

What If God Is Like This?

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Meet the God You've Never Known

Greetings All,

I have been asked by several people about the possibility of using *What If God Is Like This?* as material for a small group study. To assist with that, I have decided to come up with a series of discussion questions for each chapter. That way, if you decide to use the book in a small group setting you can either come up with your own questions or use some of these that I have provided. Remember, one of the purposes of this book is not just provide possible answers for questions but to generate new ones as well. This is the journey not the destination :)



Will

Will Hathaway

1. Are there fundamental differences between Religion and Science?
2. Is Religion threatened by Science?
3. Is Science threatened by Religion?
4. How has Science helped or hurt your faith in the past?
5. Are there certain Scientific stances that Religion can bend on?
6. Are there certain Scientific stances that Religion must not bend on?
7. Is it dangerous to look at the Bible as a Scientifically sound book?
8. Is it dangerous not to look at the Bible as a Scientifically sound book?
9. Is it possible that God hides in plain sight?
10. What are the dangers of assuming we have most of the answers as to how God interacts with the Universe?
11. If what we perceive as the natural world really is supernatural, does that change anything for you?
12. Does God violate the laws of nature that He's established?

1. What do you think God's greatest desire for man is?
2. Is blind obedience to any cause healthy?
3. Do you agree that man must possess the ability to sin in order to be free?
4. Does being "free" to sin remove, add, or have any effect on temptation?
5. Do you think God's rules are more freedom based or obedience based?
6. In your opinion, is sin more about good and evil or about freedom and lack of freedom?
7. If you answered that sin is about freedom, then does that change your perspective at all about what activities are and are not sinful?
8. In the story of Alex, how or does God really need to "punish" someone like this?
9. Do you feel religion has ever over stepped its boundaries in defining sin? If so how?
10. Is it ever dangerous not to follow God blindly?

1. Do you think that one must have the option of not loving someone in order to be able to love them?

2. Why do you think God created the Tree of knowledge of good and evil?

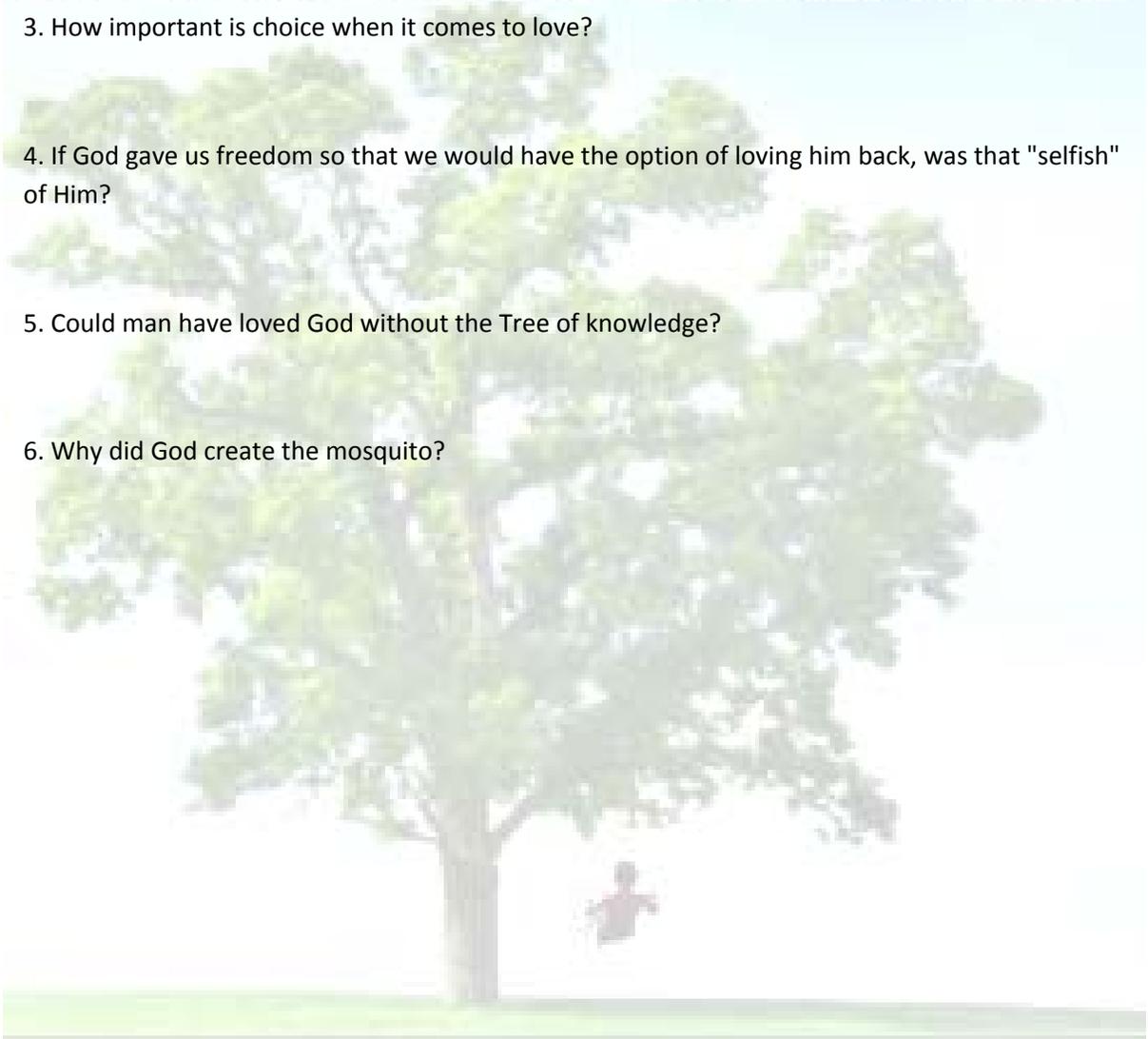
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3. How important is choice when it comes to love?

