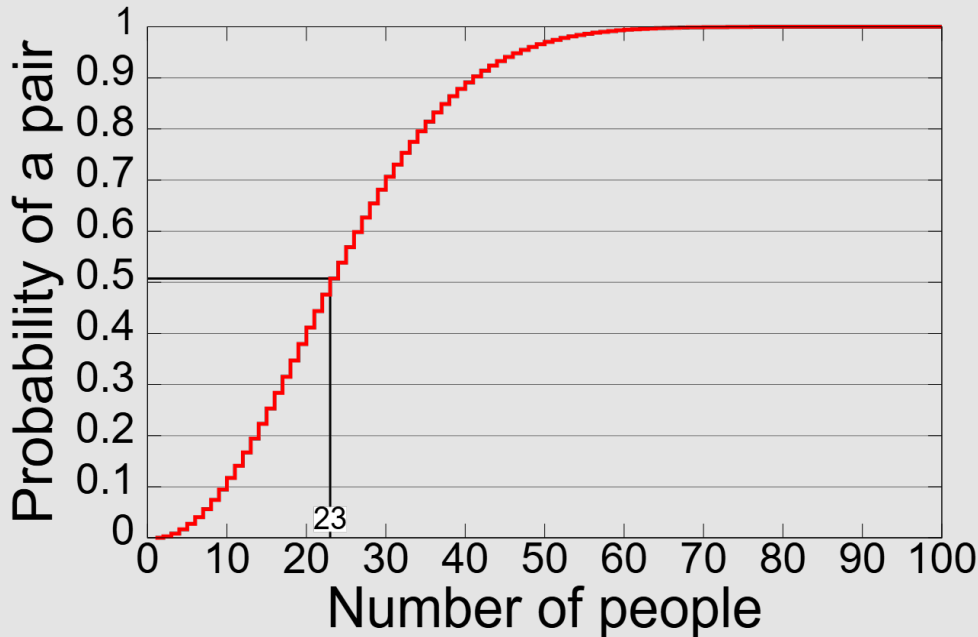
What do you think?

How many people do you need to have in a room to have at least a 50% chance that two of them will have the same birthday? (365 days in a year)



What do you think?

How many people do you need to have in a room to have at least a 50% chance that two of them will have the same birthday? (365 days in a year)



$$\text{Probability} \approx 1 - e^{-\frac{n(n-1)}{2 \cdot 365}}$$

“In my experience, it happens a lot. So, I’d guess around 75 to be really sure” – a person
Actual: 70 for near 100%

Matthew 5:3-10

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

4. Attunement requires experience

1 John 4:11-14

“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No-one has ever seen God; but **if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.** We **know** that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.”

5. Attunement seeks God by seeking godliness

God reveals himself in pursuit of godliness

Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Post-Easter series 2026: Romans 12. Real slow.

**Attunement
comes through
risking obedience**



Scripture and church



Scripture is the
tuning norm.

The church is the
tuner to help you
hear.



Worship and Prayer

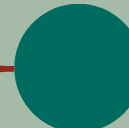
Worship is not MAINLY experiencing God's manifest presence. It is the expressed commitment of the whole worshipper to God's worth and our desire to know his mind, love his loves, use his strength, and do his will.

Experimental Obedience

Learning to obey everything Jesus commanded is the school of attunement. It is the school of “exposure and reflection”.

The preparation and longing is what makes you ready to thrive in and enjoy the full length of the relationship.

(This is why chaste dating is so important and helpful- what it does for marriage, the spiritual life does for eternity.)





ELUSIVE GOD

Ezekiel 2:1 continued

“They will know that a prophet has been among them. And you, son of man, **do not be afraid of them** or their words. Do not be afraid, **though briars and thorns are all around** you and **you live among scorpions**. Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them, though they are **a rebellious house**. You must speak my words to them, **whether they listen or fail to listen**, for **they are rebellious**. But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not **rebel like that rebellious house**; **open your mouth and eat what I give you.**”

Ezekiel 2:9-3:4

“...Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written **words of lament and mourning and woe**. And he said to me, ‘Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the house of Israel.’ So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. Then he said to me, ‘Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.’ So **I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth**. He then said to me: ‘Son of man, go now to the house of Israel and speak my words to them.’”

Ezekiel 2:1

“[God] said to me, ‘Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.’ As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. He said: ‘Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to **a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me**; they and their fathers **have been in revolt against me to this very day**. The people to whom I am sending you **are obstinate and stubborn**. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says.’ And whether they listen or fail to listen-- for they are **a rebellious house...**”

Ezekiel 2:10/3:2-3

“On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe...eat this scroll... So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.”

To look at the truth of God's confrontation seems like a death.
Taking it in seems really weird.
But when you experience it, it is not like you imagine.

2 paths of the soul

Cogito, ergo sum

(I think, therefore I am)

Credo ut intelligam

(I believe in order that I may understand)

2 paths of the soul

Cogito, ergo sum

To avoid corruption and incredulity, I must only agree to what cannot be doubted. **To believe in truth I**

must believe in me.

(myth of methodological objectivity
that leads to subjectivity)



Credo ut intelligam

Before I can understand anything, I have to already believe something.

To believe I exist, I believe in truth that's beyond me.

(The acknowledgement of subjectivity that leads to practical objectivity)

4. Attunement produces revelation for others

Others can see God's disclosures through your sacrifices, faith and growth in seeking attunement with God in pursuing godliness.

2 Corinthians 4:7-10

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay **to** **show** that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”

