

Why God keeps us in the dark

Why does God keep us in the dark about so many important theological matters? Why doesn't God just visibly show him/herself to us, speak to us clearly and unmistakably, and make it easy for us to believe? Why didn't God give us an error-free Bible? The answer may surprise you.

Instead of giving us all the answers, God has given us the capacity of finding the answers through a sometimes painful, and sometimes wonderful, process of trial and error. Here's why that is so important:

1. The best way to learn many lessons in life is through actual hands-on human experience. You'll never know in your gut why your parents forbade you to touch the burners on the stove until after you disobey and get burned.
2. The best way to learn some truths is through a process of elimination. Is the prize behind door number one, two or three? Opening the wrong doors before finally opening the right door convinces us beyond doubt that we have made the right choice.
3. Some truths cannot be understood or appreciated until after we have experienced their opposites. For example, we cannot fully appreciate the importance of expressing love and compassion until we first find ourselves in need of them. We cannot fully appreciate winning until after we have lost a few times. We cannot appreciate God's love and forgiveness until after we have become sinners. We cannot fully appreciate experiencing the presence of God in our lives until after we have learned what is like to live apart from God.
4. God has given us the capacity to discover important truths by means of intuition and the application of reason and common sense. We know from common sense and intuition that God is certainly greater and better than any individual human being. The human qualities that we intuitively admire the most are probably most accentuated in the character of God, qualities like love, mercy and justice. Descriptions that portray God as arbitrary, capricious, hateful, and unloving run counter to intuition and common sense.

In the words of the Apostle Paul, *"Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely."*