4. If God gave us freedom so that we would have the option of loving him back, was that "selfish" of Him?

5. Could man have loved God without the Tree of knowledge?

6. Why did God create the mosquito?



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1. How or why would our sin be a problem for God?

2. Do you believe mankind really is "lost?" Why or Why Not?

3. Do Christians view the word "lost" differently than the rest of the world?

4. Why would God be concerned with us following "the rules"?

4. Is there evidence in this world that God really pursues us? Why or Why not?

5. If God really does pursue man, then how does that affect religion?

6. Do you believe that in this life it is up to us to find God or does God find us?

7. If God really does pursue us, how or does He communicate with us?



1. Do you struggle with the concept of Hell as it is presented in the Bible?
2. Do you feel that the idea of a Hell has been appropriately addresses by churches over the centuries? Why or why not?

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3. Do people tap dance around the topic today? Why or why not?
4. Is it possible to believe in both a loving God and a hell? Why or why not?
5. Does the belief in hell undermine genuine friendships for Christians with non-Christians?
6. Do people of any belief system treat other people differently when they believe someone is "going to hell"?
7. Is hell a misunderstood concept in the Bible? Why or why not?
8. Why do you think Hell would have to be such a tormenting place?
9. Is it arrogant for Christians to believe that everybody is going to Hell but them?
10. Can Christians be certain that they are "right" when it comes to Hell?

1. Can anything be hard for an all powerful God?

2. If God is all powerful, why was the crucifixion needed?

3. Have you ever wondered why it was a big deal for Christ to die if he was back 3 days later?
How do you feel about the possible reasoning the chapter presented?

