



# Is God Fun?

## God wants to live with us *and* have fun with us *forever!*

September 11, 2022 – Part 8

**Revelation 21** <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “**Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God Himself will be with them.** <sup>4</sup> **He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.**” NLT

**Acts 3** <sup>19</sup> And now you must repent and turn back to God so that your sins will be removed, and so that **times of refreshing** will stream from the Lord’s presence. <sup>20</sup> And he will send you Jesus, the Messiah, the appointed one. <sup>21</sup> **For he must remain in heaven until the restoration of all things has taken place, fulfilling everything that God said long ago through his holy prophets.** TPT

...**The central theme of the Bible is that God wants a relationship of love with you and every person created. Loving relationship motivates God.** But love requires several things – freedom, risk, and choice. That means God chose to subject himself to the same emotional relational roller-coaster ride love subjects every person to – the possibility of rejection and heartbreak.

...“As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you” (Isaiah 62:5).

...Understand how God feels about us when the people He loves keep rejecting Him to love and worship other things.

“I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have drawn you with unfailing kindness....I thought to Myself, “**I would love to treat you as My own children!**” **I wanted nothing more than to give you this beautiful land-the finest possession in the world. I looked forward to your calling me “Father,”** and I wanted you never to turn from Me. But you have been unfaithful to Me. (Jeremiah 3:19-20 NLT)

...**God loves us like a father loves a wayward child.** Even though we rebel and run away, or break His heart, His Father’s heart yearns to show compassion, forgive, and take us back. But God uses even stronger relational imagery. “As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you” (Isaiah 62:5) God chooses our most intimate relationship to liken what He wants with us. As hard as it is for us to fathom, God likens Himself to a love-struck groom who sings over his bride.

...Imagine if that’s how God feels about you! All the love songs on earth are a reflection of the image of the One who loves you more. When you’re with Him, His love overwhelms all loves – it’s so amazing, you don’t want to be anywhere else. That’s the overwhelmingly consistent response of NDErs.

...“Imagine,” God says, “how you would feel if the one you loved most, your own spouse, committed adultery – that’s how I feel when those I love are unfaithful to Me.”

...**When we love other things more than God, it breaks His heart (an idol is anything we put first before God)**. When we turn from our Creator, we hurt God, and we hurt each other – always – even if we don't see it yet.

...Some Christians will probably wonder, *How could God possibly reveal Himself to those who don't believe in Him?* But they forget God's heart longs for every person to come home, from every nation, every language; they were all created by Him and for Him. And don't forget there's no measure that He won't take to get them back.

...The fact that people experience compassion instead of judgment makes some NDE researchers conclude this can't be the God of the Bible, yet maybe they do not really understand what the Bible teaches. When a woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus by the religious leaders who wanted to condemn her and stone her to death, Jesus said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." They all dropped their rocks and left. "Has no one condemned you?" Jesus asked her. "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin" (John 8:2-11).

...**God will not force us to seek Him, admit we need His forgiveness, or turn back to Him. He doesn't want forced slaves; He wants free-willed, loving children who choose to love God.**

...It's not surprising that people who do not recognize Jesus or even believe in Him would see Him. Revelation tells us, "Every eye will see Him – even those who pierced Him" (Revelation 1:7). So it would be a very *bad assumption* to presume that people who have seen God in an NDE will automatically be with Him forever. It still requires a choice. Will we give up playing God of our lives, ask His forgiveness, and invite Him to come rule again?

...**There is no one you'll ever want to be around more than Jesus! And even more amazing – he wants to be around you!**

...**Not only do people describe Jesus's awesome glory and palpable love, they describe Him as a fun person to be around. Some people can't imagine Jesus being the most joy-filled, exciting, adventurous, fun person to be with because they've never really contemplated what the Scriptures say.** You'll never find a better best friend in the universe! Jesus shocked his closest followers while on earth because as busy and important as He was, He took time to be with little children. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14)

...**There's an innocence and playfulness that gets squeezed out of most adults, but Jesus will restore it to us and model it for us in Heaven.** My doctor friend's son said when Jesus came to get him in the hospital, he was running and playing in the fields with Jesus. **If Jesus invented play, adventure, fun – why wouldn't He enjoy it with us just like we love to enjoy our own children's fun?**

...Jesus, as God, is also omnipresent. He can commune with the Father, play with little children, interact with groups of adults, and be with you and me personally in Heaven – simultaneously. He seems to be everywhere. Children run to Him continually, and He loves them all."