

Googling God



What is Reality?



The reality we live in:

(The reality outside of us)

There is only one reality

We don't understand it all, but there is one ultimate truth.

Reality is made of both the seen and unseen.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Kings 6:16-17 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Reality contains both good and evil.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Reality is an unfolding history in which God is the hero and we belong to Him

Acts 17:24-31 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

The reality we live from:

(The reality within us)

Our Inner Reality is shaped by the way we see things.

Matthew 6:22-23 (also Luke 11:34-35) "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"

The Inner Reality of every person is incomplete and broken, to various degrees

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

Our Inner Reality contains a core called the heart, of our most important beliefs (or “narratives”).

Matthew 13:15 (Also Acts 28:27; from Isaiah 6:9-10) For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

Our Inner Reality can be transformed by God's love and truth. We can engage in this “Inner work.”

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

By becoming aware of my beliefs and lenses,

These are the thoughts and feelings on my mind:

By being honest and open with my current interpretations and beliefs and where they came from.

What is a message I received from my mom about me?
What is a message I received from my dad about me?
What is a message I received from the “earthquake” events as I grew up?

By being willing to let go of my beliefs and turn towards God's perspective (called repentance).

By receiving God's love and truth to transform my interpretations, narratives, and beliefs.