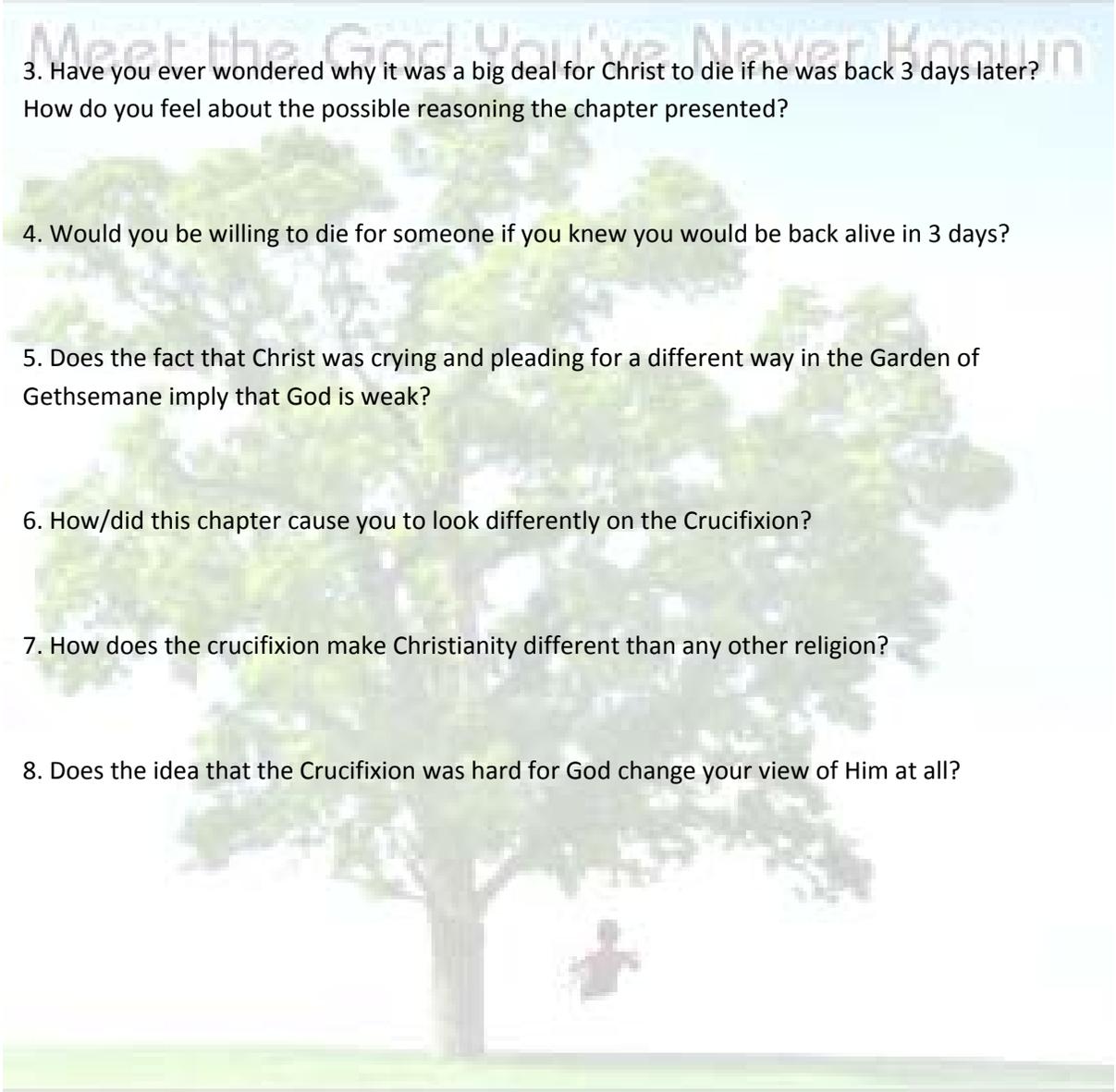
4. Would you be willing to die for someone if you knew you would be back alive in 3 days?

5. Does the fact that Christ was crying and pleading for a different way in the Garden of Gethsemane imply that God is weak?

6. How/did this chapter cause you to look differently on the Crucifixion?

7. How does the crucifixion make Christianity different than any other religion?

8. Does the idea that the Crucifixion was hard for God change your view of Him at all?



1. Has there ever been a time where you felt abandoned by God?
2. If so, what got you through those times?
3. Have circumstances in this world caused you to stop believing in God all together?
4. Have circumstances in this world caused you to have a stronger faith in God?
5. Why do you think God requires "faith" of us rather than fully revealing Himself and removing all doubt?
6. What provides you the greatest amount of comfort in life?
7. If God really loves us more than anything else, then is the fact that He can be hard to see, be what's best for us? If so how? If not, how?



1. What do you think about the idea that most churches say to be "saved" you must accept Jesus into your heart, yet that is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible?

2. What do you think about the idea that Jesus gave different answers to different people in regards to salvation?

3. Is it manipulative to try to get people to believe the way you believe about Jesus?

4. Is it terribly wrong not to try to get people to believe the way you believe about Jesus?

5. What are your thoughts on "altar calls" where churches encourage people to come down to the front of the service and "accept Christ"?

