

The “impossible” God – Beyond our wildest hopes, dreams, and expectations!

1. No one expected to encounter a God and survive [Deut 4:32-33; 5:24-26]
2. No one expected forgiveness, mercy, or divine favors ‘for free’ from a god -- they were always ‘bought’ with sacrifices and rituals and groveling in the ancient world [Psalm 50:7-15]
3. No one expected God to be the One seeking us – Pagan Gods almost never left their abode except for war ... never for healing, restoring, or building beauty– they sent others to do the work [Ezek 34:15-16; Luke 19:10; John 10:11-16; Is 65.1]
4. No one expected God to be ‘fair and reasonable’ about His rules. [2 Chron 30; , Ezek 4:9-15]
5. No one expected God to be ‘more than fair’—to be merciful and a peace-maker [Matt 11:28-30; Ezek 16:37; 18:32; Matt 5:9; 2 Sam 14:14]
6. No one expected Grace instead of just mercy. [prisoner and pauper examples; Rom 5:20; Joel 2:25]
7. No one expected a god to get His “hands dirty” for us, in creating a path to reconciliation/redemption/LIFE. [Rom 5:6-10; Ex 6:6; John 3:16; 2 Cor 5:21]
8. No one expected a god who “risks His reputation” on US. [Father of the prodigal son; 2 Peter 3:9; Ezek 36-19-20]
9. No one expected a god who offered new life (birth and renewal) for free at no cost to us [Luke 18:16, 17; Rom 4:4-6; Rev 22:17]
10. No one expected a god who Offered new life, new status, co-ownership to everyone – not just the elite. [1 Cor 1:26-29; James 2:5; Luke 18:24-27]

11. No one expected a god who would extend **His presence into our lives**. [*John 14:23; John 1:14; 1 Cor 3:16*]
12. No one expected a god who would extend **this presence into our very bodies/minds** through the Indwelling Spirit of God. [*1 Cor 6:19; Rom 8:11; John 14:17*]
13. No one expected a god who would use this Presence – Holy Spirit—to **even intercede for us**, for things beyond our knowledge(!). [*Rom 8:26-27*]
14. No one expected this indwelling Spirit of God to actually **empower us for LIFE, FREEDOM, and GOODNESS**, unlike other indwelling spirits. [*NT accounts of demoniacs; Gal 5:22-23; 2 Tim 1:7; 2 Cor 3:17; 2 Cor 3:6*]
15. No one expected **an emotionally rich God**– involved in our lives in every facet. [*Eph 4:32-5:2; Luke 6:35-36; Romans 12:15; Isa 63:8-9*]
16. But ABSOLUTELY No one would have expected this emotionally rich God to be **emotionally vulnerable to us** -- that we could **cause Him sorrow** over our bad choices. [*Eph 4:30; Deut 6:28-29*]
17. And no one would have expected this emotionally rich God to be **emotionally vulnerable to us** -- that we could **cause Him pleasure** over our good choices -- and not just 'satisfaction'. [*Heb 13:20-21; Philp 2:13; Col 1:10; 1 Jn 3:22; Luke 15:4-10*]
18. And, finally, absolutely no one would have expected this **emotionally rich God to delight in us to the point of SINGING!** [*Zeph 3:16-17*]

NIV Zep 3:16–17.

On that day they will say to Jerusalem,

“Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.
The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you,
he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing.”

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“The next portion of this verse may be called a “poem of personal love.” Three parallel lines each containing three phrases express the **deepest inner joy and satisfaction of God himself** in his love for his people. **Delight, joy, rejoicing, and singing on God’s part** underscore the mutuality of emotional experience felt by God and the redeemed. ... That Almighty God should derive delight from his own creation is significant in itself. **But that the Holy One should experience ecstasy over the sinner is incomprehensible.**” [Palmer Robertson, NICOT]

**God breaking out in singing!
God joyful with delight!
All because of you.**

If you still think God is just a judge or a stern, absentee Father, think again – realize the impact of the tiniest step of goodness you take, the slightest expression of love, or the mildest mistreatment of another human being UPON HIS HEART.

Everything counts! Every tear is in His bottle, every good deed done in secret is recorded, and every good will be recompensed with over-good (shaken, pressed-down, and overflowing– Luke 6:38)—nothing is wasted

LIVE THAT WAY!