

是自然律，還是神蹟？

你們看那天上的飛鳥，也不種，也不收，也不積蓄在倉裏，你們的天父尚且養活牠。你們不比飛鳥貴重得多嗎？ (太六 26)

在生活中看來最自然不過的事，背後都是神無微不至的照顧。神若不許可，一隻微小的麻雀也不會掉在地上。沒有任何問題大到神不能解決，也沒有一個問題小到祂不願意理會。有這樣的一位神，不單提醒我們無需為生活需要而憂慮，也提醒我們：神才是唯一我們應該敬拜、服事、追求和信靠的那一位，而不是其他任何人、事，或物。

思考問題：

1. 你生活中是否有一些事情是你一直不肯放手交託的？
2. 你是為應付生活而生活，還是為神的心意而生活？

Law of Nature or Miracles?

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? (Matthew 6:26)

Behind all life and phenomena in nature is the masterful touch of God the creator. Even a sparrow will not fall to the ground without His notice. None of our problems, be it big or small, are beyond his concern. So don't worry about life. Only God is worthy of our worship, pursuit, service and trust.

Reflections:

1. What areas in your life are you holding onto, refusing to let God take over?
2. Are you living for the sake of living, or are you living a life that pleases God?

甚麼樣的信仰？

這樣，你們無論甚麼人，若不撇下一切所有的，就不能作我的門徒。（路十四 33）

人在選擇信仰的時候，往往是考慮到自身的利益：「信了耶穌我會得到甚麼？」反觀耶穌在呼召人的時候卻正好相反——祂要我們願意因信祂而放下，甚至放下一切所有的。信仰的核心，不是「有多少好處」，而是「是不是真理」。如果是真理，就算沒有好處也應該相信，抑或可說，找到真理的本身其實就是最大的好處。

思考問題：

1. 你為甚麼信耶穌？
2. 为了更好地跟隨耶穌，你有甚麼需要放下？

What Kind of Faith?

In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.
(Luke 14:33)

When choosing faith, people often consider their personal benefits above all else: "What can I get out of putting my faith in Christ?" But when Jesus calls us, he requires just the opposite. He wants us to be willing to surrender everything when we trust in Him. Faith is not a question of weighed benefits, but of truth. If the object of our faith is the truth, we should believe whether it brings us personal benefits or not. In other words, truth is its own reward.

Reflections:

1. Why do you believe in Jesus?
2. What else do you need to surrender to Christ to become a better follower?

製造出來的神

你們要對他們如此說：「不是那創造天地的神，必從地上從天下被除滅！」（耶十11）

創造論不單啟示了萬物的起源，更重要的是啟示了絕對的獨一神觀。萬物既然只有一個根源，那麼，就只有一位能夠被稱為神的存在。然而，正如提摩太·凱勒所說：「人的心是一座偶像工廠。」很多人相信神並不是要把祂當神來敬拜和順從，而是期待祂來幫助我們得到心中所渴望的種種——我們製造出來的神。

思考問題：

1. 如何知道一個基督徒是否讓其他事物取代了神？
2. 你心中是否有偶像？

The Gods We Create

Tell them this: "These gods, who did not make the heavens and the earth, will perish from the earth and from under the heavens."

(Jeremiah 10:11)

Creationism tells us about the formation of life. More importantly, it speaks of the existence of the one and only true God. Since all creation comes from Him, there is only one true creator that we can call God. As Timothy Keller once said, "The human heart is an idol factory." Many people believe in God but don't worship or obey Him as God. They just hope God will help them acquire the gods they themselves have created, which are the things their heart desires.

Reflections:

1. How can you tell when other desires take the place of God in your heart?
2. Have you taken any idols in your heart?

可見與未見的神蹟

耶穌回答說：「一個邪惡淫亂的世代求看神蹟，除了先知約拿的神蹟以外，再沒有神蹟給他們看。」
(太十二 39)

人總是期待「看見」神的作為，看不見的時候，我們就以為神沒有在工作。其實神從未停止工作，只是不一定被我們察覺就是了。正如當耶穌按照神的旨意完成十字架的救贖大功時，並沒有人發現那是永恆計劃一個最重要的高潮。所以，看得見的時候，感恩；看不見的時候，相信並感恩，或許後來就看見了。

思考問題：

1. 當神沒有如你所期待的顯出作為時，你有何感受？
2. 相信神無時無刻在工作，對你有甚麼影響？

Seen and Unseen Miracles

He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

(Matthew 12:39)

As human beings, we demand some physical evidence that God is at work and assume that He has taken leave unless we have proof to the contrary. However, God is always at work, even when we are unaware of it. Little did people realize that God's eternal plan had reached its climax when Jesus was completing the work of salvation on the cross. Give thanks when you can see God at work; trust and be grateful when you can't. Things may become clearer in retrospect.

Reflections:

1. How do you feel when you cannot see God working in your life?
2. How does knowing that God is always at work affect your daily approach to life?

認識神的人

耶和華說：「我的百姓愚頑，不認識我；他們是愚昧無知的兒女，有智慧行惡、沒有知識行善。」
(耶四 22)

對神存有正確而豐富的知識是重要的，但神的要求卻不限於此。對神而言，一個真正認識祂的人，是一個遵行祂旨意去行的人。因為唯有遵行者，才反映出他相信自己腦海中關於神的知識——神的威嚴、信實、公義、慈愛等——是真實的。

思考問題：

1. 你從聖經認識到的神是怎樣的神？
2. 你對神的認識如何反映在你的生活行為上？

People Who Know God

My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good.
(Jeremiah 4:22)

Having a full and good understanding of God is important, but God requires us to do more than that. Those who truly know Him are those who obey and follow His commands. Only those who do what the Bible says will reflect God's character (such as His grace, faithfulness, righteousness and love), showing that their knowledge of God is true.

Reflections:

1. What do you know about the God in the Bible?
2. How is your knowledge of God reflected in your daily life?

讀經與用經

聖經都是神所默示的，於教訓、督責、使人歸正、教導人學義都是有益的，叫屬神的人得以完全，預備行各樣的善事。

(提後三 16-17)

筆者在網路上看過一個經文的列表，幫助人在面對何種困難的時候可以翻到某一處的經文尋求所需要的幫助。這的確為一般信徒提供了很多方便，問題是，這樣讀經對嗎？神賜下祂的話語，主要是為啟示祂的心意，而不是回應我們的需要。讀經的目的，是為了改變我們的世界觀，以致符合聖經的世界觀，而不是利用聖經維護和加強我們原有的世界觀。

思考問題：

1. 你通常帶着甚麼心態來讀經？
2. 聖經的目的既是啟示神的心意，我們的讀經心態應有何改變？

Reading and Applying Verses

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

I recently came across a list on the internet intended to offer people a quick reference for applying biblical verses to difficult life situations. Such a list may be convenient, but is this the correct way to read the Bible? The main reason God gave us His word is to show us His will, not to meet our needs. Our first objective of reading the Bible should be to align our will with His will, not to reinforce our own worldviews.

Reflections:

1. What attitude do you have when you read the Bible?
2. Since the Bible exists to reveal God's will, what kind of attitude should we have in reading the Bible?