

Why God “hides” from us

Why does God hide from plain view, and why does God not immediately reward and/or punish human behavior?

One of the main reasons many people do not believe in God is that God seems to operate behind the scenes. He seems to hide Himself from us, and does not seem to answer our prayers, at least not in the way we would like.

Imagine, for a minute, though, what life might be like if God did visibly appear to all of us and we could see Him watching over everything we do, even things we do in secret. Now, further imagine what it would be like if God brought down the hammer and immediately whacked us on the side of the head every time we violated one of His rules or even entertained an unwholesome thought. Further imagine what it would be like if God were to instantly reward every good thought and action with a tangible reward. If that were the case, then our primary motivation for being good would be self-interest. We would be like Pavlov’s dogs, who’s responses were conditioned solely by external stimuli. Selfless, self-sacrificing Agape love could not exist in such an environment.

That having been said, it would no sense at all for God to condemn unbelievers to eternal Hell. Sooner or later we will all believe, hopefully in this life, and most certainly in the next.

Richard Goyette