

## SELF-EXISTENCE

Heavenly Father, may we take this time to focus on the magnitude of your self-existence, the gravity of no origin. While we fathom this concept as it pertains to you, may we recognize our created nature and realize that we are existing only because of you. We are finite, we have beginning and end, you have neither, and we pray that we take this time to contemplate, appreciate, and adore that fact that your self-existence is something that we can learn about so that we may grow closer to You. Amen!

The concept of Self-existence means that God has no origin, and this helps us distinguish between God and what is not God. In a world that is filled to the brim with false idols we must recognize that the lesser cannot produce the greater. For example, when Moses ascended Mt. Sinai for 40 days to be in the presence of Yahweh, the Israelites became impatient and took it upon themselves to fashion a golden calf made from their rings as something to worship. The rings of gold as well as the graving tool that Aaron used were made from resources that were a product of Yahweh therefore, they had an origin and thus the idol that they worshipped was lesser than Yahweh and nothing more than a man-made statue. Long story short, the lesser cannot create the greater.

A.W. Tozer gives a beautiful example of origin when he uses the analogy of a child asking the question "where did God come from?" This indicates that even small children have a basic concept of origin knowing that things are created and have a cause. If we take the example of a wristwatch, we know that it was made by human hands. It consists of a wrist band and clasp, a face, a base that contains the working elements of the watch that cause the hour, minute and sometimes the second hand to move. It may even have the days date on there somewhere. A gentleman by the name of Hans Wilsdorf was responsible for the first Rolex wristwatch that was self-winding so we know that the watch had a maker and therefore, did not appear from thin air. Furthermore, we know that the watch has a purpose, that of telling the bearer the time of the day. I say this to indicate that the creator has a purpose for every creation. When Henry Ford developed the first Model T Ford in 1908, he had a purpose for the vehicle and that was to be used as a mode of transportation. The creator had a purpose for the creation and God who is our creator has a purpose for us. We are meant to be God praising individuals, not Model T's or Rolex wristwatches, the point being that we must not try to be something that we are not. God, our originator created each and every one of us with a special design so that we could be individuals, not the person next to us, the person we read about or the person we see on television.

This moves us into the concept of accountability. I said all of that to say this... adults have a difficult time with accountability (children can do but I'm picking on us). It is not that we want

to hold ourselves accountable but that we feel that those around us must give an account of themselves. There is a slight hypocritical double standard to this. We do not want to be questioned concerning what we do, even if it is right because it highlights the doubt coming from the one doing the questioning. On the flip side, we tend to have a need to hold our counterparts accountable and know the reasons behind why they do what they do. This leads to our struggle with a self-existing God. We do not know the depths of His existence and that drives us mad. The fact of matter is that He is not accountable to us and frankly owes us no explanation which is one more thing that drives us mad...and this is incredibly humbling, even if it is subconsciously. It is one thing to admit that we do not know but to admit that we cannot know, especially with a plethora of resources at our fingertips. So, our solution is to dumb Him down to our level or at least to where we can manage Him. This is an example of what we see here in Ephesians 4:14 which reads "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ...We want to put God in a bottle and label it as love and keep it there so that we do not need to challenge ourselves, grow, or hold ourselves accountable as sinful mortals. When we do this, we will easily fall prey to false doctrine that is hell bound and our children will follow us and so on.

Within His self-existence that we struggle to grasp is the idea that He is everywhere while He is nowhere all because this has to do with space and matter, both of which He is independent of. How is this possible you say? Because He is the creator of these things therefore, He existed before they did, leaving Him outside of both. In the book of Acts, chapter 17 while addressing the men of Athens, the apostle Paul had this to say, "God who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands, nor is he worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath and all things". Before the tabernacle was built where was God? Everywhere and nowhere all at once. Before the temple of Solomon or the Holy of Holies God existed, He did not need these entities to contain Him, they were merely tangible creations for our simple minds to relate to.

At this point we could go as far to say that natural man is a sinner (for countless reasons) simply because he challenges God's selfhood in relation to his own. Where did we first develop the intestinal fortitude to compare ourselves to the almighty, I AM? When we do this, we become nothing more than a moral being sitting upon our own self-righteous throne of selfhood declaring "I AM". God had a way of putting this into perspective when He addressed the prophet Isaiah in chapter 66 verses 1-2 "Heaven is My throne and earth is my footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist", says the Lord "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word". We are where we

belong when we are humble and live and breathe by His word, not ours. Until we seek to develop this mindset, our best religious works will be rejected just like that of Cain.

### QUESTION SECTION:

1. Give the chapter and verse where God makes the declaration to Moses that He is the great "I AM", within what did God appear, and what was the name of the "mountain of God" that this occurred on?  
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2. Within the gospel of John, Jesus explains that while God has life in Himself, He has granted the Son to have life in Himself? What chapter and verse is this and in the following verse Jesus declares that He has the authority to execute what?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
3. Within the book of Psalms, king Solomon declares that God was there before \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ . Chapter and verse \_\_\_\_\_
4. In Genesis chapter 21, what type of tree did Abraham plant when He declared the Lord everlasting and what was the location?  
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5. In John chapter one, what is declared as the light of men? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the name of the area where Paul addressed the men of Athens where He came upon the altar to the unknown god? \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 102:25-27

"Of old You founded the earth,

And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

"Even they will perish, but You endure;

And all of them will wear out like a garment;

Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.

“But You are the same,

And Your years will not come to an end.