

## Unlocking Freedom In Your Life, Part 6B: Free To See God for the First Time

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

### - **This Week: Free to See God for the First Time!**

- The greatest deception, the greatest lie people believe is that they don't have a Father in Heaven.
- Let's release those who have been unable to believe in the Lord, and set them free to believe!
- First Point: God loves the lost. If you are with Jesus, then so do you.
  - **John 3:16-17** is for the atheist. But, so is **John 3:18**.
  - God loves "the lost" and so do I (Pastor Mike). Have you ever felt like Paul in **Rom 9:1-3**?
    - Do you know any beautiful, wonderful, or just great people in that group?
  - We who believe are called to go get them. **Matthew 28:18-20**.
- How do people come to faith? Let's look at a three ways:
  - 1) People can believe by looking at creation. **Romans 1:18-20**
    - To be honest, I (Pastor Mike) didn't see it before. I saw atheism and evolution.
    - It is ok to look at creation and see that God exists and is good.
  - 2) The Father also draws people in. **John 6:43-44**.
    - Can you sense God calling to you?
      - If yes, don't resist. If no, open you heart.
  - 3) God's people preach and bring others to faith. **Romans 10:14-15**.
    - This covers all forms of evangelism.
  - If you are a believer, which of these was involved in your coming to faith?
- Yet, even with these three, many are unable to put their faith in Jesus.
  - Some need understanding, some need a miracle. **1 Corinthians 1:22-23**.
  - Sometimes the miracle doesn't happen. Sometimes we don't understand. What we always have is the Gospel of Christ crucified.
- A Common Issues for unbelievers: no intellectual room for faith in God.
  - Let me tell you, faith in God is perfectly rational!
  - OFFENSIVE STATEMENT ALERT: Atheism is also perfectly rational. The common "practical atheism" of self-proclaimed believers is very irrational.
- So, let's reason together for a bit. I'll go as fast as I can!! (Discuss the following or give your best reasons why faith in God can be rational.)
  - Argument from the existence of time, free will, human equality, etc.
  - Problem of Evil and the Problem of Hell.
    - Evil: this isn't the finished product; this is the process.
    - Hell: Hey, you just said God was too soft, now He's too harsh??
  - Faith and Theoretical Physics.
    - String theory: multiple dimensions and parallel universes.
    - Dark Matter. Lots of "stuff" not in our realm but affecting our realm!
  - Dear skeptic. You are loved by God and I give you permission to believe.
- And now the most excellent way: When the light of the world shines bright.
  - Last week we talked about the church being the light of the world.
    - This can go two ways: "I want what they have" or "what a bunch of fools and hypocrites."
  - The light shines brightest when Christians walk out their faith together in unity, full of love, mercy, grace, abundant life, and victory. Then people come to Jesus.
    - We don't have to convince them when they can see that it works.
    - But, no matter how much we try to convince them, they can see when it isn't working and most will turn away from God because of it.
    - Cooperate with God on this. Then you get abundant life and they get saved!!
  - Pray for each other before you finish up!