

Why doesn't God come down and prove himself?

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If God really wants people to believe in him, why doesn't He come down from heaven and let us see him? Wouldn't a few simple miracles here and there fill the churches?

That's a very good question, since God obviously has the power to do that. We also know that He really wants to have a personal relationship with each one of us. Since God is all-wise and all-knowing, there must be a good reason for His "hiddenness." There are several reasons that might explain this.

One day when I was very young, my dad said he was taking me to a fishing spot he found when he was a boy. We set out through a thick forest on a path I had never used before. It was a scary place and at that point, I could have questioned my dad's plan. I could have said, "Wait, Dad... Can you show me a map to make sure you know where you're going? Or can you explain where this place is?"

But I knew my dad and I knew he loved me. He had always been honest, intelligent, and wise. My relationship with him allowed me to have *faith* in His love, ability, and intentions. I really didn't need the *sight* of a map! I'm sure my dad was more pleased that I trusted him than if I had demanded a detailed plan.

God places importance on our *faith* in Him. He is pleased when we "...walk by *faith*, not by *sight*."¹ God desires the kind of relationship with us that leads us to trust His plans. This doesn't mean He's angry when we look for evidence of Him. When the apostle Thomas doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead in a physical body, Jesus came to him and asked him to examine His wounds to see if He was real. I'm glad we have Thomas's example, because I sometimes need a little more proof as well. God is kind enough to give evidence when we sincerely need it.

¹ 2 Corinthians 5:7

Also, when we take the first step of putting faith in God's intentions, He often gives us bits of evidence that prove our faith was correct. However, the usual order is *faith* first, *seeing* second.

But back to the question... "Why doesn't God come down and show himself?"

Actually, He already has in a very real sense! God literally came to earth as the man Jesus. The Creator God walked among humans as another human. He performed miracles that only God could do. Sadly, even this didn't convince most people, and even today most people don't believe the truth of these historical events.

Also, the first chapter of Romans tells us that God is certainly making Himself known...

Through the creation of the universe we can clearly see the invisible God and His true nature and power (Romans 1:20).

We live in a purposeful world that couldn't have "just happened." Our universe is orderly, complex, and beautiful, telling us that there must be a Creator values those things, and has the power to bring them about.