6. Are your relationships different with non-christian friends than they are with Christian friends?

7. Do you feel pressure to "convert" your friends? If so, how does that pressure affect your friendships?

8. As a Christian, is it hard to have non-Christian friends due to the pressure to "convert" them?

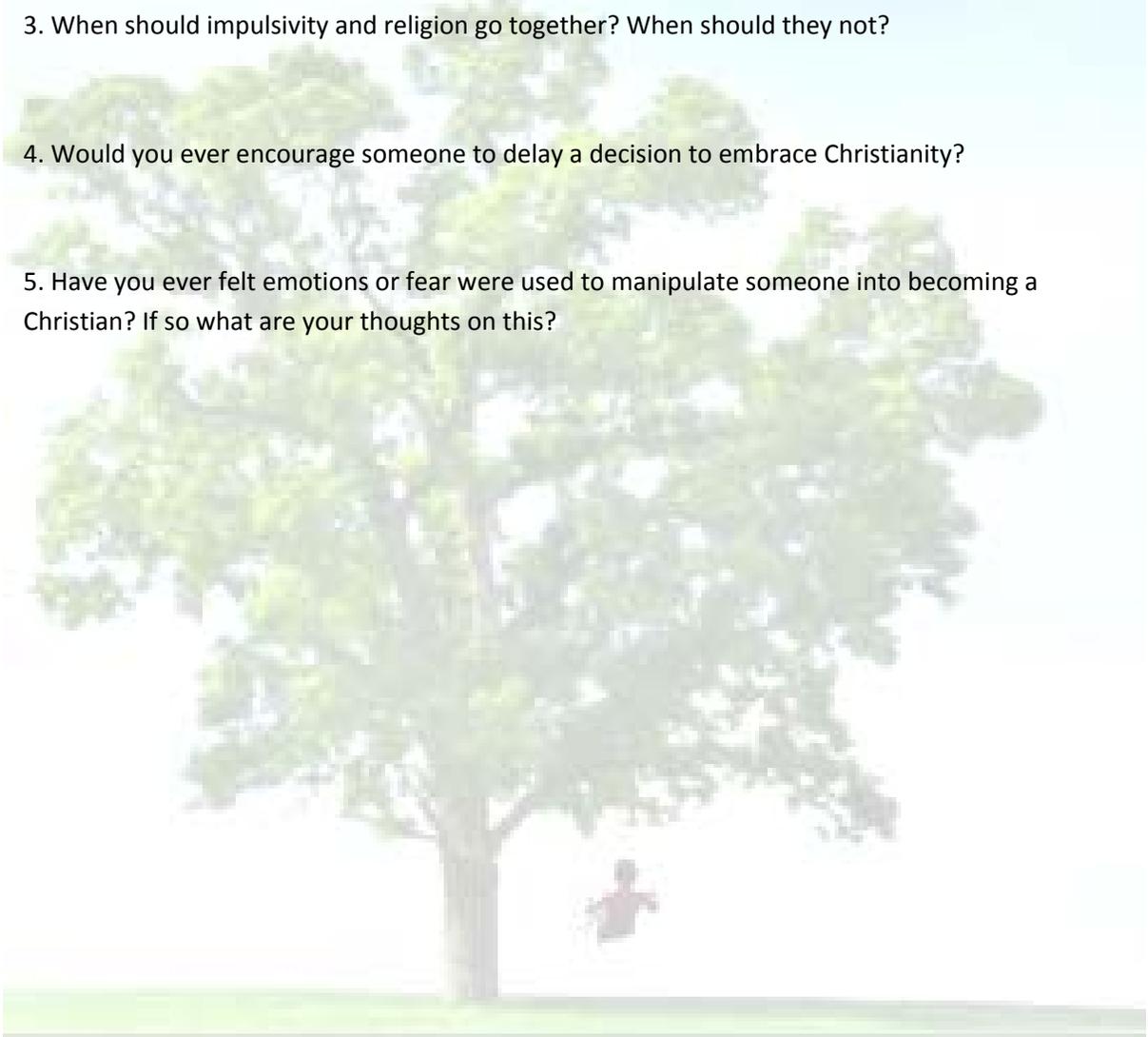
9. Is it okay not to try to convert your friends?

10. Are there different ways to come to Christ?

1. Should the decision to follow any religious system be a quick or easy decision?
2. How can people share their faith without pressuring people to accept the same beliefs they have.

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3. When should impulsivity and religion go together? When should they not?
4. Would you ever encourage someone to delay a decision to embrace Christianity?
5. Have you ever felt emotions or fear were used to manipulate someone into becoming a Christian? If so what are your thoughts on this?



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1. Since we are created in God's image, do the teachings God gives us in the Bible apply to Him as well?

