

## Where Is God? Charlie Brackett

Where is God? The Bible says He is not far from any one of us (Acts 17:27) and that in Him we live and move and exist (verse 28). God is everywhere. Are you aware of God's presence in your life? Is He there? Perhaps you don't know. Some folks say they do, on a daily basis. How can we know of God's existence, His operation in our lives?

Someone says, "Because I FEEL His presence." What do you mean? We feel many things. How does God's presence feel? Some say that God's presence feels warm and comforting, a feeling of general well-being. One middle-aged man confided to me that he was keenly aware of the moment God came into his life. He knew by the sudden coming of a warm glow, a general feeling of well-being, an almost euphoric feeling. As a result of that momentary experience he had lived almost forty years confident of his salvation, certain that God was with him and approving of his life.

Others affirm that the presence of God is a feeling of power or a feeling of knowing all things. Several years ago, an elder of the church and I met with a couple of dozen individuals who shared a communal existence in one of the less desirable sections of Atlanta. A young leader stood up in their midst and declared that God was with him (and, therefore, them), guiding him and confirming that what he believed and taught was infallibly true. That seemed to me a wonderful, much-to-be-desired position to be in, so I asked, "How do you know?". His reply was unwavering. "I have received 'The Light'." He went on to explain that this light had been received as suddenly and as distinctly as when a household lamp is switched on. He alleged that since the time that happened to him, many matters of truth had been made known to him, great truths of the universe, how it existed and what men were to be and do. He was certain of his knowledge. His followers looked to him with great admiration and did as he said. He had "The Light"!

When I asked him for some Biblical proof, he was a bit put out that I could not accept as others had. He remembered the Lord said something about a single light of the body, but had no Bible and could not remember the scripture. When I read Matthew 6:22, he confirmed that as the text. The context is whether we should lay up treasures here on earth or in heaven (verses 19-21). Then, the passage through verse 24 says, *"The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."*

Of course, the passage in no way teaches what he thought. It is a shame he hadn't taken the time to read it for himself or had not read it for what it said rather than what he wanted it to say. More, it is sad so many followed him in his error.

There is only one way to know of God, where His is, and what He wants of us. As the children's song Jesus Loves Me so beautifully affirms: *"The Bible tells me so!"*