

Somebody Bigger



Than You and I

TouchPoint 1

Hello new friend! My name is Mic, and I call what you are reading just now a TouchPoint. I've named it TouchPoint because this reading, and the others that go with it, are an important place where you and I can connect with things that matter in your life and mine.

Let me raise a few questions that I've heard many people voice to show why TouchPoints are so crucial. Read them as if you are asking them yourself:

- What is the meaning of life?
 - What is my place in life?
- Does my life make any difference to anyone else?
 - Why is there evil in the world?
 - Why is there evil in me?
- Is there anything that can be done to stop evil in the world or in me?
 - What are my responsibilities as a citizen of this world?
- What are my responsibilities toward my family and friends?
 - Why are so many people so lonely?
 - Why do I often feel restless or unsatisfied?

Take a few moments and underline any of these questions that you've asked, too, and then write down some of the other large questions that are in your mind about your life and what you've observed in the world:

Keep this TouchPoint in a place where you can find it later on. Perhaps some of these great questions may yet find an answer in one of the TouchPoints we experience together.

The First TouchPoint

If you are reading this TouchPoint right now, perhaps it's because you are a person who is looking for answers. Or maybe you have a curiosity about spiritual things and have probably begun to feel a longing to be connected in ways that transcend what most of your relationships can do for you now.

If that describes you, I'm going to make a statement that may be startling because it may have never occurred to you before: You are longing to be connected to God. And as we'll see in a later TouchPoint, that longing was deliberately placed in each one of us, so that we will search for God, so that He can satisfy our thirst to belong, and answer our deepest questions.

“You are longing to be connected to God.”

The First Question...

To the contemporary mind, the very first question that must be dealt with is the very existence of God. For millennia people have wrestled with this issue, and many have walked away discounting the possibility of a real-live God because He could not be proved in the ways that they felt He must be proved. They really wanted to believe that there is Somebody bigger than you and I out there somewhere, but without proof, they could not afford to believe it was true.



Let's face it. We are people who are willing to be convinced when there's evidence to support it. We like logic. We like tangible things.

We can decide to buy life insurance because the sales person can ask us a few questions about our financial realities, plug those numbers into some equations, and out comes a recommended level of insurance based on actuarial tables and years of statistical research.

We can diagnose many illnesses just by looking at blood samples and analyzing the microscopic things found there.

But God does not plug into formulas or match physical modeling and analysis. There is only one realm in which He can be understood and proved:

“People without the Spirit do not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to them, and they cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14, New International Version (modernized by me!)

That quotation comes from the New Testament of the Bible, the book Christians accept as the history of God’s encounter with humanity, and that reveals His plan for dealing with the present and the future.

The Paradox

But how can we accept the Bible if we’ve not yet proven God exists? If that’s what you are thinking, you have a point! It does create a paradox, unless you are willing to make one basic decision.

Let’s use our old high-school geometry class as our TouchPoint to get us beyond this paradox. One of the theorems of geometry is that the sum of all the internal angles in a triangle is always 180 degrees.

That statement, printed in my textbook, required me to accept it, but then allowed me to spend all the time I wanted in proving it to be either true or false. While there were many ways I could prove it, I had to prove it true within the confines of geometry, because that’s where the truth of the theorem applied.

When I first looked at triangles, I couldn’t visualize how this theorem could possibly be true when I saw all the possible sizes and shapes of triangles in my textbook. It wasn’t until I took my trusty protractor out and measured the angles and added up the numbers did I begin to see the truth in the theorem.

What I’m asking of you in this TouchPoint is to accept the theorem for now that comes from the Biblical text in 1 Corinthians 2:14: spiritual things are spiritually discerned.

“In order to prove God or his word, you will need to step onto his ground, into his playing field, experiment in his realm.”

What does that mean? It means that in order to prove God or his word, you will need to step onto his ground, into his playing field, experiment in his realm. That is the realm of spiritual life. As you start to spend time with your spiritual protractor measuring God’s claims, I believe that you’ll not only find him proven true over and over again, you’ll even find that the God of the Bible invites us to prove his veracity and his faithfulness.

From Theory to Reality

If any of this is to be any good to any of us, we have to be able to move from theory to reality. It has to work in real life – your life. If God is truly alive, what He claims can happen in the lives of people must happen in your life.

“...we have to be able to move from theory to reality.”

In fact, I've heard it said that the only real proof of God's existence is the changed life. And you have probably met some people like this. People who have a peace about them in the face of grave illness. People who can offer forgiveness even when acts of criminal violence have been committed against them. People who can live in joy even when their finances are a mess. People who love in the face of hatred and betrayal.

Think for a moment about people you know who display the sort of things I'm talking about here. Write down a few of their names and what you have noticed about them:

And then think for a few moments about some of the things you'd like to be known for and write them down:

My personal invitation to you is to test the theorem that you will learn things about spirituality in God's realm of spirituality. I have no doubt but that your own life will become part of the proof that God is alive, personal, and always close.

So, if you'd like to see if God is alive and well because of what He can do in your life, and if you are ready to step into His realm of the spiritual life so that you can discern what He can do in you, then you are ready for TouchPoint 2, where we will see just how personal God can be in your life. •

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Questions

Ok, let's review the important stuff:

Who created the sense of spiritual longing that you feel?

In what realm will you learn about spiritual things?

What is the authoritative source Christians look to for their faith?

Why is it that Christians put so much stock in the Bible as their source of authority for spiritual things? II Timothy 3.15-16

For how long and under what circumstances has God been involved in our world?
Genesis 1.1

A lot of what it means to be human today means stress over the conditions of the world, our nation, our families, and our selves. One of the proofs of God's existence is how He can personally impact your life. If God is made to be the center of our lives and thinking, how may we expect him to impact us? Isaiah 26.3

What kinds of spiritual longings do you feel personally, and what have you tried in the past in an attempt to satisfy them?

Please send this answer sheet, either by e-mail or land mail

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