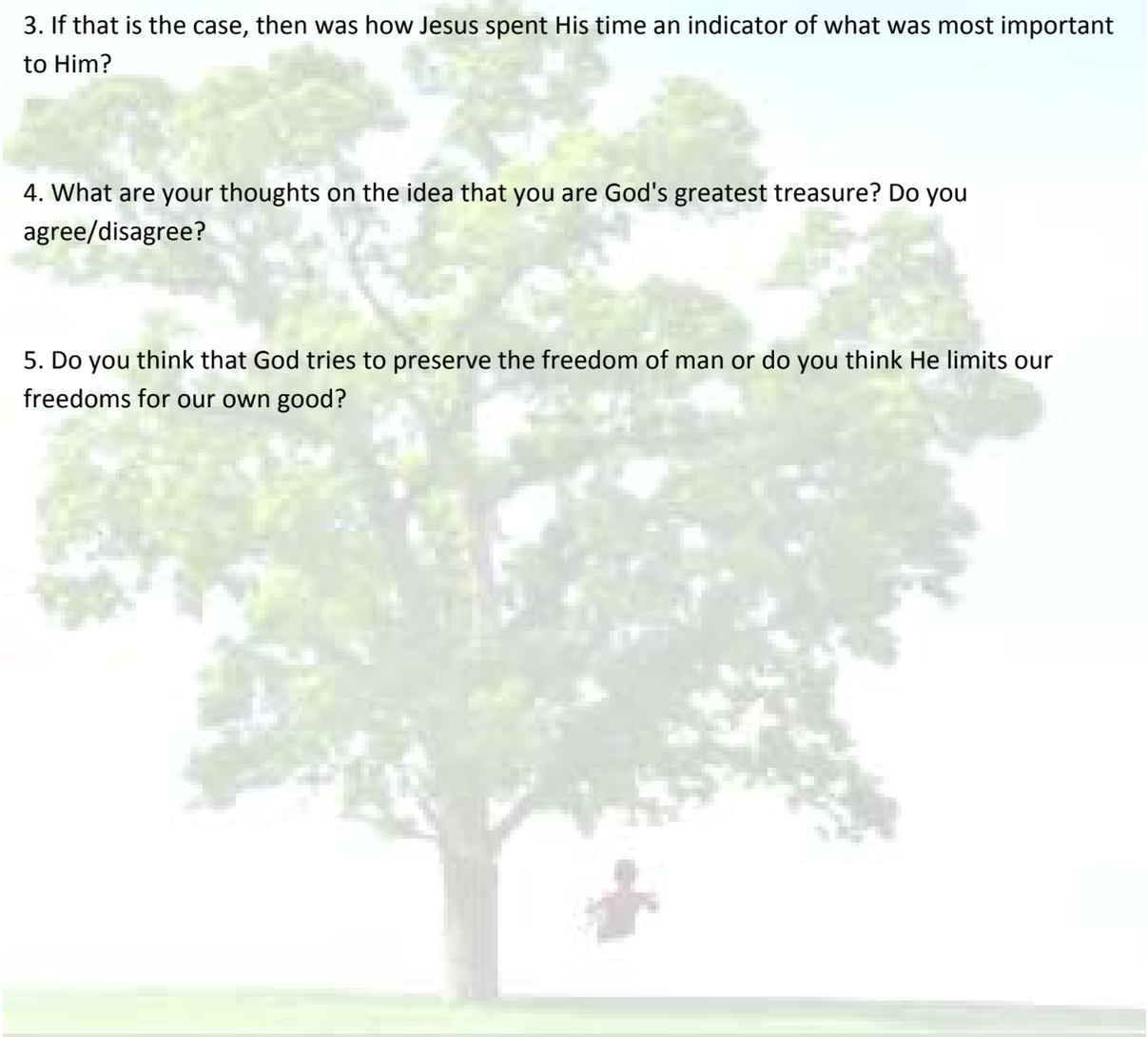
2. Do you agree that how we spend our time is a testament to what we value most?

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3. If that is the case, then was how Jesus spent His time an indicator of what was most important to Him?

4. What are your thoughts on the idea that you are God's greatest treasure? Do you agree/disagree?

5. Do you think that God tries to preserve the freedom of man or do you think He limits our freedoms for our own good?



What If God Is Like This?

1. What is your definition of "love?"
2. How do we develop healthy perspectives on love when society and the media demonstrate so much dysfunction?

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3. What are your thoughts about the idea that love is a decision more than an emotion?
4. What are your thoughts about the Prophet Hosea and how he handled his situation?
5. In your opinion, how is love different between romantic, family, children, and friendship relationships?
6. How do we, or can we even, maintain a love for someone who has hurt or betrayed us?
7. In your opinion, is there any real benefit to loving our enemies or is it just being a martyr?
8. How do we learn to discover if we really love someone or if we are just in love with the way they make us feel?
9. With divorce and break up rates what they are, what do you think is the biggest mistake people make when it comes to love?
10. In your opinion, what are the biggest insecurities people have when it comes to love?

1. Is God's greatest desire for us - freedom?
2. Has God created a realm that promotes or detracts from freedom?
3. Does substituting "Jesus" for the words "truth" and "light" in the book of John change the way you read it?
4. Does sin really in-prison people or is that an exaggeration?
5. Why do you think God chooses to be invisible?
6. Why would Jesus not come to "condemn" the world?
7. How does the purpose of Jesus not coming to condemn the world affect the way we as His followers are to interact with it?

