God As Excitement?

Many in the religious world today are selling God as excitement. No doubt, the reason God is being sold through excitement is that such is what most people seek when they determine to seek out religion. Please notice how I constructed the previous sentence. God and religion are both mentioned. However, it is important to understand that religion does not automatically equal God, nor does God automatically equal religion.

Perhaps the information revolution has spurred the American religious world toward instant gratification (excitement). The Information Revolution is described as a transformative era, starting in the late 20th century, marked by the rapid development and widespread adoption of digital technologies (Google AI). Our society seeks dopamine-seeking loops for instant gratification in practically all aspects of life, diminishing patience for waiting and fostering a culture of speed over depth. This excitement seeking need for instant gratification I submit, causes religion, thus God to suffer.

Regrettably, true religion has become boring, as it cannot meet the excitement our minds have grown to expect. What else could explain why religion has become what it has become? Consider, however, that the driver of what religion has become is as old as man himself. The driver is just that, self. Self has never been an appropriate driver in the life of the individual who would seek to please God. The Proverb writer declares, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). Allowing God to direct our path requires redirection

and submission, both, which require patience. Redirection, submission, and patience do not blend well with the need for instant gratification.

Submission to God's will first is paramount to achieving and then practicing acceptable worship of God. When all we do in word or deed (Colossians 3:17) is according to what pleases Him, we are meeting His expectations, not our own. An excellent example of God's will over our own, when it comes to acceptable worship can be seen in the actions of Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-3). Likely, the fire offered by these two priests presented or held some type of attraction or offered some type of immediate gratification to both (which could include laziness or convenience). They were struck immediately for gratifying their own needs over God's requirements.

Today, God desires worship but demands worship be done in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). God has regulated worship in accordance with His truth (John 17:17). Through studying His word, acceptable worship can be recognized and achieved. Outside of that truth, everything else offered to God in worship is rejected simply because Jesus (Matthew 28:18) has not authorized it.

May God guide us as we seek to worship Him and serve Him, His way (Matthew 4:10).