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## The worse you feel, the godlier you are

*(The shocking truth about God they're hiding from you)*

(SERIES: 7 LIES OF ORGANIZED RELIGION: 02 of 07)

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“Jesus wept.” (John 11:35)

Lie #2:

*“God is huge and unapproachable, and He wants you to labor, struggle and live in guilt.”*

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. **CAST ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU.**” (1 Peter 5:5-7 NIV)

### What is God really like?

The “**Wizard of Oz**” God.

The “**Stained-Glass**” God.

“However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. . . .” Acts 7:48 NIV

The “**OnStar**” God.

“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. . . .” (2 Chronicles 16:9 KJV)

The “**Scorekeeper**” God.

The “**Dooms Day**” God.

The “**Average Joe**” God.

The “**eBay**” God.

“When **you ask**, you do not receive, because **you ask** with wrong motives, . . .” (James 4:3, NIV)

The “**Me**” God.

“Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” (Psa 100:3, NIV)

The “**No God**” God.

The “**P.C.**” God.

### The shocking truth about God

God loves it when we **wake up**.

“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” (Luke 15:7 NIV)

“Jesus continued: ‘There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, “Father, give me my share of the estate.” So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.’

‘When he came to his senses, he said, “How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.”’

God loves it when we **call Him Father**.

‘So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.’

God loves it when we **come clean**.

‘The son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”’

God loves it when we **celebrate**.

But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” So they began to celebrate.’

‘Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. “Your brother has come,” he replied, “and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.”’

‘The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, “Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!”’

“My son,” the father said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”” (Luke 15:11-32 NIV)