



December 4, 2024

MESSENGER

QUOTE FOR TODAY

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalm 139:23,24

INFO

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Santa's Cool, But . . .

Santa has elves. God has people. That's one of the biggest differences between them. Elves are "Santa's helpers"; that is, they do his will and carry out his plans. People aren't quite that simple. Sometimes, they thumb their noses at God and go their own way. They can choose to be his "helpers," but they often choose the opposite and actually make more work for God. Yet, this is what he decided on. He could have created subservient elves "in his image," but he decided that the human model, with all its faults and frailties, was more "in his image" than obedient elves.

Santa himself is a one-dimensional caricature of God. "He sees you when you're sleeping," "he knows when you're awake," and he wiggles his "you'd-better-watch-out" finger, but he really can't help you to be a better person. He's never walked in your shoes, thought your thoughts or felt your feelings. By contrast, the real God became a real human being that first Christmas Day, and he knows firsthand what you're going through. So, when you reach out to connect with him, you find him reaching back to embrace you --- even that part of you that doesn't ever seem able to be "good for goodness sake."

Clement Clark Moore (1779-1863), the author of "Twas the Night Before Christmas, described Santa as being in the "image" of his elves:

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf.
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

By way of contrast, it's said of the God of the Bible:
"The fear [dread] of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Proverbs 9:10)

Santa's a nice diversion, if you think you can "Ho! Ho! Ho!" your way through life. (With elves, it turns out to be more like "Hee, Hee, Hee.") But if you're a real person with real problems, then you need to connect with the real God this Christmas! Fortunately, he'd rather hear a sincere "I'm sorry, Lord" from a fickle human than "Yes Sir" from a thousand robotic elves.

Pastor George Van Alstine